

**Stewardship 2025
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow**

Psalm 46:7 “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.”

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Sunday, September 14, 2024
Rally Sunday
9:15 AM Worship Express**

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Lector: Anna Foltz

Acolytes: Jackson Kojo & Ellie Gross

Ushers: Andrea Thomas & Jean Johnson

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

The grumbling of the religious leaders in the gospel lesson is good news for us. They don't understand why Jesus cares about people they consider losers, but Jesus does and so does God. The shepherd leaves the 99 sheep behind to find the one that is lost and the woman tears her house apart to find the lost coin.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” - Handbells

CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn 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.**

P: 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!

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING SONG: "Here in This Place" WOV #718

**Vs. 1: Here in this place a new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreaming
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken,
gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken,
we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**Vs. 2: We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry,
We are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty,
gather us in the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly,
give us the courage to enter the song.**

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

LITANY

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord.

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

C: Talk about them when you are home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

P: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE: "This Is The Day"

This is the day (This is the day)
that the Lord hath made, (that the Lord hath made)
I will rejoice, (I will rejoice)
And be glad in it, (and be glad in it)
This is the day that the Lord hath made,
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day (This is the day)
that the Lord hath made, (that the Lord hath made)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that all might see him and be forgiven. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing and life now and forever, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: "I Love to Tell the Story" ELW #661

Vs. 1: I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Lector: The Good News according to 15th chapter of Luke, verses 1-10.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 15:1-10

Narrator:¹⁻³ By this time a lot of men and women of questionable reputation were hanging around Jesus, listening intently. The Pharisees and religion scholars were not pleased, not at all pleased. They growled,

Pharisees and Scholars (All): He takes in sinners and eats meals with them, treating them like old friends.

Narrator: Their grumbling triggered this story.

Jesus (Men and Boys):⁴⁻⁷ Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me! I've found my lost sheep!' Count on it—there's more joy in heaven over one sinner's rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.

Jesus (Women and Girls)⁸⁻¹⁰ Or imagine a woman who has ten coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and scour the house, looking in every nook and cranny until she finds it? And when she finds it you can be sure she'll call her friends and neighbors: 'Celebrate with me! I found my lost coin!' Count on it—that's the kind of party God's angels throw every time one lost soul turns to God.

Lector: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sit

CHILDREN'S WORD/ THE WORD

Stand

SONG OF THE DAY: "He's Got The Whole World in His Hands"

Vs. 1: He's got the whole world in His hands, (4 times)

He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands,
He's got the whole world in His hands.

Vs. 2: He's got you and me brother in His hands.

He's got you and me sister, in His hands.
He's got you and me brother, in His hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

Vs. 3: He's got everybody here in His hands, (3 times)

He's got the whole world in his hands.

GOD'S PEOPLE SHARE THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all!

All: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING SONG: "Make Me a Servant"

Make me a servant, humble and meek.

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart always be:

Make me a servant, make me a servant.

Make me a servant today.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Music is played as those who wish to come forward for communion come forward and kneel at the communion rail. Others are invited to commune in your pew. All are welcome.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace till life everlasting.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: The God who does right, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “The Journey of Praise” Olson/Brown/Baer