

Moxham Lutheran Church  
500 Park Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15902

Time after Pentecost  
+  
September 14, 2025

## Time after Pentecost

September 14, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

Today's readings bear witness to the fact that God has a heart for the lost.

- + God reconciles with the idol-worshiping people of Israel.
- + The risen Lord calls the violent, blasphemous persecutor, Paul.
- + The faithful shepherd rescues the wandering sheep and carries it home.
- + The woman who lost one of her ten silver coins searches for it until she finds it.

Similarly, God doesn't abandon people even when people abandon God. The cross and resurrection testify to God's faithfulness in that regard. God rescues strays one by one, making the first move to find the lost and create new hearts in them.

When (in the first reading) Moses holds God to promises already made in the covenant, the breathtaking picture emerges of a God so committed to relationship that God is influenced—changed—by what people need and ask.

Take the bread and cup—Jesus hosts the worshiping assembly again this week to welcome sinners and eat with them! But “sinner” is no longer the best name for us. Try “guest,” “graced,” “gifted,” “loved,” and “empowered.” Then it's time to follow Jesus out of the gathered assembly and into the world as apprentice sleuths for missing persons, bent on finding the lost and the broken and giving them an invitation to come home.

### Gathering

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

### Welcome

### Prelude

### 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 know we can be your stiff-necked people.**

**We can trample on the needy.**

**We can grumble about your grace to others.**

**We can turn away from the poor.**

**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**

**Rejoice over us as ones who know we were once lost  
but have been found. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.

You who were lost have been found.

In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**Amen.**

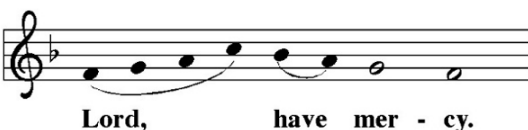
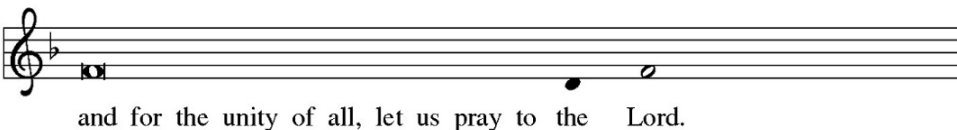
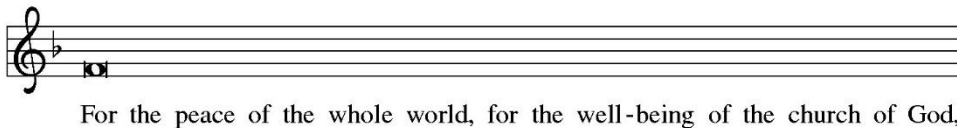
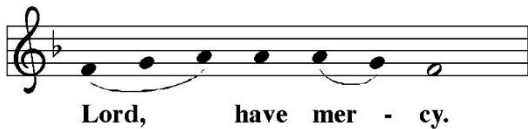
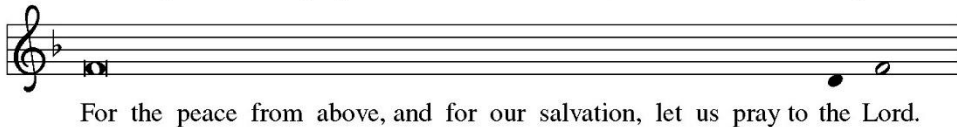
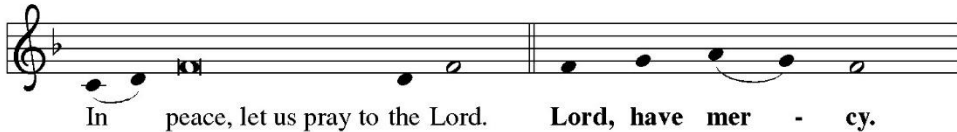
**Gathering Song:** “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” *verses 1-3* **ELW No. 834**

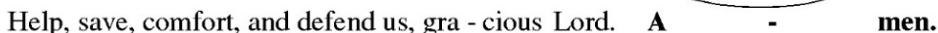
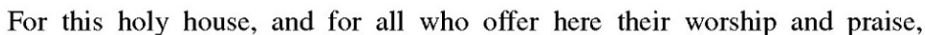
## Greeting

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

**And, also with you.**

## Kyrie





Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*A reading from First Corinthians.*

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

You have volunteered your time, your energy, and your gifts to the children of this congregation. Will you offer your giftedness to this ministry in the confidence that it comes from God?

