



St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX  
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – Year C  
September 21st, 2025  
8:00 & 10:00 am

*Coffee Hour to follow at 11:00*

To All Who Are Joyful And Thankful, To All Who Mourn And Need Comfort  
To All Who Are Weary And Need Rest, To All Who Are Friendless And Wish Friendship  
To All Who Pray And Who Do Not But Ought, To All Who Sin And Need A Savior.  
And To Whoever Will, The Church Opens Wide The Door  
And In The Name Of Christ, The Lord Says Welcome.

## The Processional Hymn

### The Hymnal 1982 #390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

*The people standing, the Celebrant says:*

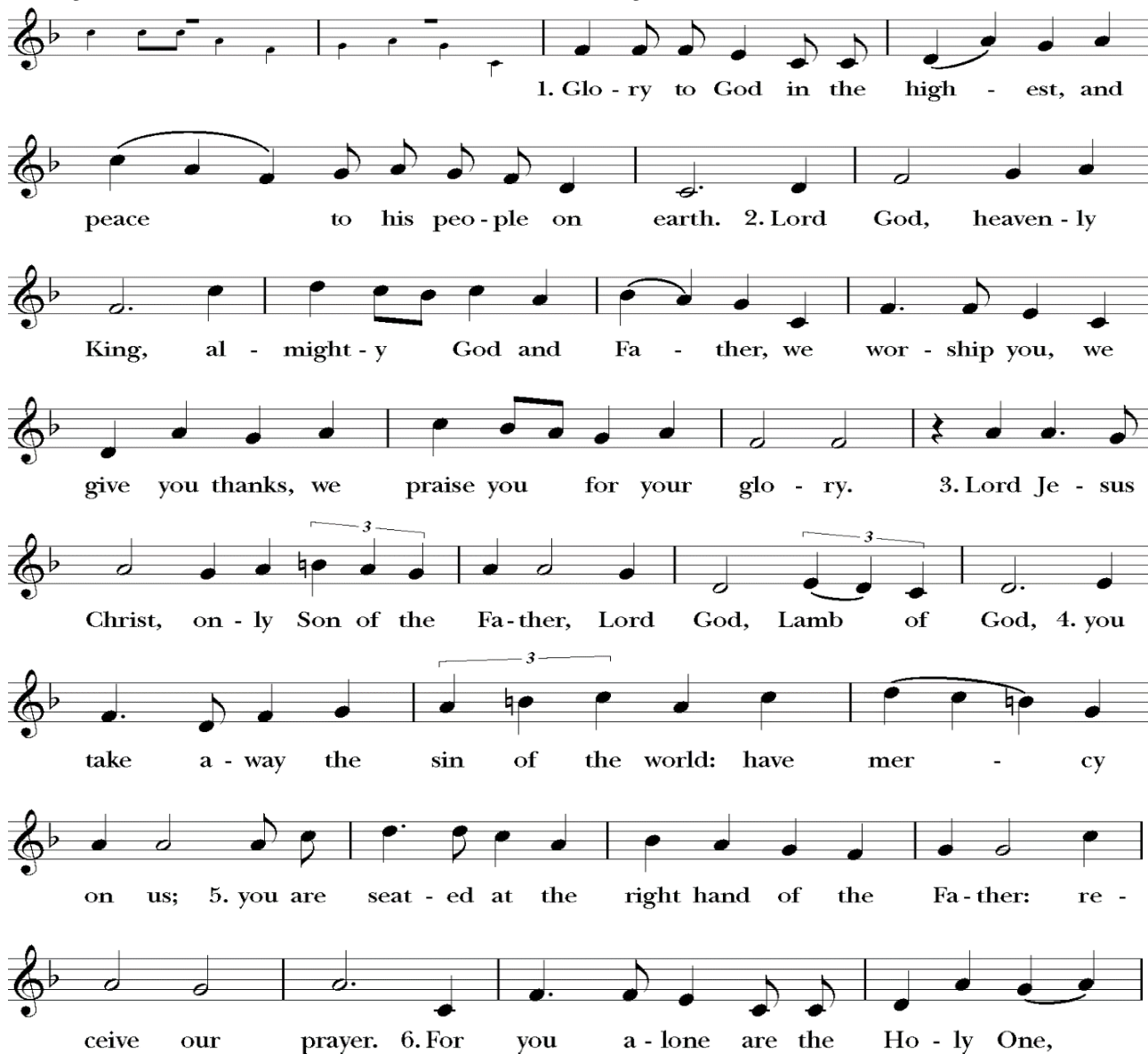
*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Collect for Purity

