

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024



WELCOME TO EMANUEL

If you have any questions or need any assistance, please ask an usher.

ALL ARE WELCOME AT EMANUEL

Recognizing that we live in a broken world, Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness. As members of Emanuel Lutheran Church and children of a loving and merciful God, we acknowledge that this reconciliation extends to people of any gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, race, culture, physical or mental ability, economic circumstances, relationship status, or any person that has ever experienced pain or oppression. Because members of different communities may have been excluded from the Church in the past, we wish to make explicit our welcome to all. It is for this purpose that we affirm that ALL people are welcome here, just as they are, contributing their individuality to the wholeness of the Body of Christ.



SERVING TODAY

Presider Pastor Mark Olsen
Worship Leader Vicar Christine Pelfrey
Assisting Minister..... Maureen Leyes
Reader..... Lynn Sherman
Communion Preparers Valerie and Craig McDonald
Director of Music Jonathan Reuning-Scherer

EMANUEL MUSICIANS

Rebekka Almond, David Altschuler, Sarah Asmar, David Byrne, Ash De Las Casas, Adam Desmarais, Hillary Ekwall, Andy Foreman, Trey Hazard, Linda Helmke, Akeva Koulla, Kathryn Lees, Dan Luddy, Honoka Masuyama, Andy Nagle, Kari Olsen, Morgan Pope, Joel Reuning-Scherer, Jane Roets, Arlo Tucker, Rachan Vamsi, Pastor Nancy Wright

AV TECHNICIANS

Paul Christianson, David Counterman, Baker Wainscoat

ALTAR FLOWERS

Given for the glory of God

Though not expected, when it happens, applause is a spontaneous expression of our thanksgiving to God for the gifts of music and of musicians that enrich our lives and enhance our worship.

Soli deo gloria – Glory to God alone

INTRODUCTION

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

PRELUDE

Sonata for Alto Saxophone

Fernande Decruck

Noel

Hannah Hickman, alto saxophone

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes.

In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves.

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

Draw near to us with grace in time of need,

and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

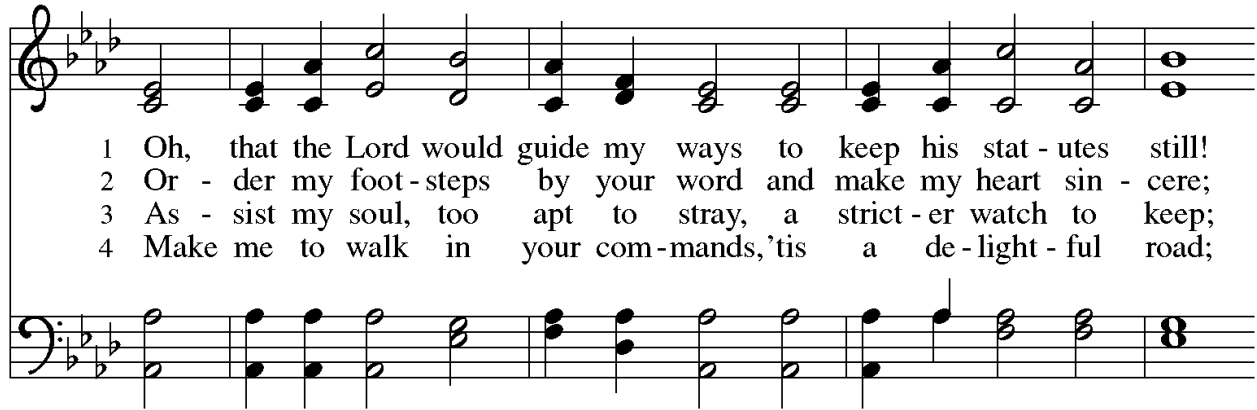
Amen.

L: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

C: **Amen.**



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

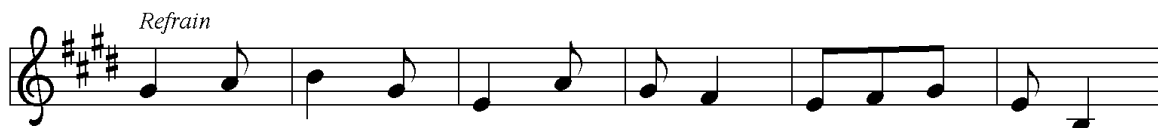
Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

***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.**

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



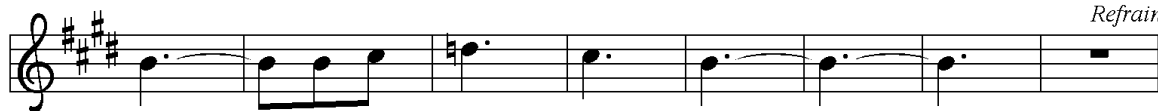
2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: O God our strength,

C: **without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

¹So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: JAMES 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

¹⁷Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word

that has the power to save your souls.

²²But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is written on a five-line staff. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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***GOSPEL: MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

L: The holy gospel according to Mark.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ²they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the

washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” ⁶He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

⁷in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

⁸You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

¹⁴Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

²¹“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Vicar Christine Pelfrey

SERMON

Vicar Christine Pelfrey

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Restore in Us, O God

ELW 328



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

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***APOSTLES' CREED**

A: Let us join together in professing our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: 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, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition

A: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

We offer each other a sign of God's peace.

OFFERING MUSIC

God Be In My Head

arr. Robert Hobby

Emanuel Choir

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS



*We offer our gifts – our time, our talent, and our treasure - to God,
in thanksgiving for all that God has given us.*

*To make your gift online, scan this code using your
phone's camera or QR scanner app.*

*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Blessed are you, O God,
C: **source of every gift of your creation.**
By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise**
P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: **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**

All Are Welcome at the Table!

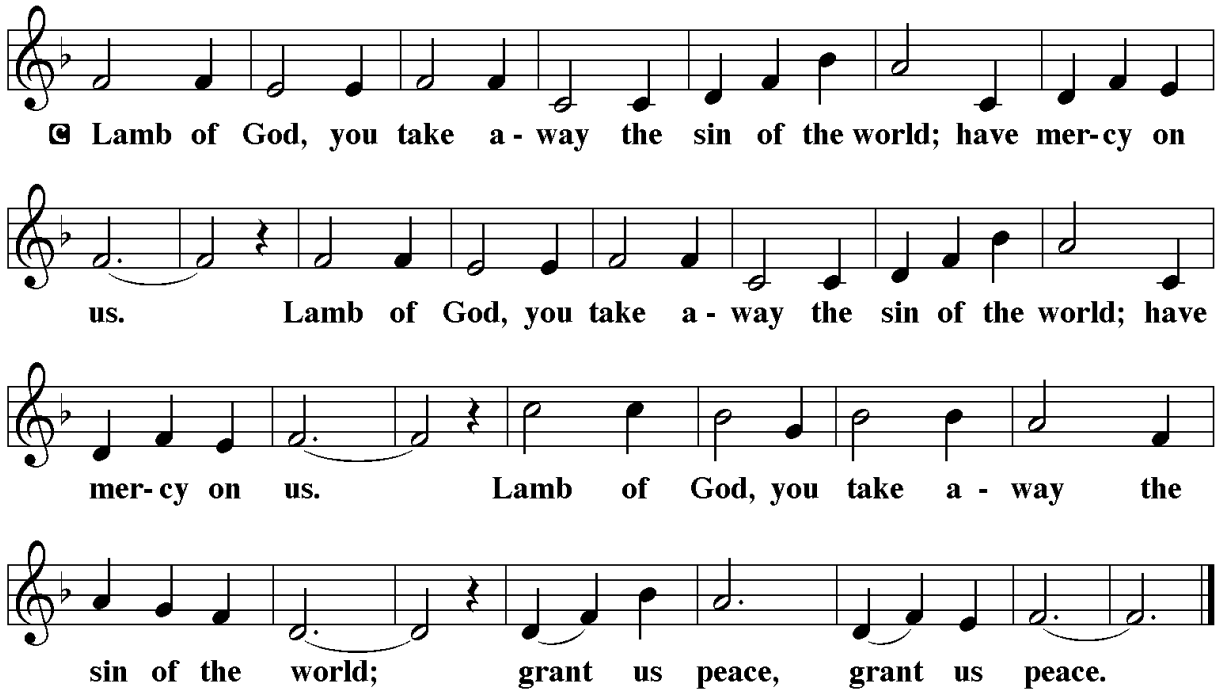
P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

