# Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610- 346-8500 durhamlutheran.org

Reverend James Heckman, Pastor 267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



# September 14, 2025 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost and Care-A-Lot Sunday

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.

You can find the live stream at the following location:

#### www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Prelude: "Heavenly Sunlight" - Arr. Mark Hayes

**GATHERING** 

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

(Stand if you are able)

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism as the pastor begins)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the  $\pm$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



### **Gathering Hymn: WOV 650**

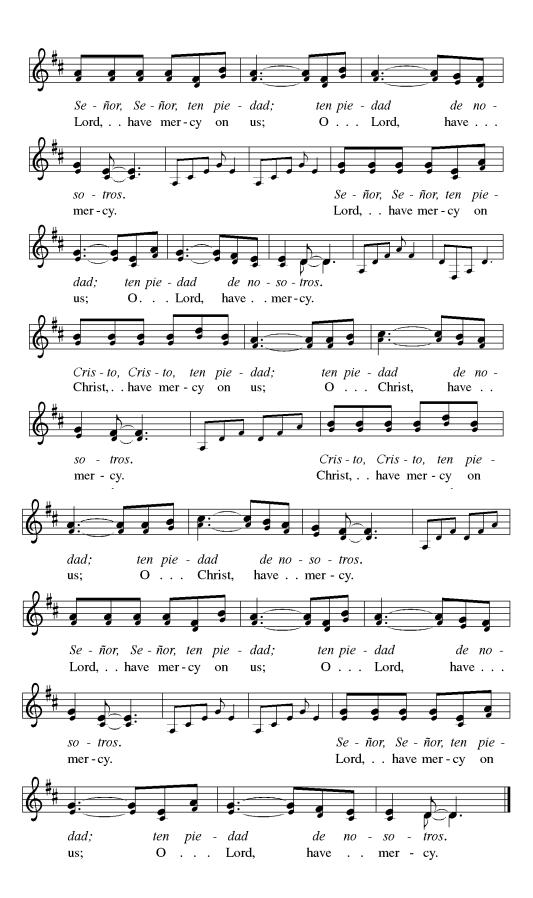
# We Are Marching in the Light of God



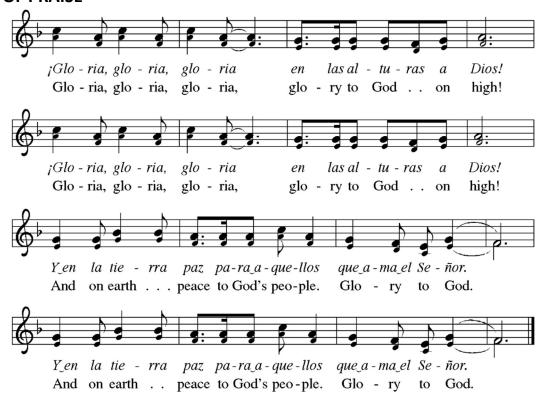
#### **INVOCATION**

- 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.

## **KYRIE-**



#### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



# **Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray

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.

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

# First Reading- Exodus 32:7-14

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.

L: A reading from the thirty-second chapter of Exodus.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> 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!' " <sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiffnecked they are. <sup>10</sup> 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."

<sup>11</sup> 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? <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.' " <sup>14</sup> And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

# Second Reading- 1 Timothy 1:12-17

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.

L: A reading the first chapter of 1 Timothy.

<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, <sup>13</sup> 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, <sup>14</sup> and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

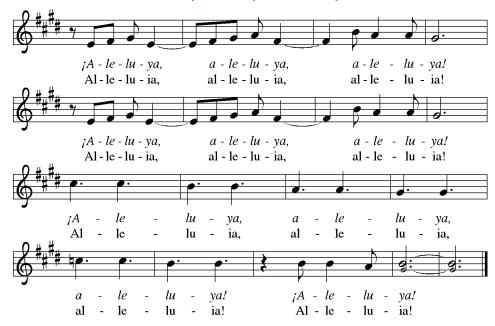
L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



# **Gospel Acclamation:**

#### (Stand if you are able)



# The Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

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.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

# C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: <sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> "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? <sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup> 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.' <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> "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? <sup>9</sup> 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.' <sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

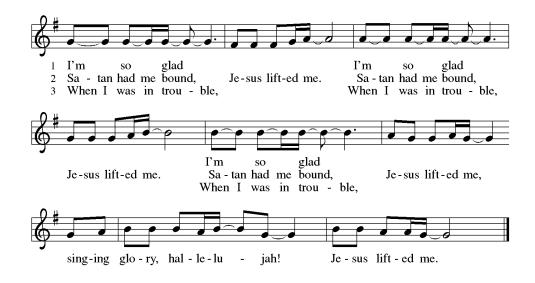
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

# Hymn of the Day: WOV 673

### (Stand if you are able)

## I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me



Text: African American spiritual Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

#### **APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: 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,

# C: 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,

C: receive our prayer.