**Response:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

People of Moxham Lutheran: Will you claim these gifted people as those called by God to help carry out our congregation's ministry to children?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Gracious God, for Jesus' sake, empower these ministers to care for the young ones in our family of faith. Help them to teach faithfully and lead patiently. Stir up in these servants the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

On behalf of Moxham Lutheran Church, we now commission you for ministry, grateful for your gifts and your willingness to serve.

**Blessing of Backpacks and the Children who Carry Them {see bulletin insert}**  
**Children's Message**

## **Word**

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

### **First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14**

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

<sup>7</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"

<sup>9</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup>But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people."

<sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” <sup>14</sup>And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm: 51:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

<sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

<sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

## **Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17**

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

<sup>12</sup>I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup>even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, <sup>14</sup>and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

<sup>15</sup>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. <sup>16</sup>But for that very reason, I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. <sup>17</sup>To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

## Gospel Acclamation



## Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

<sup>8</sup>“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? <sup>9</sup>When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ <sup>10</sup>Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** — *Pastor Kevin Shock*

**Hymn of the Day:** “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

**ELW No. 789**

### **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 are seated.*

**Blessing of the Tabernacle** {see bulletin insert}

*Today we give thanks to God, and we seek God’s blessing as we set apart the newly purchased tabernacle to the glory of God.*



## Prayers of Intercession

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

*A brief silence.*

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made and grant us wisdom and strength to act toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, like a shepherd, watch over all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, speak wisdom to all 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 and the Ukraine, that they may be protected from the terrors of war. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we lift all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain (*especially*). Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. 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.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share a sign of Christ's peace with others.*

## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

### Offering Song “Take My Life that I May Be”

verses 1, 5, 6    **ELW No. 685**

1 Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

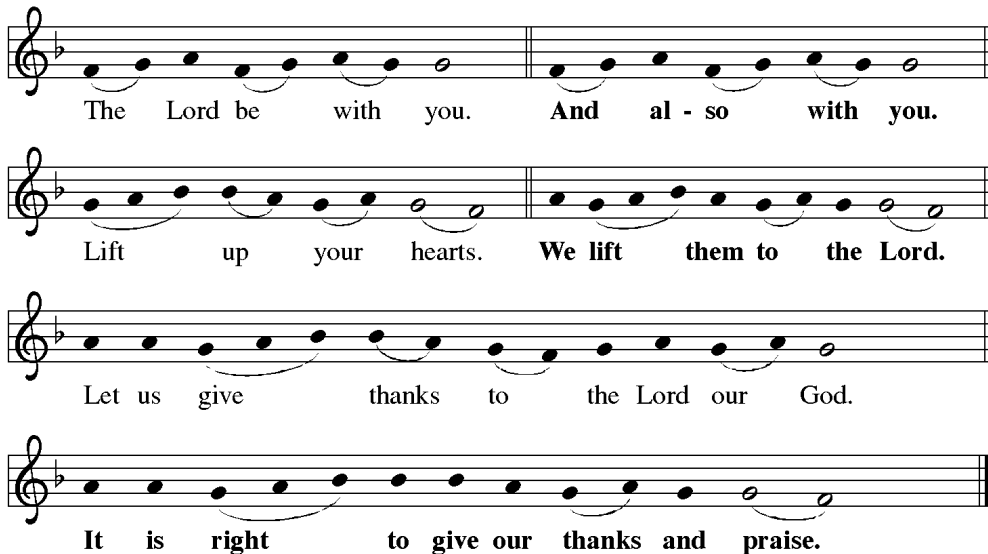
5 Take my will and make it thine,  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own,  
it shall be thy royal throne.

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.

### 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 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G-clef, treble clef, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the musical phrases.

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:

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 -  
san-na. 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.

### Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

*Words of Institution*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

Gathered now into one flock by the Holy Spirit,  
we pray as Jesus taught us.

## **Invitation to Communion**

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

## **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,  
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**

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

## **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.**

**Sending Hymn:** "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing"

**ELW No. 544**

## **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.**

**Serving in Worship**

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Kevin Shock

**Musician:** Mathew Sprinkle

**Communion Assistants:** Dan Berkebile and Kim Williams

**Acolyte:** Scott Rugh

**Council Representative:** Mark Koch

**Lector:** Kim Williams + **Greeter:** Susan Bullock

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