

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
BRISTOL, CT**

**SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
September 14, 2025, 9:30 a.m.**

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

Offerings towards our Ministries are welcomed at our entryways or you can scan this code with your phone camera.



+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**
Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God, **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.**

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! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN Lord Speak to Us, That We May Speak

ELW 676

KYRIE (vs. 1)



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

First Reading

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.

A reading from Exodus, chapter 32.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

Exodus 32: 7-14

PSALM (from Psalm 51:1-10)

Create In Me A Clean Heart

ELW 185

Second Reading

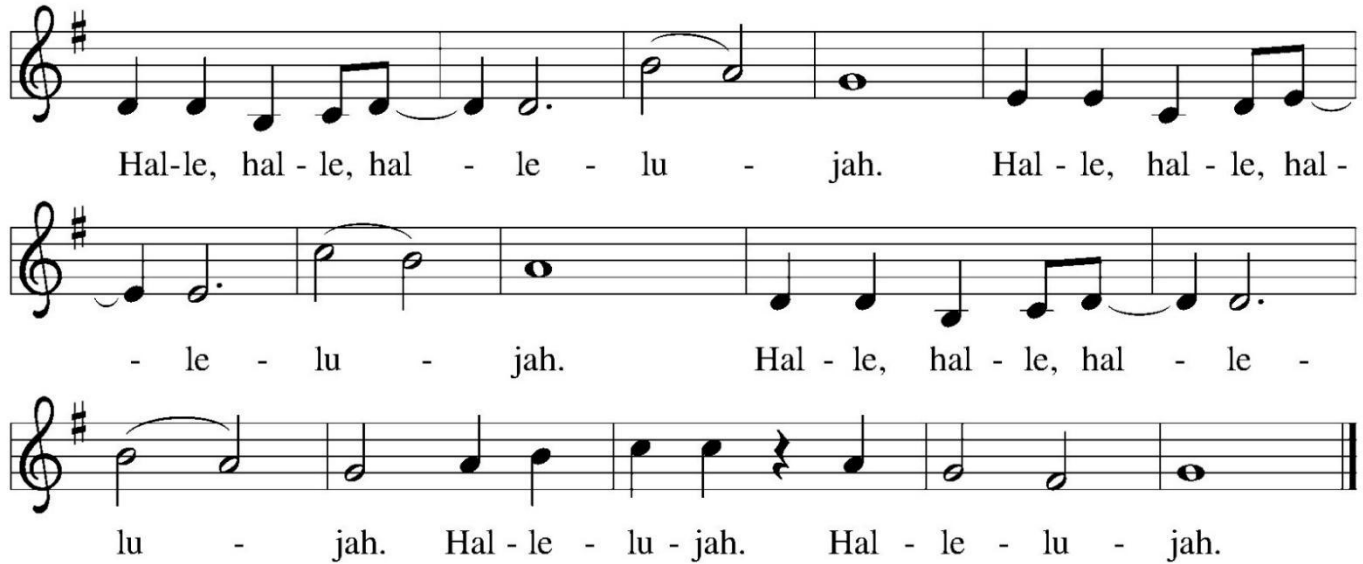
The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

A reading from the letter to Timothy, chapter 1.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

Timothy 1:12-17

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Halle, Halle, Hallelujah**ELW 172****Gospel**

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

The holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. ⁸ "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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

Luke 15:1-10

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (aimed toward Grades K thru 6th, but those younger are welcomed with an accompanying adult).

SERMON**HYMN OF THE DAY****Amazing Grace****ELW 779**

L: APOSTLES' CREED

Let us profess our faith using the words of the 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, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

L: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...*(time is allowed for additions)*. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Now may we lift up praise and thanksgiving for Restored Health, Life Celebrations and God Sightings for which we are joyful...*(time is allowed for responses)*. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Remain Standing

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

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OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 181

L: OFFERING PRAYER

For all that we have received from God let us pray for what we return.

Lord of the harvest, **we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

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

Blessed are you...

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, as we pray:

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.