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,

# C: receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain (*especially*). Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,

# C: 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,

# C: receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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

C: Amen.

# **Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

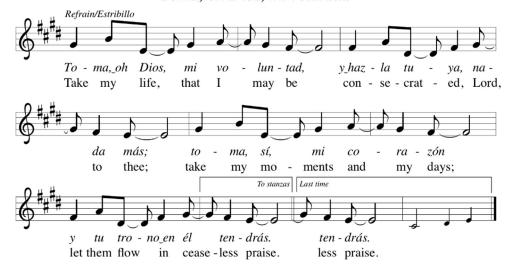
C: And also with you.

**OFFERING** -All loose offerings collected today will be designated for the Care-A-Lot Scholarship Fund.

Choir Anthem: "Amazing Grace"

**PRESENTATION** 

Take My Life, That I May Be Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad



# **Offering Prayer**

P: 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.

C: Amen.

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

- 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, 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 (said by Pastor)

P: 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.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior taught us:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.



#### **SONG DURING COMMUNION: WOV 783**



# **Prayer after Communion**

P: 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.

#### C: Amen.

#### **Announcements**

#### **BLESSING**

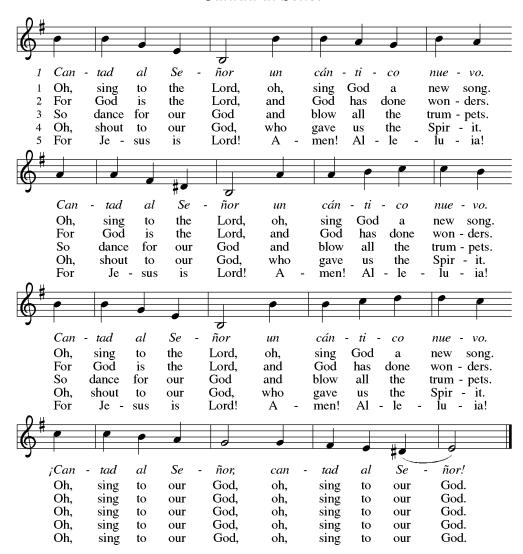
P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, 

→ bless you now and forever.

#### C: Amen

**Sending Song: WOV 795** 

Oh, Sing to the Lord Cantad al Señor



Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Spanish and English Music: CANTAD AL SEÑOR, Brazilian folk tune Spanish and English text © Gerhard Cartford, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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#### **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

Our Outreach envelopes September are going to Lutheran Disaster Relief. Today's loose offering will be put towards the Care-A-Lot Scholarship Fund.

			ANNOUN	<u>CEMENTS</u>	
Sept	BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES		BAPTISMS
14	Dot Peterman,		Karen & Hans Rilling (62)		
	Bonnie Pyne DePortillo				
17					Hunter Aquino
20					Michael Altemus
			THIS WEEK'S	ACTIVITIES	<u> </u>
Sunday, September 14 14th Sunday After Pentecost		10:00 AM		Communion Worship Care-A-Lot Sunday	
Monday, September 15		1:00 PM- 3:00 PM		Admin Office Hours	
Wedn	esday, September 17	9:30 AM-12:00 PM		Office Hours	
		12:00 PM		Chat & Chew w/ Pastor Jim	
Thursday, September 18		10:00 AM- 1:00 PM		Office Hours	
		1:00 PM- 3:00 PM		Bible Study @ the Hlavaty's	
			<u>UPCOMING</u>	ACTIVITIES	
Sunday, September 21		10:00 AM		Communion Wors	hip
15th Sunday After Pentecost		After Worship		Durham Dialogue	
Monday, September 22		1:00PM -3:00 PM		Admin Office Hours	
		7:00 PM		PALM General meeting	
Wednesday, September 24		9:30 AM-12:00 PM		Office Hours	
		12:00 PM		Chat & Chew w/ Pastor Jim	
Thursday, September 25		10:00 AM		Choir Rehearsal	
		10:00 AM- 1:00 PM		Office Hours	
		1:00 PM- 3:00 PM		Bible Study @ the Hlavaty's	
		10:00 A		WELCA	
	y, September 28	10:00 AI		Communion Wors	hip
16th Sunday After Pentecost Harvest Home		1:00 PM		Crop Walk	
Monday, September 29		1:00-3:00 PM		Admin Office Hour	·S
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Wednesday, September 30

Palisades Area CROP Hunger Walk Sunday,
September 28<sup>th</sup> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Office Hours

Chat & Chew w/ Pastor Jim

9:30 AM- 12:00 PM

12:00 PM

St Peter's Lutheran Church, 720 Edgewood Rd. Riegelsville, PA

The route will go south on the Delaware canal to Trauger's Farm and back.

https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/riegelsvillepa



#### **Worship Assistants**

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman		
Organist Choir Director	Carolyn Williams		
Altar Guild	Miriam Anderson and Scott Gaun		
Greeter(s)	Mark Harwick		
Acolyte	Oaklee Wagner		
Lector	Bea von Watzdorf		
Head / Communion Usher	Mark Harwick		
Council Communion	Mark Harwick+ help		
Counting Team	Bea von Watzdorf and Cathy Mueller		
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson		
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner		
Custodian	Dianna Streletz		



Refreshments after service provided by Miriam Anderson in honor of Care-A-Lot Sunday!

#### A note from Altar Guild:

Miriam and Linda will be making the schedule for next year in October, church year starts in Advent, so please let us know if there are months you would rather have assigned. We will try to accommodate best as we can. We are short members so if any of you can do three months instead of two that would be great! Thanks so much for all you do!

#### For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Esther Crouse; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Joanne Ziegenfuss; Pat Zion

**For Healing of Friends and Family:** Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Al Boorse; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Nancy

Edelen; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Frank Manfredonia; Jim McAnally; Charleigh McCade; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Patrick McNaulty; Stacy Mecham; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Dennis Phillipps; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Richard Seifert; Laurel Sheetz; Jami Silfies; Holly Snyder; Jeff Starling; Debbie Statler; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Wayne Yeisley; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Jayne Miller.

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Stephen Bizon; Mary Budd; Doris Calverley; Althea Crouse; Cleo Eck; Fred Foerster; Norma Fox; Jason Gourley; Kenneth Hager; Vivian Harwick; Julio Limontour; Frank Mammana; Renate Michener; Nancy Morris; Silas Rodenbach; Bart Shaw; Andy Wong; Ed Xander and Bobby Ziegenfuss

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: <a href="mailto:joanmammana@icloud.com">joanmammana@icloud.com</a>

# PALISADES AREA CROP HUNGER WALK SEPTEMBER 28, 2025



Registration Opens @ 1:00 pm Starts and ends at St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 720 Edgewood Rd, Riegelsville, PA 18077

Walk as far as you want:

Location	Each Way (Miles)	Round Trip (Miles)	
Durham Aqueduct (Routes 212 & 611)	1.25	2.5	
Trauger's Farm(Island Rd.)	2.25	4.5	

25% of donations go to support The Lord's Pantry in Ottsville, PA 75% goes to Church World Service to feed the hungry around the world. Scan the QR code to register or donate for the Evangelical Durham Team:



For more information: Phone: 610-349-4391

Email: <a href="mailto:cropwalkcoordinator@durhamlutheran.org">cropwalkcoordinator@durhamlutheran.org</a>
Website: <a href="mailto:https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/riegelsvillepa">https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/riegelsvillepa</a>

Sponsored by the Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries

The PALM CROP Hunger Walk is two weeks from today, we will gather with others in our community to fight hunger both here and around the world. We need Walkers and sponsors for the Palisades Area.

CROP Hunger Walk on September 28. You can get more information about participating using the QR Code below of more details and to sign up to be a Walker, a sponsor, or both. You may also call Ken Anderson at 610-349-4391. Last year, we raised \$2,450 and are looking to raise \$3,000 this year. Thanks for helping feed the hungry both in our community and throughout the world.