

# Welcome to Worship

September 6, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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Pastor Frank Nelson

## Welcome & Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

*Please stand as you are able.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who pours love into our hearts  
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,  
let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,  
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness  
in the world and in our own hearts.**

**Creation groans from overuse.**

**Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.**

**Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.**

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love  
to others.**

**Turn our hearts back to you.**

**Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.**

**Renew us to live as your holy people,  
following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,  
in whom there is no condemnation,  
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.  
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

731 (st. 1-2, 5)

Earth and All Stars!

## Greeting

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

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

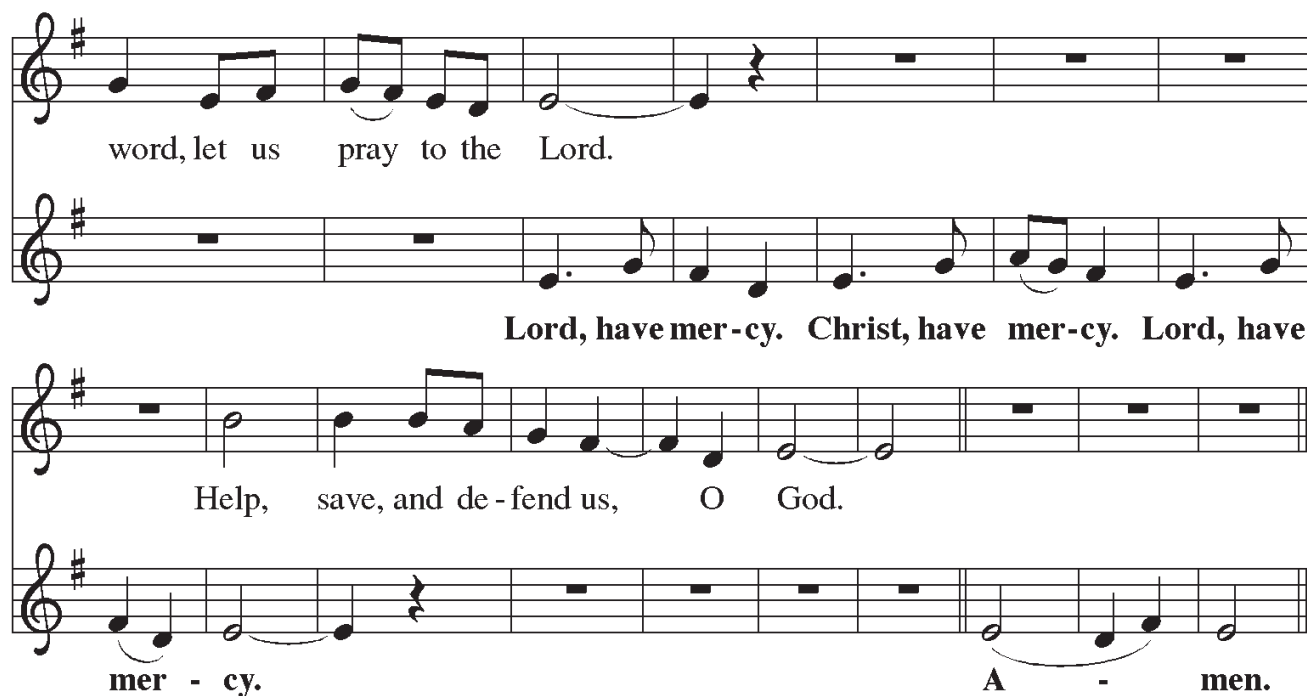
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your



## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together.

**O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## The Word

### First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-11

*Please be seated.*

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm

Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
 give me life in your way.  
**Fulfill your promise to your servant,**  
**which is for those who fear you.**  
 Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
 because your judgments are good.  
**Behold, I long for your commandments;**  
**by your righteousness enliven me.**

## Second Reading

Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

174

*Please stand as you are able.*



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Message

*Please be seated.*

## Hymn of the Day

*Please stand as you are able.*

648

**Beloved, God's Chosen**

## 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.

*Please be seated.*

## Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

## Sharing of Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Let us offer one another a greeting of Christ's peace.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of creation,  
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.  
All blessings are from you;  
make us generous with what we have.  
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts  
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,  
today and always. **Amen.**

## Meal

### 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.**

## Preface

### Holy

191

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

### The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

## Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table.  
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

### Communion

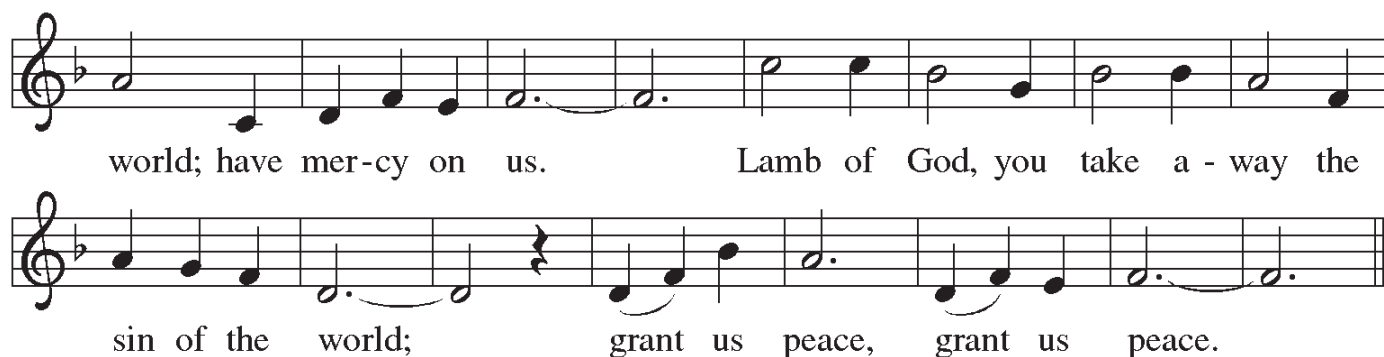
*Please be seated.*

### Lamb of God

195

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

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



## Hymns during Communion

522  
359

As We Gather at Your Table  
Where Charity and Love Prevail

## Prayer after Communion

*Please stand as you are able.*

Let us pray. Sustaining God,  
with this bread and cup,  
you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.  
By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.  
Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,  
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

## Sending

### Blessing

The God of love  
draw you into full accord and one mind,  
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**  
The God of hope  
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances  
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**  
The God of grace  
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn

836

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

## Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude