



September 6, 2026  
*Holy Communion for the Fifteenth  
Sunday After Pentecost*

*(†) The congregation is invited to stand or (Sit with Gusto)*  
**(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds**

## THE CHURCH GATHERS

*Silent Prayer and Time for Centering*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PRELUDE

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP \*\*\*

**Leader:** Come, people of God,  
for the Lord invites us into a life of love and grace.

**People:** We come seeking God's wisdom,  
longing to walk in God's ways.

**Leader:** Teach us, O Lord, the path of your statutes,  
and we will follow them with our whole hearts.

**People:** Open our hearts to your truth and direct our steps in your way.

**Leader:** God's greatest command is fulfilled in love:  
love of neighbor, love of one another, love that reflects Christ.

**People:** We gather as a community called to love,  
encourage, and serve.

**Leader:** Let us worship the One who teaches us,  
transforms us and binds us together in love.

**People:** With grateful hearts, we worship God. Amen.

#### † HYMN OF PRAISE

# 559 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1. Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and  
 2. To this tem - ple, where we call thee, come, O Lord of  
 3. Here vouch - safe to all thy ser - vants what they ask of  
 4. Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or

cor - ner - stone; cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,  
 Hosts, to - day! With thy faith - ful lov - ing - kind - ness  
 thee to gain; what they gain from thee for - ev - er  
 to the Son, laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,

bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's  
 hear thy peo - ple as they pray, and thy full - est  
 with the bless - ed to re - tain, and here - af - ter  
 ev - er three and ev - er one; one in might and

help for - ev - er, and her con - fi - dence a - lone.  
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in its walls al - way.  
 in thy glo - ry ev - er - more with thee to reign.  
 one in glo - ry, while un - end - ing a - ges run.

WORDS: 7th cent. Latin; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1851

(Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Pet. 2:4-7)

MUSIC: Henry Purcell, ca. 1680; adapt. by Ernest Hawkins, 1842

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

87.87.87

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## **† PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Lord of life you created us to be in relationship with one another  
and to grow in love.

Yet we confess that we often wound the community you have called us to love.

We hold on to hurts, avoid difficult conversations,  
withhold compassion and struggle to forgive.

Too often we choose distance rather than reconciliation  
and judgment rather than grace.

Forgive us, Lord.

Help us to become people who listen with humility,  
speak with kindness, and seek healing when relationships are broken.

By your Spirit, teach us to love one another as Christ has loved us,  
so that together we may become the community you desire  
and the witness you call us to be.

## **† WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Hear the good news: When we confess our sins,  
God is faithful to forgive us, restore us,  
and gather us again into the community of faith.

The One who promises to be present  
wherever two or three are gathered also gives us strength  
to forgive one another and walk together in love.

Through Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

## **THE CHURCH HEARS THE WORD OF GOD**

*New Testament Lesson:*      [Romans 13:8-14](#)

*(Pg. 923) \*\**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

Communion Song

Mark Weston

We have come O Lord, this day  
to the table where the feast is spread,  
drawn together by your love,  
sharing now the cup and the bread.

You're the hope, you're the strength,  
and in all that we do, you're the one we serve.

Guide our feed, lift us up,  
and give us the courage to live.

We shall eat and not be hungry,  
we shall drink and never thirst.

We shall do this in remembrance  
of the time you shared it first.

We have come O Lord, this day  
to the table where the feast is spread,  
drawn together by your love,  
sharing now the cup and the bread.

We live, O Lord this day with you.

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*Due to copyright restrictions, this anthem can't be recorded. The text is included so that you can pray and meditate on the text.*

*A reminder that choir practices have resumed and we would love for you to join the music ministry and lend your voices to the ministry of bringing words to life. See you Thursday at 6:30 PM*

† **[HYMN OF PREPARATION](#)**

**1. Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,  
and Christ shall give you light;  
so learn his love, its length and breadth,  
its fullness, depth, and height.**

**2. To us on earth he came to bring  
from sin and fear release,  
to give the Spirit's unity,  
the very bond of peace.**

**3. There is one body and one hope,  
one Spirit and one call,  
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,  
one Father of us all.**

**4. Then walk in love as Christ has loved,  
who died that he might save;  
with kind and gentle hearts forgive  
as God in Christ forgave.**

**5. For us Christ lived, for us he died,  
and conquered in the strife.  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,  
and Christ shall give you life.**

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**† GOSPEL LESSON: [Matthew 18: 15-20](#)**

**(Pg. 799) \*\***

**PRESIDER:** For the word of God in Scripture,  
For the word of God among us,  
For the word of God within us,

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## † GLORIA PATRI

The musical score for the Gloria Patri is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of staves. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men. A - men." The music is a simple, hymn-like setting with a steady rhythm.

WORDS: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent.  
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GREATOREX  
Irr.

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**SERMON: Rev. Dr. David Palmer**

**Living as the Community of Love**

**THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD**

## † HYMN

# They'll Know We Are Christians



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are  
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will  
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will  
 4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from



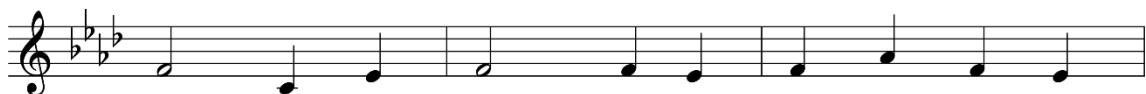
one in the Lord, We are one in the  
 walk hand in hand, We will walk with each  
 work side by side, We will work with each  
 whom all things come, And all praise to Christ



Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we  
 oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -  
 oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll  
 Je - sus, his on - ly Son, And all



pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -  
 geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our  
 guard hu - man's dig - ni - ty and save hu - man's  
 praise to the Spir - it, who makes us



stored:  
 land:  
 pride:  
 one:  
 And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our



love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are



Chris - tians by our love.

