

Moxham Lutheran Church
500 Park Avenue
Johnstown, PA 15902

Time after Pentecost
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August 10, 2025



Time after Pentecost

August 10, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

From today's gospel: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Jesus promises the kingdom to us, his little flock, which blows our minds with this uninhibited generosity. He gives this even to us, who are so little and undeserving?

Suddenly, everything we hold dear in this world is repriced, and the true value of things becomes plainly clear. We are being given the kingdom! So why not give up on our attitude of scarcity and give generously to those in need? Why not? Really! We are being given the kingdom!

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome

Prelude

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

**you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors
and follow our own way.**

**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**

**You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.**

In your mercy, forgive us.

Do not give up on us.

**Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.**

Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus.
You are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
Amen.

Gathering Song: "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" *verses 1, 2* **ELW No. 618**

Greeting

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Hymn of Praise: "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" *verse 3* **ELW No. 618**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."

⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 33:12-22

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**

¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.

¹⁵**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**

¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

¹⁷**The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

¹⁹**to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,
our helper and our shield.

²¹**Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

¹²**Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!**

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

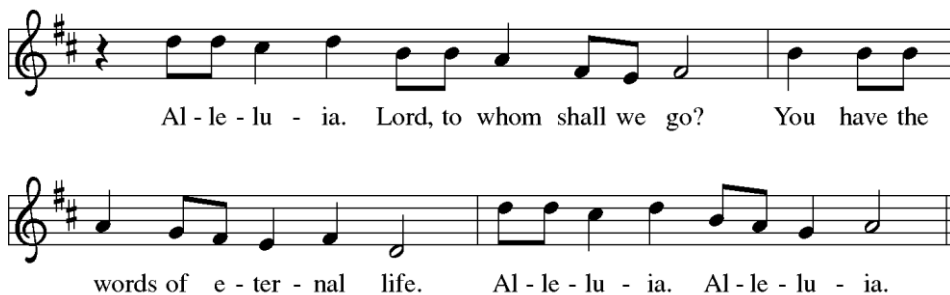
¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had the opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a

heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Have No Fear Little Flock”

ELW No. 764

Apostles' Creed

Reborn by God's grace in baptism,
we confess the faith in which we were baptized.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

We kneel or sit to contemplate and join the whole church in prayer.

Prayers of Intercession

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Keep the heart of your church set firmly in you so that, with lamps lit and attentiveness to Christ's call at any time or place, your people are ready to respond with faithful action for the sake of the world. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Worlds were prepared by your word. Speak healing and protection upon the earth, especially where life and habitats are threatened. Guide the work of astronomers and all who teach us about the stars and galaxies. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

You know the actions and deeds of the nations. Turn humanity away from instruments of war and violence. Fashion the hearts of world leaders to work for peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear (*especially*). Give strength to those who give care and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Help them to see that all people are clothed in your image, thereby establishing equity and peace among us. We pray for the people of Gaza that they may be fed and protected from the terrors of war. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Peace

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering Prayer

Creator God,
in your wisdom, you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest that is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table
with these gifts of the earth and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

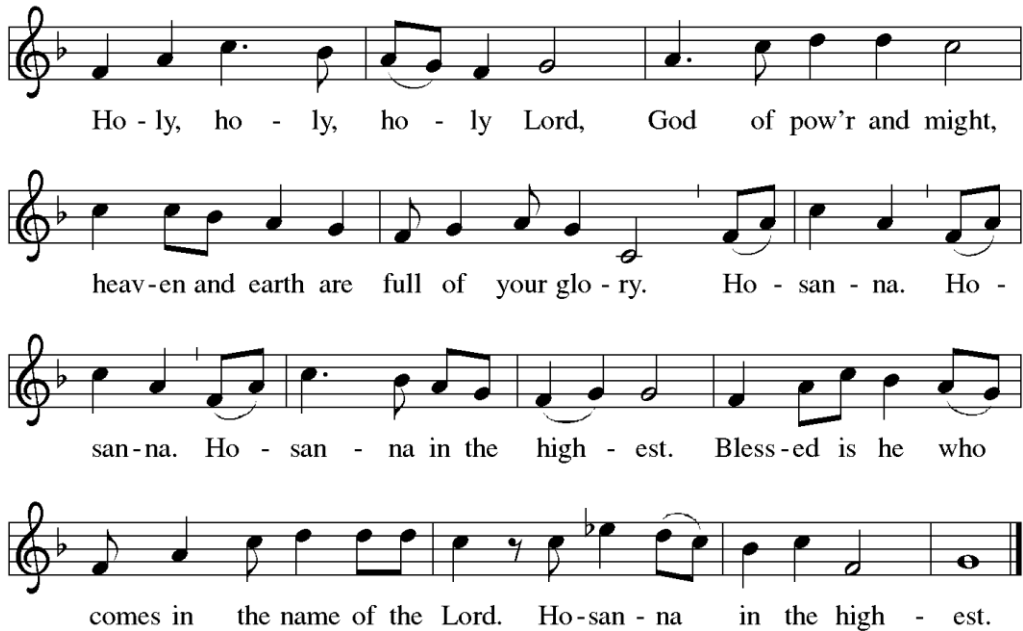
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary
that we should at all times and in all places
offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father,
through Christ our Lord;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with the Church on earth
and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name
and join their unending hymn:



Thanksgiving at the Table

From the earliest of times,
from the days of Abraham our ancestor in the faith,
your people have been richly blessed
as they centered their faith on your eternal promises.
You came to us in love and in the flesh of your Son,
teaching us not to place our confidence
in purses that wear thin;
but in an unfailing treasure waiting for us in heaven.

Words of Institution

When he was put to death,
you raised him in glory,
so that he might prepare a heavenly city
for those who place their faith firmly in your promises,
giving away their riches on earth
and treasuring heaven in their hearts.
It was he who taught when we pray to say . . .

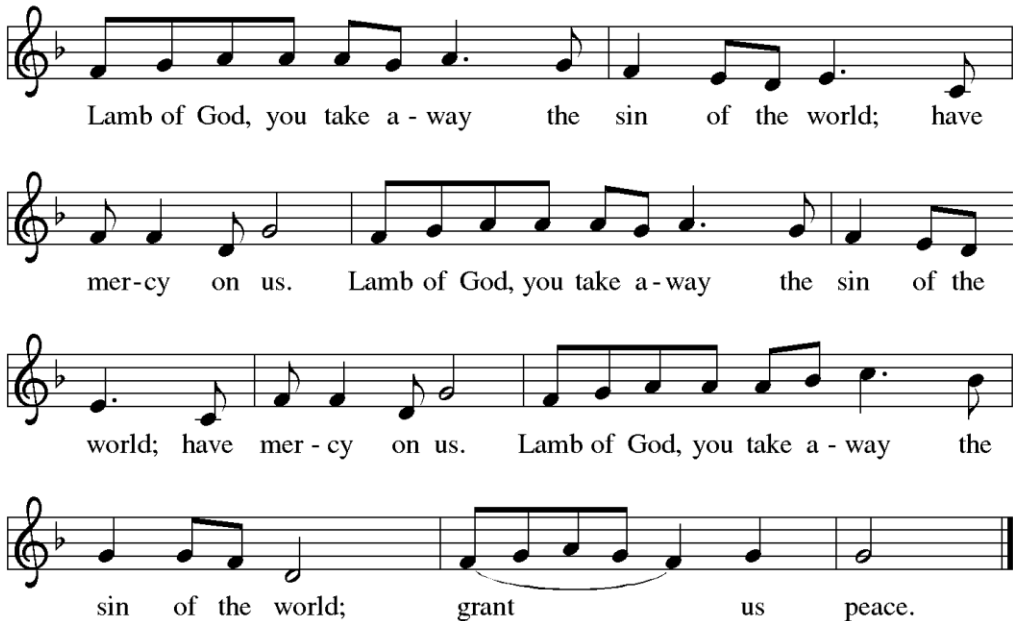
Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

The food of God, for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God



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

Prayer after Communion

O God, in this holy communion
you have welcomed us into your presence,
nourished us with words of mercy,
and fed us at your table.
Strengthen us to love you with all our heart,
serve our neighbors with a willing spirit,
and honor the earth you have made,
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

ELW No. 632

Dismissal

Together, we go into the world...

**sharing God’s word,
serving others,
growing in faith, and
practicing stewardship as a way of life.**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Rebecca West, Pastor

Musician: Mathew Sprinkle

Communion Assistants: Mark Koch and Kathy McCreary

Council Representative: Kim Williams

Lector: Mark Koch + **Greeter:** Susan Bullock

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