This is the Lord's Table and all are welcome to receive the bread & wine of communion.

Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available as needed.

The ushers will guide you out of your pew down the center aisle to the front of the church. Once you receive communion, please return to your seat by the side aisles. If you would like to receive communion at your seat, please let an usher know. If, for any reason, you choose not to receive the bread and wine, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.

*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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Holy God,

C: you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*BLESSING

P: God all mighty,

God most merciful

✠ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

C: Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

All of My Life



Verse 1 My heart is hop - ing and my eyes are o - pen.

Verse 2 Some say I've got to have all of the an - swers.

Verse 3 Help out my neigh - bor, wel - come a stran - ger.



There is a hun - ger in - side me. I want to do right,
Some say I need all this mon - ey. I hear the world is just
Of - fer my shirt to an en - emy. Dance in the moon - light,



walk in the ho - ly light, to live my days a - bun - dant - ly.
mine for the tak - ing, oh, how I long to be re - leased!
cry by the fi - re - light, to live my days a - bun - dant - ly!

Refrain



All of my life, I want to lose my - self and be faith -



ful. All of my life, I want to



live for - giv - en and grate - ful, all of my life.

Verse 4



Oh, God you know me, my ev' - ry heart - beat is a



word of grace from you.

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

LIVING OUT OUR DISCIPLESHIP – WAYS TO HELP AND SERVE



The Emanuel Food Pantry serves hundreds of meals each month and helps to support our neighbors with basic needs. Thank you to all who have donated to help this cause! Your continued support is needed and appreciated. This month, we begin our collection for Thanksgiving. For September, we are asking for cake mix and cornbread mix.

BE PART OF EMANUEL'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

There are many ways to serve in worship and all are welcome to volunteer! Please use the corresponding QR codes to sign up for a service. For assistance signing up, please contact Morgan in the church office. 860-525-0894 | adminassist@emanuelhartford.org



Serve as Assisting Minister
Coordinator: Maureen Leyes
(860) 212-5492



Assist with Communion
Coordinator: Valerie McDonald
valeriexyz@cox.net
(860) 965-6936



Participate in Music
Contact Jonathan Reuning-Scherer
Scan QR for more information

Read the Lessons
Contact Lynn Sherman
lynnsherman480@gmail.com
(860) 550-0518

Parishoners of all ages are welcome!

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Host Coffee Hour
Individuals, ministry teams, or other organizations are invited to sponsor our after-service coffee hour.



Sponsor Altar Flowers in memory or honor of someone. Your donation of \$75 will cover the cost of the flowers.



Prayer Shawls are available in a basket in the Narthex for anyone to take for themselves or to give away. Baby blankets and a larger supply of shawls are available in the lounge of the Parish Building. Please be in touch with a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team (Bobbee Canfield, Lynne Strecker, and Lynn Sherman) with questions.

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

Carol Johnson † Karin Gottier † Bert Johnson † Betsyann Carter †
Anne Louise Swanson † Lee Sherman † Jennings-Marzett Family † Mckenna Jobes †
Brooklyn King † Elaine Wilson † Vito Vitrano † Monique Jennings †
Rae Ann Gremel † Harris Kannah

Homebound: Elaine Wilson † Joan Johnson
† Anna-Lisa Johnson † Peggy Zachariasen

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