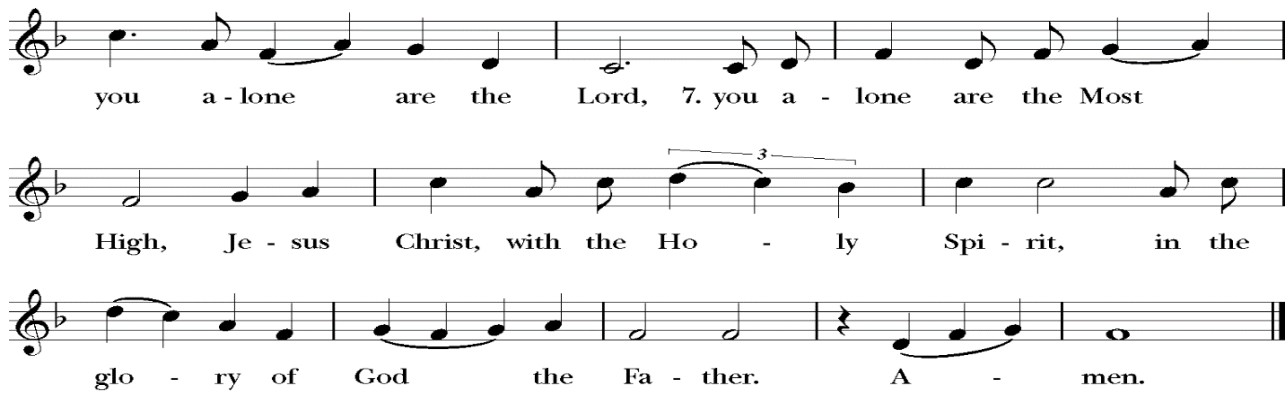
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Gloria

*The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #280 Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis*



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - mighty - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy  
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,



## The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Readings

*All are seated.*

### Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

My joy is gone, grief is upon me,  
my heart is sick.

Hark, the cry of my poor people  
from far and wide in the land:

"Is the Lord not in Zion?  
Is her King not in her?"

("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images,  
with their foreign idols?")

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended,  
and we are not saved."

For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt,  
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead?  
Is there no physician there?

Why then has the health of my poor people  
not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water,  
and my eyes a fountain of tears,

so that I might weep day and night  
for the slain of my poor people!

*People*            The Word of the Lord.  
                      **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 79:1-9** *Deus, venerunt (Read responsively by full verse)*

- 1 O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance;  
they have profaned your holy temple;  
they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.
- 2 **They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air,  
and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.**
- 3 They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem,  
and there was no one to bury them.
- 4 **We have become a reproach to our neighbors,  
an object of scorn and derision to those around us.**
- 5 How long will you be angry, O Lord?  
will your fury blaze like fire for ever?
- 6 **Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you  
and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your Name.**
- 7 For they have devoured Jacob  
and made his dwelling a ruin.
- 8 **Remember not our past sins;  
let your compassion be swift to meet us;  
for we have been brought very low.**
- 9 **Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your Name;  
deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's sake.**

**1 Timothy 2:1-7**

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

who gave himself a ransom for all

-- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

*People*            The Word of the Lord.  
                      **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand as are able.*

## **Gradual Hymn**

**The Hymnal 1982 #475 God himself is with us**

*Deacon*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

## **Luke 16:1-13**

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

*People*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

*A brief time of reflection follows the sermon*

Rev. Dn. Mark Witte

## The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## The Prayers of the People

*Deacon:*

Placing our trust in the one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, let us offer prayers to God who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. We will offer each petition by saying *Lord in your mercy*,  
**hear our prayer.**

Grant your Church, O Lord, to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of Christ. Free us from being possessed by our possessions. May we use your freely offered gifts for your glory, for the care of the poor, and for the witness of the gospel, so that the world may know the one mediator, Christ Jesus. *Lord in your mercy*,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who govern and hold authority in every land, that guided by your wisdom they may promote peace, justice, and dignity for all people. Give them courage to reject corruption and to serve not wealth but the common good. *Lord in your mercy*,  
**hear our prayer.**

Bless the nations of the earth with honest dealings and just stewardship of resources. Guide those in business and industry, that their labor may be marked by integrity, their products beneficial, and their practices respectful of workers and creation. *Lord in your mercy*,  
**hear our prayer.**

Strengthen this community in compassion. Teach us to be faithful in small things, that we may be entrusted with true riches. Where there is division, sow peace; where there is need, stir generosity; where there is dishonesty, raise up integrity. *Lord in your mercy*,  
**hear our prayer.**

Look with mercy on all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially [N.]. Give hope to the unemployed, relief to the poor, and healing to the sick. Uphold the weary with your Spirit, and make us faithful in serving them with love. *Lord in your mercy,*  
**hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially those who have died recently, including [N.]. May they be received into your eternal kingdom, where true wealth is found in knowing and loving you forever. *Lord in your mercy,*  
**hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:*

