

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

10:15 am

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.** Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✚ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: ELW #686 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"

- 1. We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be; all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**
- 2. May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive, and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our first fruits give.**
- 3. The captive to release, to God the lost to bring, to teach the way of life and peace it is a Christ like thing.**
- 4. And we believe thy word, though dime our faith may be; whate'er we do for thin, O Lord, we do it unto thee.**

(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)

Prayer of the Day

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Readings and Psalm

First Reading: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

¹⁸My joy is gone; grief is upon me;
my heart is sick.

¹⁹Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people
from far and wide in the land:

"Is the Lord not in Zion?
Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,
with their foreign idols?")

²⁰"The harvest is past, the summer is ended,
and we are not saved."

²¹For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken,
I mourn, and horror has seized me.

²²Is there no balm in Gilead?
Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of the daughter of my people
not been restored?

^{9:1} O that my head were a spring of water
and my eyes a fountain of tears.

So that I may weep day and night
for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Psalm: Psalm 113

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

² **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**

³ From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴ **The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.**

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,

⁶ **but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**

⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

⁸ **enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**

⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ;* strive side by side for the faith of the gospel. *Alleluia.* (Phil. 1:27)

The Gospel according to Luke, starting with the 16th chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.'³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.'⁷Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.'⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave

can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW #710 "Let Streams of Living Justice"

- 1. Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth; Give freedom's light to captives; let all the poor have worth. The hungry's hands are pleading; the workers claim their rights, the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight. Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron power, abolish ancient vengeance; proclaim your people's hour.**
- 2. For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end, for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend. Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun, on your loom of life enroll us till the thread of life is run. O great Weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one; dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.**
- 3. Your city's built to music: we are the stones you seek; your harmony is language; we are the words you speak. Our faith we find in service, our hope in other's dreams, our love in hand of neighbor; our homeland brightly gleams. Inscribe our hearts with justice, your way – the path untried: Your truth – the heart of stranger, your life – the Crucified.**

(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sharing of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

O God, teach your church to act in solidarity with the poor, frustrating the efforts of those who trample on the needy and practicing justice in our own life and community. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty Creator, we pray for an end to the misuse of the earth and its resources, that all people may benefit from your abundant gifts and that our stewardship of creation would be marked by justice and sustainability. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Holy One, embolden elected leaders to pursue policies of economic justice for the benefit of all, especially those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. Persuade them by your example of generosity and compassion. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all facing illness, those near death, or those grieving the loss of loved ones (*especially*). May they find comfort and strength in your love. Prepare us to surround them with your healing care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of love, motivate our congregation to enact economic justice through tangible action, prioritizing the needs of our community and sharing resources generously through our outreach and justice ministries. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints (*especially Matthew and all*) who now join the heavenly chorus in praising your name. Lift us up from the dust of grief and remind us of your promise of new life. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Offering and Offertory Hymn: ELW #884

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**Praise God, from whom all blessing flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)

Offering Prayer

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

Distribution Hymn: ELW #685 "Take My Life, That I May Be"

Verses 1, 2, 5, and 6

- 1. Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**
- 2. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my fee and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**
- 5. Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**
- 6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.**

(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)

Prayer after Communion

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sending Hymn: ELW #669 "Rise Up, O Saints of God"

- 1. Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn; Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.**
- 2. Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame; as heirs of God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim.**
- 3. Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace; redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.**

4. Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain; stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.

5. Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod; and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

(copyright: Public Domain, One-License #M-402357)

Blessing

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✚ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

Prelude

✚ **Sunday school** started today at 9:00 am. Please speak with Pastor Jenna if you are interested in helping.

✚ **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Nathan, Sue Bogenschutz, the Tryhus Family and Pastor Jenna and her family.

✚ **Directory Update:** Please check your contact information in the directory in the Fellowship Hall. If it is correct as is, please place a check mark so we know it has been approved.

✚ **Concert & Cream** has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025. Meal starts at 5:30 pm, concert at 6:30 pm.

Calvary Lutheran Church
19216 Rapidan Avenue
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Pastor Jenna Couch
Ministers: All Members

Church Phone: 507-278-3317
E-mail: office@calvaryrapidan.org
Website: calvaryrapidan.org
Facebook: Calvary Lutheran Rapidan

Portions of the liturgy are from sundaysandseasons.com © 2023 Augsburg Fortress.
All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB141947

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education