

Moxham Lutheran Church  
500 Park Avenue  
Johnstown, PA 15902

Time after Pentecost  
+  
October 5, 2025



## **Time after Pentecost + Lectionary 27**

**October 5, 2025 — 10:30 a.m.**

Today's gospel begins mid-story. Jesus has just commissioned his disciples to continually forgive repentant sinners. It is to this command that the disciples beg, "Increase our faith!"—because forgiveness is remarkably hard.

Then Jesus speaks of uprooting a mulberry tree. The effects of sin (for which forgiveness is necessary) are like the root structure of that tree. They burrow down deep into our hearts, our family, our communities, and our world. The only way to heal the sin-sickness is through this process of repentance and forgiveness.

According to Jesus, this remarkably hard work of repentance and forgiveness becomes as commonplace as asking your servant to prepare you dinner. Through faith, it becomes so second nature that we require no praise for doing it; we just do "what we ought to have done!" (Luke 17:10)

### **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 are your stiff-necked people.**  
**We grumble about your grace**  
**given to the undeserving.**  
**We turn our thoughts away from the poor.**  
**Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.**  
**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost**  
**and have been found.**  
**Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.  
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.  
You who were lost have been found.  
In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!  
**Amen.**

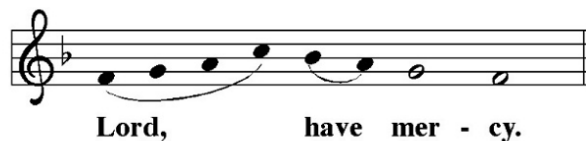
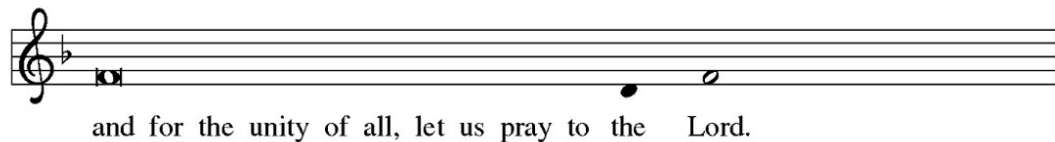
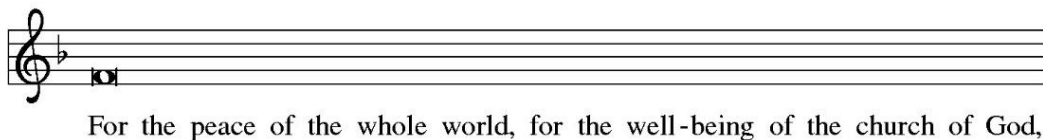
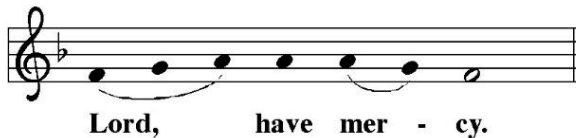
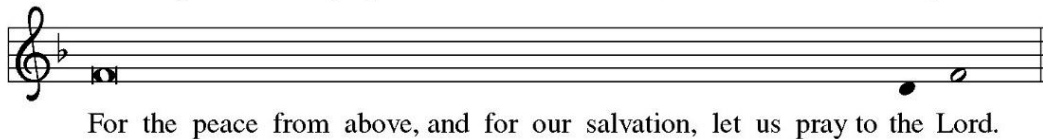
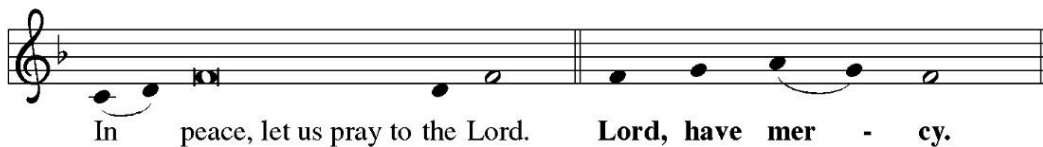
## Gathering Song: “God is Here”

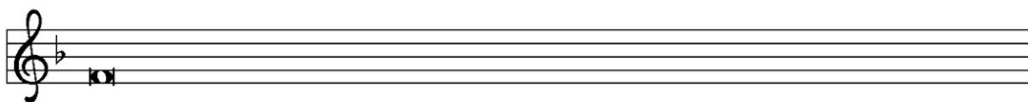
*verses 1-3*

**No. 526**

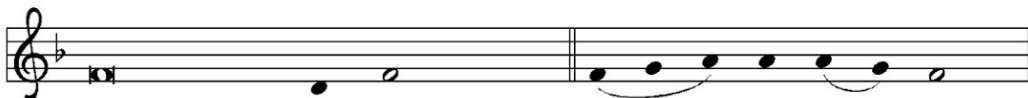
### Greeting

### Kyrie



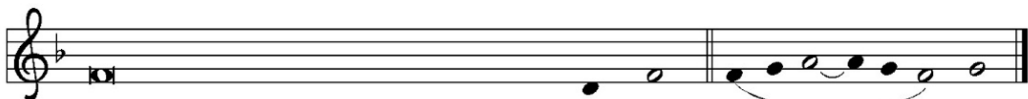


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

**Hymn of Praise: “God is Here”**

*verse 4*

**No. 526**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Word**

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

### **Children’s Message**

#### **First Reading: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

<sup>2</sup> O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you “Violence!”  
and you will not save?