O God our Savior, who entrusts to us the stewardship of many gifts, hear the prayers we bring, and make us faithful in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Leader and People*

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
in your compassion forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things done and left undone;  
and so uphold us by your Spirit  
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,  
to the honor and glory of your Name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ. Strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

**The Peace**

*All stand as are able.*

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>

## **Announcements**

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

Brenda Burns (21<sup>st</sup>), Carl Mueller & Erik Oosterbaan (23<sup>rd</sup>)

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Celebrant*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*If you would like to give to St. Luke's, you can place money in the offering plate at the Service or you can*

*Text to give to (254) 282-0706, then enter amount (ex. \$50),*

*you can also give online at <https://stlukesstephenville.breezechms.com/give/online>*

*or you can mail your offering to **St. Luke's, PO Box 2506, Stephenville, TX 76401***

**The Offertory Hymn**

**Lift Every Voice and Sing II #188 It is Well with My Soul**

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my  
2. Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should  
3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous  
4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be

1. way, When sor - rows like sea - bil - lows roll;  
2. come, Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,  
3. thought— My sin— not in part, but the whole—  
4. sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

1. What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to  
2. That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -  
3. Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no  
4. The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -

1. say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
2. tate, And has shed His own blood for my soul.  
3. more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
4. scend, "E - ven so"— it is well with my soul.

It is well with my soul, It is well with my soul,

It is well, it is well with my soul, soul,



## Doxology

(sung to *The Hymnal 380*)

***Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Eucharistic Prayer B

*The people remain standing as are able. The Celebrant says*

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<b>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</b>

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

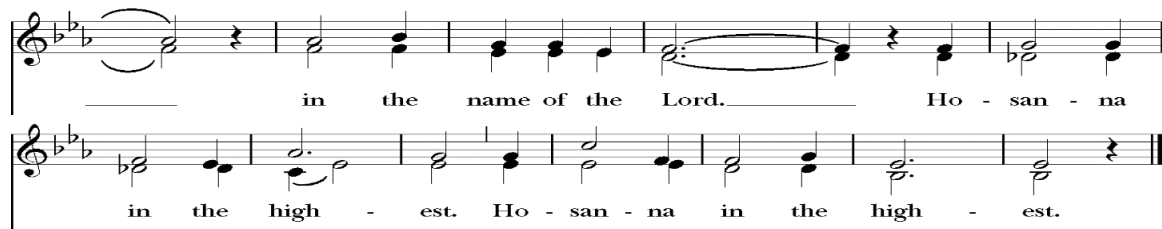
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #130 The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: *Sanctus*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na  
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



*The people kneel, as are able.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Luke, the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

*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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **The Distribution of Holy Communion**

#### ***Concerning Holy Communion***

*“This the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.  
It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.  
So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,  
you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,  
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.  
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.  
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.”*



*If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.  
Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.*



*Gluten free wafers are available upon request*

### **Communion Hymn**

#### **The Hymnal 1982 #488 Be thou my vision**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*  
Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Priest gives the blessing*

## **Blessing**

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be quick to love, and make haste to be kind. And may the blessing of the One who made us, the One who loves us, and the One who travels with us be with you and those you love, both now and always. **Amen.** *Henri-Frederic Amiel 1868*

## **Processional**

**The Hymnal 1982 #308 Holy Father, great Creator**

## **The Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

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## **From the Calendar of Saints**

### **September 21** Saint Matthew *Apostle and Evangelist*

Called early in Jesus' ministry, Levi the tax collector became Matthew the apostle. Although venerated as a martyr, the date and circumstances of his death are unknown.

### **September 25** Sergius *Abbott of Holy Trinity, Moscow, 1392*

A simple, gentle, mystical monk who inspired intense devotion to the Orthodox faith, Sergius became the patron saint of Russia. His Monastery of the Holy Trinity was a center of revival of Russian Christianity.

### **September 26** Lancelot Andrewes *Bishop of Winchester, 1626*

Andrewes, favorite preacher of King James I, was one of the translators of the King James Version of the Bible. He was a devout man, respected as a model bishop at a time when bishops were held in low esteem.

# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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## Clergy

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche – Rector  
The Rev. Dn. Mark Witte – Curate  
The Rev. Leslie Guinn - Assisting

## Staff

Lexi McLemore – Parish Administrator  
Duncan McMahan – Organist  
Gail Johnson & Kelly Barbee – Altar Guild Directresses  
The Rev. Dn. Mark Witte – ECM Missioner  
Neely Carter – Vestry Secretary  
Emma Gomez – Technology Minister

## Vestry

Term Ending 2025 – Gail Johnson & Karl Aho  
Term Ending 2026 – Kelly Barbee, Malcolm Cross, & Ian Wilson  
Term Ending 2027 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes

