

St. Olaf Lutheran Church
Sunday, September 21, 2025
15th Sunday after Pentecost

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

Welcome & Announcements

***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.

***Hymn**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW 779

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**

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***Come Let Us Join**

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***Prayer of the Day**

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷ The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 113

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the Lord;
praise the name | of the Lord.

² **Let the name of the | Lord be blessed,
from this time forth for- | evermore.**

³ From the rising of the sun to its | going down
let the name of the | Lord be praised.

⁴ **The Lord is high a- | bove all nations;
God's glory a- | bove the heavens.**

⁵ Who is like the | Lord our God,
who sits en- | throned on high,

⁶ **but stoops | to behold
the heavens | and the earth?**

⁷ The Lord takes up the weak out | of the dust
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,

⁸ **enthroning them | with the rulers,
with the rulers | of the people.**

⁹ The Lord makes the woman of a | childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ 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.

L: Word of God. Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God

***Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)**

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***Gospel: Luke 16:1-13**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 16th chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹ Then 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. ² 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.’ ³ 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. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶ He answered, ‘A

hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷ 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.’ ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ “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. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ 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.”

P: The gospel of our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Jim McColley

Sermon

Pastor Jim McColley

***Hymn**

Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling

ELW 608

***Apostles Creed**

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*** Prayers of Intercession**

God of Grace,

Receive our prayer

***Peace** (*Feel free to share a handshake or hug*)

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: Please share with one another a sign of Christ’s peace.

Offering: *Please consider giving an offering for the mission and ministry of St. Olaf. We can continue to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ with your support and generosity. God bless you. Also, please pass the attendance sheets down your row and fill out your info.*

***Offering prayer**

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.

*** Great Thanksgiving & Holy, Holy, Holy**

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***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

Holy Communion Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Communion Hymns

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ELW 807

ELW 834

***Prayer After Communion**

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.

***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.

***Hymn**

Savior, Like a Sheperd Lead Us

ELW 789

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

Assisting in Worship

Presider: Pastor Emily Sauer-Alvarez

Assisting: Pastor Jim McColley

Organist: Jason Swedlund

Reader: Viv Nore

Ushers: Rick Kuhlman, David Osterberg, Fran Long

Communion: Rick and Mary Kuhlman,

Communion setup: Faith Williams, Nancy Hamilton, Sue Seltz, Jane Forbes

Tech: Mark Oester