<sup>3</sup> Why do you make me see wrongdoing  
and look at trouble?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.  
<sup>4</sup> So the law becomes slack,  
and justice never prevails.  
The wicked surround the righteous;  
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.  
<sup>2:1</sup> I will stand at my watch post  
and station myself on the rampart;  
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me  
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.  
<sup>2</sup> Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it.  
<sup>3</sup> For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end and does not lie.  
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come; it will not delay.  
<sup>4</sup> Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 37:1-9** (*read responsively*)

Do not be provoked by evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.  
<sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither like the grass,  
and like the green grass fade away.**  
<sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the Lord and do good;  
dwell in the land and find safe pasture.  
<sup>4</sup> **Take delight in the Lord,  
who shall give you your heart's desire.**  
<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord,  
and see what God will do.  
<sup>6</sup> **The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light  
and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**  
<sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

**Refrain from anger, leave rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off,  
but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

## **Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup> To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup> I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers, night and day. <sup>4</sup> Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup> I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.

<sup>6</sup> For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, <sup>7</sup> for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup> but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

<sup>11</sup> For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, <sup>12</sup> and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. <sup>13</sup> Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup> Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



## Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord

<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” <sup>6</sup> The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup> “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’?

<sup>8</sup> Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? <sup>9</sup> Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup> So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

**Hymn of the Day: “How Firm a Foundation”**

**No. 796**

### 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.

## Prayers of Intercession

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

*A brief silence*

O God of the church, you give the church a treasure in Jesus Christ. Draw us more deeply into the gift of faith passed down from generation to generation. Remind us that faith and trust the size of a tiny mustard seed is enough. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God of creation, you nourish the earth with grace and mercy. Bring favorable weather during the harvest season for those who farm and sustain all creation along with all who labor in the fields. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God of nations and communities, you govern and guard the world. Give leaders and people in authority a spirit of making just, righteous, and non-partisan laws. Bring peace to countries affected by war, especially in the Ukraine, and bring peace to the people of Gaza, both of which are entrapped by uncompromising violence and destruction. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God of those in need, you care for those who are sick, oppressed, bereaved, lonely, and poor. Come to the help of all in need (*especially*). God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God of this congregation, you nurture our faith. Thank you for those who teach, lead, and learn in this congregation and in our partner congregation, Moxham. Give growth to the seeds of faith watered by faithful examples of baptismal living. God of grace,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God of ages past, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith. May the



faith of those who now rest in your merciful arms, like Lois and Eunice, shape our faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. 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**

