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Fifteenth Sunday
after Trinity

Divine Service

September 17, 2023

Holy Communion is celebrated this Sunday at Trinity Lutheran Church in the glad confidence that our Lord, as His Words say, gives not only bread and wine, but also His true Body and Blood for us to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord invites to His table those who believe He is truly present, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive as He forgives us. Because Saint Paul reminds us that we can receive the Lord's Supper to our judgment, we are very careful to administer the Sacrament only to those who are properly prepared. When we receive Holy Communion, we publicly declare our agreement with the teachings of the church from which we receive it. *Therefore, if you are not yet a member of this congregation, a sister congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and if you have not previously spoken to the Pastor about Holy Communion, please refrain from coming forward to receive Communion until you have first spoken with the Pastor.* If you cannot receive the Lord's Supper but desire a blessing, please join us at the Communion rail and cross your arms over your chest to tell the pastor of your intent.

Opening Hymn

All Depends on Our Possessing

LSB 732

Liturgy

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Introit

P: Incline your ear, O LORD, and | answer me,*
save your servant, who trusts in you — you | are my
God.

Be gracious to me, | O Lord,*
for to you do I cry | all the day.

C: **Gladden the soul of your | servant,***
for to you, O Lord, do I lift | up my soul.

Give ear, O LORD, | to my prayer;*
listen to my | plea for grace,
But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and | gracious;*
turn to me and be gra- | cious to me;
give your strength to your | servant,*
and save the son of your maid- | servant.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P: Incline your ear, O LORD, and | answer me,*
save your servant, who trusts in you — you | are my
God.
Be gracious to me, | O Lord,*
for to you do I cry | all the day.

Kyrie

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Gloria

Gloria in Excelsis

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Collect

P: O Lord, we implore You, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your Church; and because she cannot continue in safety without Your aid, preserve her evermore by Your help and goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Old Testament

1 Kings 17:8-16 (ESV)

Then the word of the LORD came to him, “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks. And he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for

myself and my son, that we may eat it and die.” And Elijah said to her, “Do not fear; go and do as you have said. But first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make something for yourself and your son. For thus says the LORD the God of Israel, The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.” And she went and did as Elijah said. And she and he and her household ate for many days. The jar of flour was not spent, neither did the jug of oil become empty, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Gradual

**C: It is better to take refuge | in the LORD*
 than to | trust in man.
 It is better to take refuge | in the LORD*
 than to trust in | princes.**

Epistle

Galatians 5:25-6:10 (ESV)

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load.

One who is taught the word must share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Alleluia

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Gospel

Matthew 6:24-34 (ESV)

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

Hymn of the Day	<i>What God Ordains is Always Good</i>	LSB 760
Sermon	<i>Top Priority</i>	Matthew 6:24-34
Nicene Creed		p. 158
Prayers		
Offering		
Offertory		p. 159
Lord's Supper		p. 160
Distribution	<i>Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness</i>	LSB 636
	<i>If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee</i>	LSB 750
	<i>O Living Bread from Heaven</i>	LSB 642
Canticle	<i>Nunc Dimittis</i>	p.165
Prayer		p. 166
Benediction		p. 166
Hymn	<i>Children of the Heavenly Father</i>	LSB 725