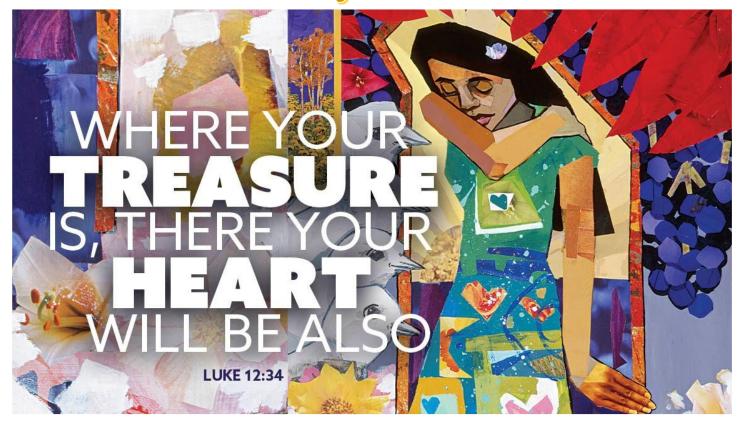
# Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



# August 10, 2025

## **WELCOME!**

If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, we joyfully invite you to join with us; please speak to me, Pastor Jami Possinger.

Holy Communion is open to all baptized believers who trust that the Lord is present for them in His Supper.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices to fully enter into this time of worship.

## **Faith Lutheran Church**

550 Rt. 940 | PO Box 228 Blakeslee, PA 18610 Office 570-646-0309

Email: <a href="mailto:faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org">faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org</a>
Website: faithlutheranblakeslee.org
Facebook: <a href="mailto:https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Lutheran-Church-Blakeslee-PA-1721550018126312">https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Lutheran-Church-Blakeslee-PA-1721550018126312</a>

Minister:	Rev. Jami Possinger
Lector	Carol Ray
Greeters/Ushers:	•
Communion Asst./Clean up:	Ruth Major/Peggy Rapp
Music:	

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Backpack Blessing:** On Sunday, August 24, we will have a backpack blessing for all the children returning to school.

**Flowers:** donated by Barbara Laughlin in celebration of my husband, Dave's birthday!

**Bulletins:** donated by Cheryl Ray.

**Faith Fellowship Team:** Our mission is encouraging interaction, building relationships, and creating a sense of belonging within the congregation and with the local community. If you're interested in becoming part of the Faith Fellowship Team, please contact Sara Cornell at 570-472-5560 or at saracornell10@gmail.com.

**Faith Cookbook:** Recipes can be for appetizers, soups and salads, main courses, side dishes, casseroles and desserts. Please submit your recipe to Sara Cornell or Barbara Laughlin. Please be sure to include your name with your recipe.

**Altar Service Signup:** Volunteers are needed to set-up, bake bread, and clean up after communion. Please email Jan Frantz at Boris\_fan@yahoo.com to help.

**Bulletin Sponsors and Flower Donations:** Sign-up sheets for 2025 are on the table in the foyer entrance of the church. In-house bulletin for \$10 and \$10 towards silk flowers, or you may bring your own fresh flowers. **Please complete the requisition form with your dedication note.** 

#### **MEETINGS/EVENTS**

AA Meetings: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 12 p.m.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** Sept. 17; 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Please call 800-733-2767 to preregister.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, September 28, 2025, after worship service.

Applefest: Saturday, October 4, 2025, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bible Study: Sundays, 7:30 a.m. On break until September 7, 2025.

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to Noon with Pastor Jami.

**Men's Bible Study**: Thurs. via TEAMS. Contact Bob Ray at 551-265-4071 or Rayfolks@ptd.net.

Faithful Community Quilters: Second Monday of the month, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Faith Library:** Please see one of the "Little Librarians" or Sara Cornell with any donations or questions.

**Free Community Lunch:** First Tuesday of each month. (Sept. 2) 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Five Loaf House 133 Firehouse Rd., Pocono Pines.

**Pastor Jami Possinger** has weekly office hours. You may contact her using her confidential email: pastor@faithlutheranblakeslee.org or by her private cell phone: 610-216-9951

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

**PRELUDE:** "Converse," "Assurance," "Oh, How I Love Jesus"

Please rise as you are able.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

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.

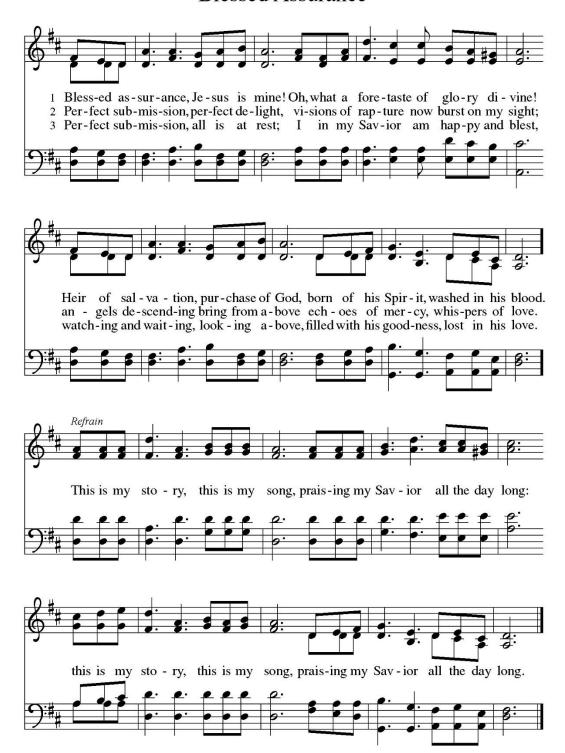
#### Merciful God,

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 and 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.** 



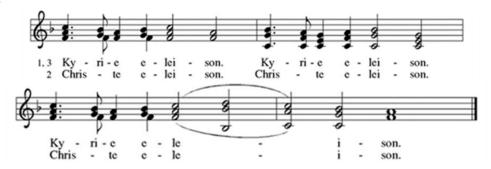
## **Blessed Assurance**



## **GREETING**

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

## **KYRIE**



## **HYMN OF PRAISE**



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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.** 

Please be seated.

## 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.

<sup>1</sup> After 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." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But 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." <sup>5</sup> He 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." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God, Word of Life, Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22**

Let your loving kindness be upon us, as we place our hope in you. (Ps. 33:22)

- <sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!
- <sup>13</sup> The LORD looks down from heaven, and sees all humankind.
- <sup>14</sup> God sits firmly enthroned and watches all who dwell on the earth.
- <sup>15</sup> God fashions all their hearts and observes all their deeds.
- <sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by the size of the army, nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.
- <sup>17</sup> The horse gives vain hope for victory; despite its great strength it cannot save.
- <sup>18</sup> Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD, upon those who wait for your steadfast love,
- <sup>19</sup> to deliver their lives from death, and to keep them alive in time of famine.
- <sup>20</sup> Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD, our helper and our shield.
- <sup>21</sup> Surely, our heart rejoices in you, for in your holy name we put our trust.

<sup>22</sup> Let your loving kindness, O LORD, be upon us, even as we place our hope in you.

## 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.

- <sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By 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.
- <sup>8</sup> By 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. <sup>9</sup> By 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. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore 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."
- <sup>13</sup> All 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, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

# Gospel Acclamation Celtic Alleluia



## **GOSPEL**

# The Holy Gospel according to Luke 12:32-40 Glory to you, O Lord.



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.

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup> "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell 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. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be 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. <sup>37</sup> Blessed 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. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. <sup>39</sup> "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. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

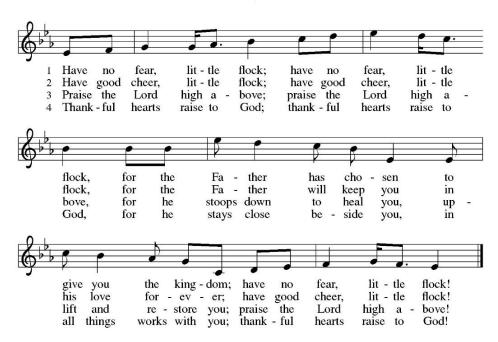
Please be seated.

# CHILDREN'S TIME SERMON

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**LBW 476** 

## Have No Fear, Little Flock



#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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,

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 attentive 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.** 

Let your loving kindness be on those in need. Assure all who are afraid or experiencing great uncertainty that your promises are sure. God of grace, hear our prayer.

#### PRAYER LIST

Tom M; Valerie M.; Pastor Michael Ryan; Jill A.; Nancy M.; Phyllis & Jim N.; Shirely S.; Jim H.; Megan; Jenn & Rachel; Bob & Gail C.; Martha E.; Mya; Mary D.; Ron L.; Nicky S.; Leon P.; Homer A.; Judi C.; James K.

& Family; Kathleen A.; Tom S. Gary P.; Lucy M.; Larissa; Barbara & David L.; Gabe and Amanda W. & Family, Mary F. & Family; Joyce K.; St. Paul, Tannersville.

Calm the fears of migrants and refugees who set out, not knowing where they go. Provide shelter, sustenance, protection from harm, and welcome. Bless the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and other means of support and advocacy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

We celebrate the ancestors in the faith who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance. Sustain us in our hope of things not seen. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your loving kindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.** 

#### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

**OFFERING MUSIC:** "O Jesus, I Have Promised," Kenneth Lowenberg, played by Molly Finkbiner.

## **OFFERTORY SONG**



## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with his meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. **Amen.** 

#### **DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

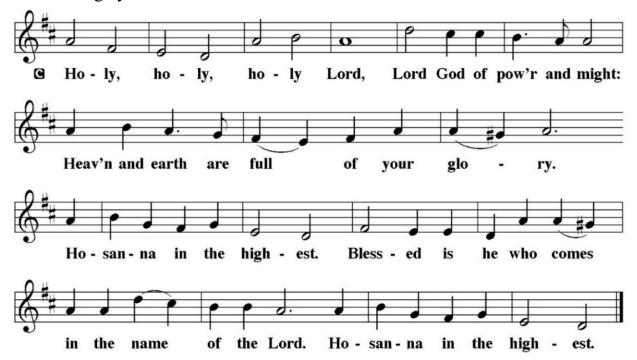
And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

#### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting, and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

#### Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

## Christ will come again.

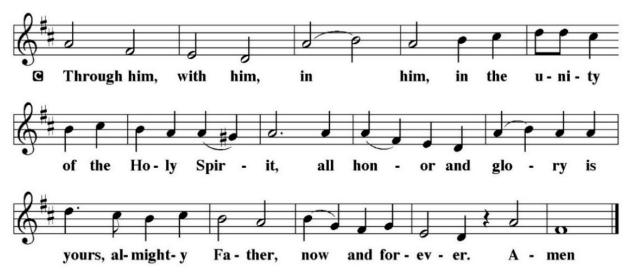
O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

## Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

## Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.** 



#### 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

Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

#### LAMB OF GOD



The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

#### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.** 



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world. **Amen.** 

## **BLESSING**



## **SENDING HYMN**



#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. Thanks be to God.

#### August 10th - Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

#### Prelude:

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#### **Gathering Hymn:**

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#### **Offering Music:**

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#### **Sending Hymn:**

Trust and Obey, John H. Sammis, 1887. © Public Domain.

#### Postlude:

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#### **Service Music:**

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