## **Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

**Offering Song: “We Come to the Hungry Feast”**

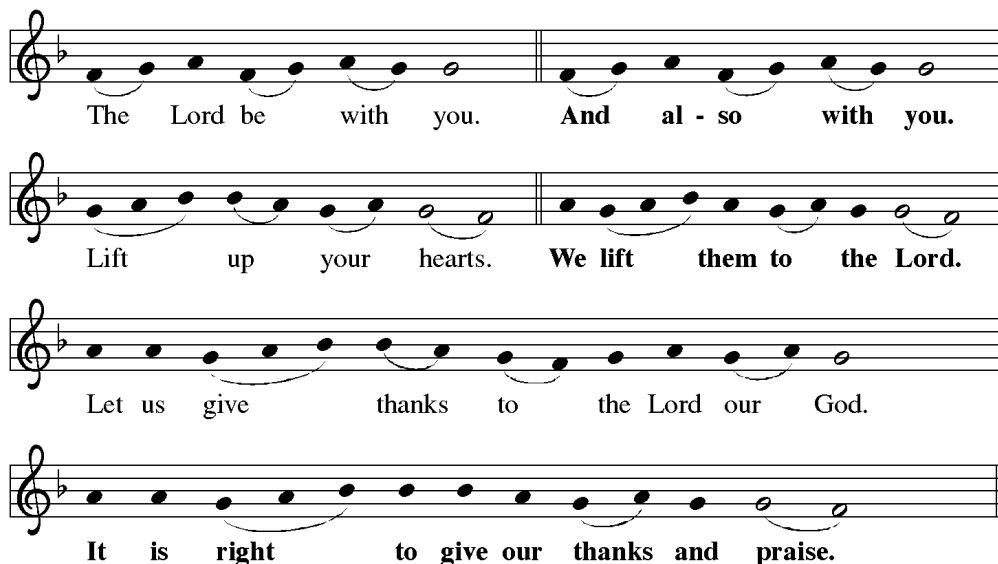
**No. 479**

## **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.

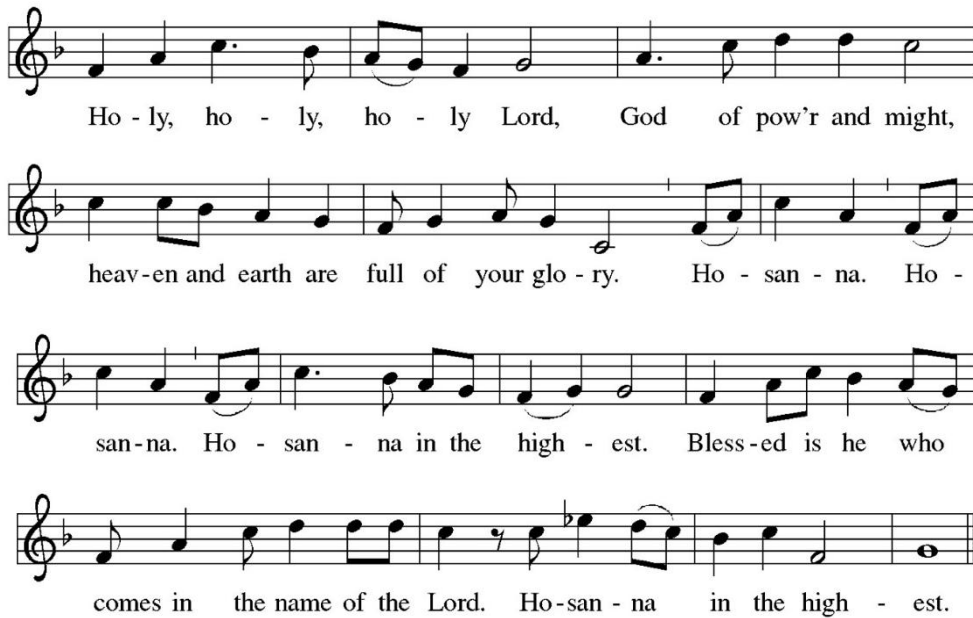
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words underlined. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The third staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The fourth staff has a double bar line at the end.

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

Holy God, our Bread of Life, our Table, our Food,  
you created a blossoming world  
in which all might be satisfied with your abundance.  
You taught us to put our trust in the Lord  
and to take delight in the Lord,  
who shall give you your heart's desire.

*Words of Institution*

In Christ Jesus, you revealed the fullness of your grace,  
and he came among us, sowing seeds of faith and love.  
When he was betrayed by his friends  
and killed by his enemies,  
you abolished death and raised him to life.  
Though we have done no more than we ought,  
you have honored the power of every seed of faith,  
and with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us,  
you rekindle our gifts and empower us with love.  
**Amen.**

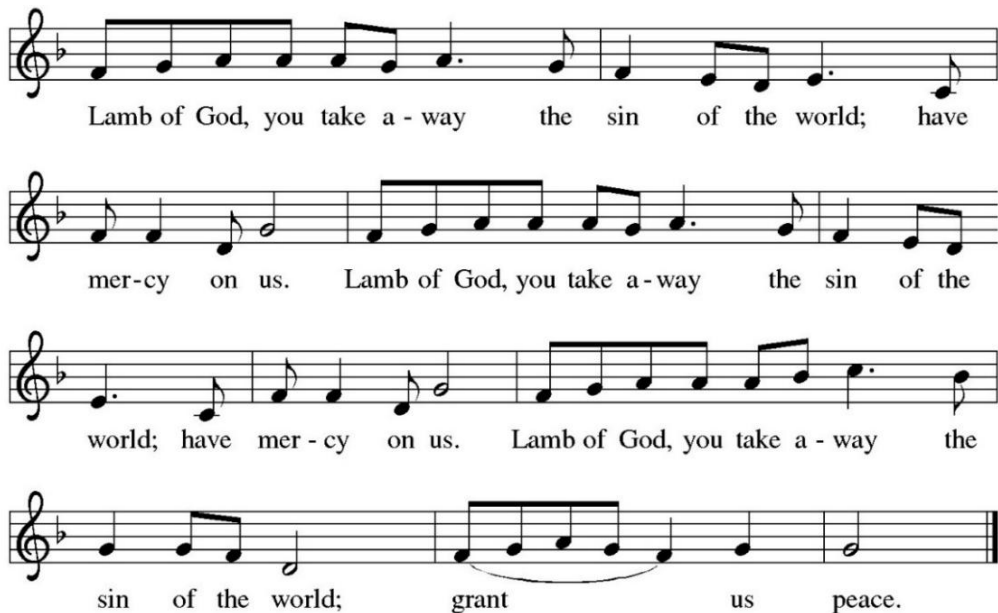
### Lord's Prayer

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 this meal of mercy.

### Lamb of God



The image displays the musical notation for the hymn 'Lamb of God' in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes. The music consists of four lines of notation. The first line ends with a double bar line. The second line ends with a double bar line. The third line ends with a double bar line. The fourth line ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are: '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 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.'

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 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:** “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

**No. 545**

## 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. Do not lose heart.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Serving in Worship

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Rebecca West

**Musician:** Mathew Sprinkle

**Communion Assistants:** Kathie McCreary and Susan Bullock

**Council Representative:** Mike McCreary

**Lector:** Linda Cover + **Greeter:** Kathi Lepere + **Acolyte:** Mike McCreary