Text: Peter Scholtes, b.1938

Tune: ST. BRENDAN'S, 7 6 7 6 8 6 with refrain; Peter Scholtes, b.1938

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# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Sharing of Joys and Concerns*

## PRAYER SONG

### Let Us Be Bread

Refrain



Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro - ken and shared,



life for the world. Let us be wine, love free - ly poured.



Let us be one in the Lord.

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## SILENT PRAYER

## PASTORAL PRAYER

## PRAYER SONG *(see above)*

### [Presentation of Tithes and Offerings](#)

*During this time, we are grateful for your continuing financial support of our ministries.*

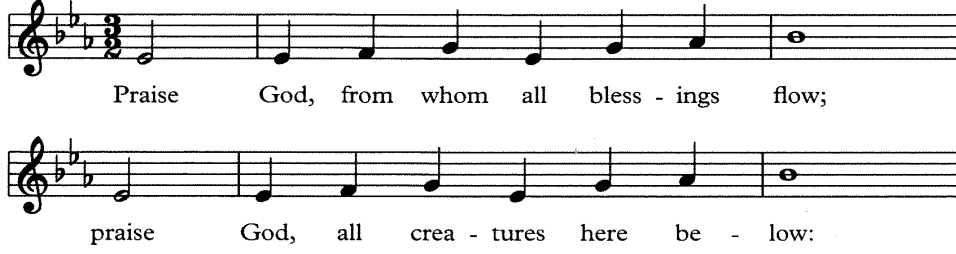
## OFFERTORY MUSIC

# \*DOXOLOGY

THE GLORY OF THE TRIUNE GOD

## 94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Unison*



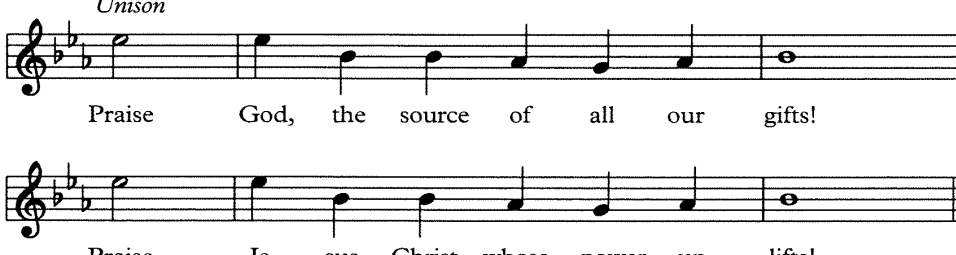
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here be - low:

*Harmony*



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*



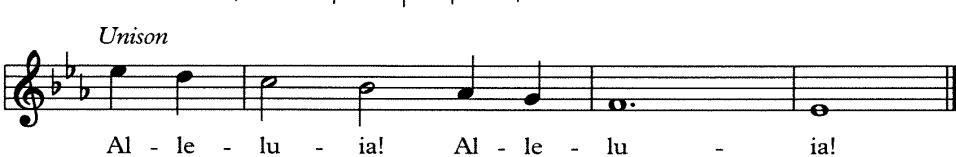
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts!

*Refrain (Harmony)*



Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

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## Offertory Prayer:

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you....

**And also with you.**

Lift Up Your hearts.....

**We lift them up to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.....

**It is right to give our thanks and praise**

..... *and all the company of heaven*

*we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

Sanctus Elise Eslinger

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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Source: *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989), p.17.

..... *in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.....*

## Memorial Acclamation

Elise Eslinger



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a gain!

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Source: *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989), p.18.

..... *all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.*

## The Great Amen

Elise Eslinger



A - men, a - men a - - - men.

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Source: *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989), p.18.

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## The Lord's Prayer

(UMH p. 895)

### GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

#### Prayer Following Communion:

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.**

**Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE CHURCH IS SENT TO SERVE

## † HYMN OF DEDICATION

Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.

BEECHER  
87 87 D

John Zundel, 1870

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heav'n to earth come down,  
 2. Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to eve - ry trou - bled breast!  
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all Thy life re - ceive;  
 4. Fin - ish, then, Thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less let us be;

fix in us Thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown!  
 Let us all in Thee in - her - it, let us find the prom - ised rest.  
 sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.  
 let us see Thy great sal - va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee.

Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love Thou art;  
 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve Thee as Thy hosts a - bove;  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heav'n we take our place,

vis - it us with Thy sal - va - tion, en - ter eve - ry trem - bling heart.  
 end of faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 pray, and praise Thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.  
 till we cast our crowns be - fore Thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

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\*Benediction  
Voluntary

## *Assisting with Worship today:*

Guest Minister

*Rev. Dr. David Palmer*

Liturgist:

*Karen Manning*

Video and Sound Engineer

*John Wilderman*

Cover Art:

*Created by Staff*

Altar Flowers:

*In Loving Memory of Hans Walter from His Family*

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\*\*\*Worship elements from "UNFOLDING LIGHT"

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## **Looking Ahead**

**R.C.L. Readings for September 13, 2026**

**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost**

*Exodus 14:19-31 / Psalm 1194*

*Romans 14:1-12 / Matthew 18: 21-35*



**First United Methodist Church**

**"Feed the Need"**

Putting Our Faith into Motion  
By Feeding the Body, Mind, and Soul

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