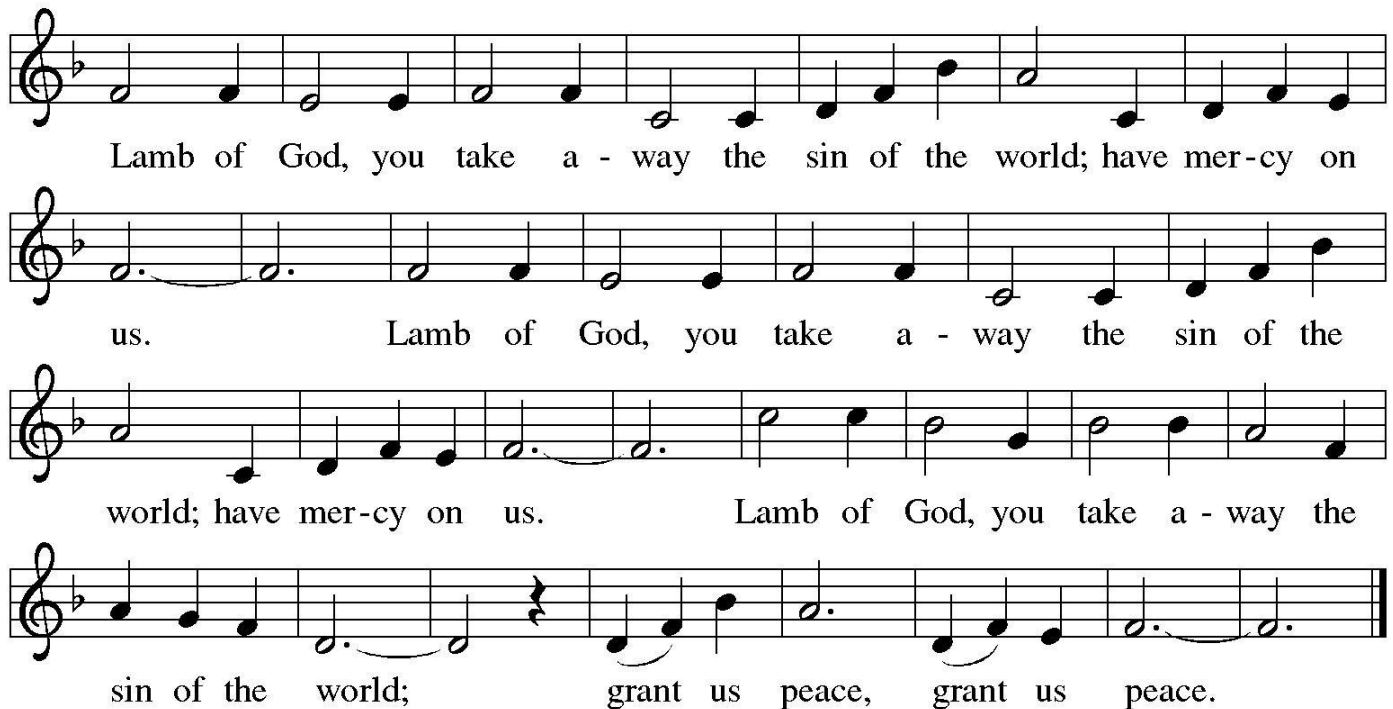
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*At Faith **all** are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to come forward by the center aisle to fill in along the rail from the center to the sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive bread (or gluten-free wafers upon request) and wine (or white grape juice) in pre-filled glasses. Empty glasses can be placed in baskets provided as you return by the side aisles to your seat for silent meditation. If you need communion brought to you, please notify the usher.*

Lamb of God

ELW 195



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.

(if you are giving a reminder at the end of the service, please move to the lectern as the altar is cleared after communion distribution)

COMMUNION HYMNS

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479

L: POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

REMINDERS

(If you are giving a reminder, come to the lectern as the altar is cleared).

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN **Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us**

ELW 789

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE**WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, September 14, 2025**

Presiding Minister: Pastor Chris Dion

Musician: Aimee Allen

Assisting Minister: Heather Johnson

Lector: Matt Stojanov

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Donald Milbrandt, Bill Golden, Kathy Golden, Cheryl Davis

Altar Guild: The Pratt Family

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**Sunday, September 14, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Congregational Conversation and Brunch

Thursday, September 18, 2025

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. AI Anon (YOUTH Room)

Saturday, September 20, 2025

10:00 a.m. Fitness Class

Sunday, September 14, 2025

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

11:00 a.m. Bible Nuggets

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org

Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507

Meals for Neighbors Food Pantry

Please consider helping us keep the MFN Food Pantry stocked. We are currently in need of

Soup/Stew Rice Cereal

Donations should be placed in our grocery carriage in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your kindness.

Thank you for your generosity.

Kathy Golden