



The Stories Jesus Tells

Managing to have
the right friends.

*"Make friends who will
welcome you into the eternal places. "*

Pentecost 14

September 14, 2025

Prelude

Confession & Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

*P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that
confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that trust
in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus the Christ.*

A: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

A: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:

**C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended you
and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote myself to
repentance and pray for your mercy. In your boundless grace
and compassion send me your Holy Spirit that I may be
strengthened in my faith and made ready for a life obedient to
your will and your way.**

*P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast love.
[Exodus 34:6] Therefore, in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus
Christ, I declare the entire forgiveness of all your sin in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn

What is this Place

524

1 What is this place where we are meet - ing? On - ly a house, the
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
 3 And we ac - cept bread at this ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a

earth its floor. Walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs and won - ders
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,

win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that lives
 sent from the past are all we need. We in this place re - mem-ber and speak
 we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re - ceive

when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing word.
 what we need to in - crease: our jus - tice and God's peace.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

Kyrie

ELW Setting 2

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Hymn of Praise

ELW Setting 2





1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



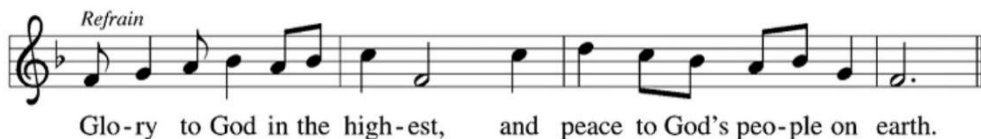
3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Heavenly Father, Your Son taught us to properly value our money and resources. Send us the Spirit, that we will not cling to what ultimately is of little value. Inspire us to confidently take up the faithful perspective which uses these gifts to serve you and make friends with those you call us to claim as our neighbors. Fill us with the true hope that this is the way to the eternal places you prepare and promise. In the name of the one who redefined the meaning and purpose of a successful life as the Way of the Cross, we pray. Amen.

First Lesson

Amos 8

Amos, a great prophet of God, spoke the Word of God to God's people who had become unfaithful in their striving to succeed in business, saying

...

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and when will the sabbath end, so that we may offer wheat for sale!? We will skim on what we put in the packaging and charge more for it! We will "fix" the scales so that less weighs more. We will overcharge those who cannot afford to be overcharged - buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling even the defective products at full price!

The Lord has sworn by the faithfulness of our ancestor, Jacob, saying: 'Surely, I will never forget any of their deeds!'"

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Psalms

113

Praise the Lord!

*Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.*

**Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore.**

*From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.*

**The Lord is high above all nations,
and the Lord's glory above the heavens.**

*Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?*

**The Lord raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of the Lord's people.**

*Praise the Lord!
Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.*

Second Lesson

First Timothy 6

There is great profit in practicing godliness with contentment; indeed, we brought nothing into the world, so neither are we empowered to carry anything out of it – but, having food and clothing, we can be content. But, anyone striving for financial profit falls into temptations and traps and many foolish and harmful desires which are plunging them into corruption and ruin. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil and those desiring it have been led astray from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows. But as for you, people of God, shun all this! Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith! Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made - an effective proclaimer of righteousness in the presence of many witnesses. . . As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be arrogant, and not to hope in

those uncertain riches, but to hope in God, who richly provides us everything for our enjoyment. Do good! Be rich in beautiful works! Be generous and ready to share, storing up for yourselves a good foundation for the future so that you may take hold of that which is really life.

Reader: The Word of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**

Children's Sermon & Verse

S124



Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 16

One day Jesus told the Disciples this parable . . .

Since upon a time there was a rich man who had a Finance Manager to manage his business. However, the rich man heard rumors alleging that this Finance Manager was mismanaging the finances.

So, the rich man called up the Finance Manager and asked her, 'What is this that I am hearing about you? Hand over the account of your management, for you seem to not have the ability to manage effectively any longer.

The Finance Manager then asked herself, 'What am I going to do? I am too weak to dig ditches and I am too embarrassed to become a beggar.'

Then she said to herself. 'I know what I may do so that if I may be terminated, I will still have friends who will welcome me as who I am.'

The Finance Manager called one of the Rich Man's suppliers and asked her, 'How much do you owe my Boss?'

The supplier said, '100 jugs of olive oil.'

Then the Finance Manager said, 'Take your contracts, sit down and quickly write '50'.'

Then the Finance Manager called another supplier and asked, 'How much do you owe my Boss?'

The supplier said, '100 containers of wheat.'

Then the Business Manager said, "Take your contracts and write '80'."

When the Rich Man heard how insightfully his Finance Manager had acted, he praised her, because the people of this age are more insightful about dealing with their own generation than are the "Children of Light" – those who are children of God. And so, I tell you, you who are God's Children, go ahead and make the right kind of friends for yourselves by the way you use the unrighteous resources of this world, so that when those resources are later eclipsed and made worthless, you will have made the kind of friends who will welcome you into God's Kingdom. The Pharisees, who were fond of money, heard all this, and they sneered at him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Lord of Light

tune: 688

1. Lord of light, your name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace.
Use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son.
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.
2. By the toil of faithful workers in some far outlying field,
by the courage, where the radiance of the cross is still revealed,
by the victories of meekness, through reproach and suffering won.
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.
3. Grant that knowledge, still increasing, at your feet may lowly kneel.
With your grace our triumphs hallow, with your charity our zeal.
Lift the nations from the shadows to the gladness of the sun -
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.
4. By the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent day or night,
by the cross of Jesus, bringing peace to all, and healing light,

by the love that passes knowledge, making all your children one,
Lord of light, as in highest heaven, so on earth Thy will be done.

Apostles Creed 8:30/ Holy Baptism 11:00

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.

Prayers & Passing of the Peace & Blessing of the Quilts

Offering / Offertory

692

We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voice-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voice-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:



A: Let us Pray

C: Living God, we praise you for the abundant blessings of this life. In humble recognition of the love you always show to us, we bring these gifts and ourselves as our thanks. Use them and us to bear the fruit of goodness and grace so that your glory will be known to all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

ELW Setting 2

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

P: It is indeed . . .

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



The Lord's Prayer

C: 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. 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 now and forever. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

685, 686, 678

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;
 take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

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.

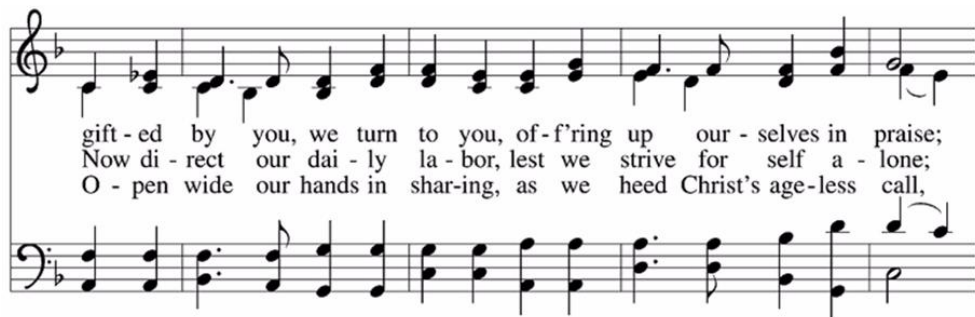
6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself, and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

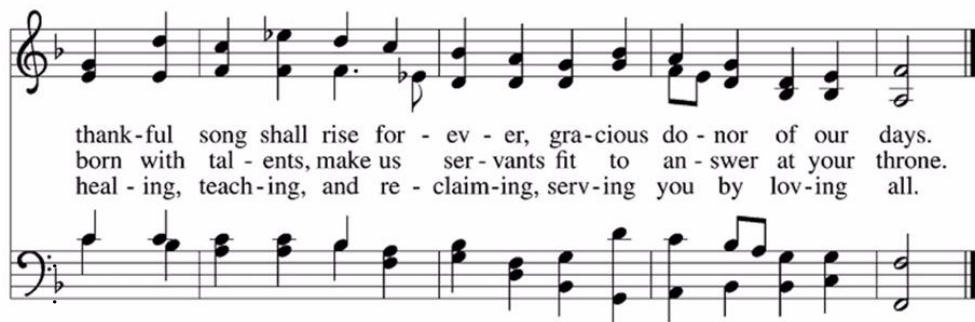
all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
 what-e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;

na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
 all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
 ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
 Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
 O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Post Communion Blessing & Prayer

Benediction

Recessional

Voices Raised to You We Offer

845



1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
 3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with -
 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -
 5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the



songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;
 thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—

for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
 we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!
 through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!
 gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Postlude & Dismissal

Altar flowers are placed in honor of Pastor Chris' birthday and are also placed by Gene Yetter in loving memory of Millie Yetter on her birthday.

We welcome into the Christian faith through the Sacrament of Baptism, Mia Klara Piscopiello, Daughter of Sabrina and Marco Piscopiello. The water used for today's Baptism was blessed in Sassinoro, Italy and brought here by Mia's Great-Grandfather, Luciano Velardo.

Blessing of the Quilts - A special thanks to the members of the Peacemakers Quilting Group for their dedication to the making of these quilts: Nasrin Khan, Linda Tipa, Marlene Sabanosh, Cheryl Kellogg & Carol Swanson. The Group is very thankful for the donations of fabric, gently used bed sheets; you might recognize them as they are displayed here today. Thanks to the families who have donated supplies needed to make a quilt - sewing machines,

thread and needles. Others that have used Thrivent Action Team money donations have helped to purchase the batting that provides the “puff” and warmth in a quilt – the most expensive component to a quilt. Your monetary gifts to Lutheran World Relief also helps support LWR with the costs to pay for the packing, shipping and distribution of these quilts around the world. These quilts will travel to families that are very poor or living in refugee camps or have suffered great loss due to natural disasters or war. Each quilt offers comfort and caring to each family that receives a quilt. Join us on a Wednesday morning to help us help others; no special skills needed. Our Peacemakers Group thanks you all.



Sunday, September 14

Last Day to order memorial garden bricks

Blessing of the Quilts

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation classes

9:45 a.m. Post Confirmation Student Group Meeting

11:00 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, September 16

6:30 a.m. Early Bird Bible Study & Breakfast

7:30 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting

11:00 a.m. Bible Study w/Pastor Chris – hybrid

3:30 p.m. Bible Study Lite 101 w/Pastor Chris

4:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. Bible Study w/Pastor Chris – online only

Wednesday, September 17

9:00 a.m. Peacemakers Quilting Group

Sunday, September 21

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation classes

9:45 a.m. Post Confirmation Student Group Meeting

11:00 a.m. Worship