

12th Sunday after Pentecost



Word and Sacrament

“Little Church with a BIG Heart”

Saint Bartholomew Lutheran Church

August 31st, 2025 11:00 AM



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to Worship!

This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Saint Bart's welcomes you to worship and our believing community. This morning we celebrate the **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**. The lyrics to the hymns are in the red and purple hymnals in the pews. We extend special greetings to all our guests who are with us today. Your presence, along with our members and friends, is truly valued. Know that all of God's people are always welcome here at St. Bartholomew.

Praying People

Everyone is invited to offer their prayer concerns during the Prayers of the Church.

Holy Communion

Saint Bart's celebrates the real presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. We invite all to come and share. At the time of communion, an usher will guide you to come to the altar to receive the elements.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

Announcements

We will have a **children's sermon** after the Gospel today. Afterwards, children will leave for the **Nursery** and return to the church for Communion.

Farmer's Market is this Friday

There will be a special program for children this Saturday at 11 a.m. – a reading and discussion of ***Sparkling Peace***, a book by and for children about gun violence.

The RAWtools shop is open Fridays and Saturdays at 1 p.m., weather permitting

The Eternal Candle is lit in August in memory of Zienna Alina Rivera, on behalf of the Rivera/Concepcion Family; and in honor of Mercer Street Friends during September, donated by Cindy Percak

We can use any food or monetary donations to help our community.

Are there any other announcements?

Bell / Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful God,

C **you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness,
and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.**

P You belong to Christ Jesus
and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✝ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW # 532

Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

Leader or All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad de no-so - tros. Cris - to, ten pie - dad.
O Lord, have . . . mer-cy up-on us. Christ, have mer - cy.

Leader or All



Se - ñor, ten pie - dad. Se - ñor, ten pie - dad.
Have mer - cy, O Lord. Have mer - cy, O Lord.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE / CÁNTICO DE ALABANZA



1 ¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!
1 Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

¡Glo-ria a Dios, glo-ria a Dios, glo - ria en los cie - los!
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre! ¡A Dios la glo-ria por siem-pre!
To God be glo-ry for - ev - er! To God be glo-ry for - ev - er!

¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén! ¡A - le - lu - ya! ¡A - mén!
Al - le - lu - ia! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

WORD

A I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth (Psalm 34:1). Lord, bless the reading of your word. Make it come alive in our midst.

C Amen.

First Reading: **Proverbs 25:6-7a**

⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,

^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

A Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 112

- A ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD
and have great delight in God's commandments!
- C ² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.**
- A ³ Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last forever.
- C ⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.**
- A ⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending
and to manage their affairs with justice.
- C ⁶ **For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
- A ⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;
their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- C ⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
- A ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their
righteousness stands fast forever;
they will hold up their head with honor.
- C ¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash
their teeth and pine away;
the desires of the wicked will perish.**

Second Reading: **Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

¹ Let mutual affection continue. ² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³ Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴ Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” ⁶ So we can say with confidence,

“The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.
What can anyone do to me?”

⁷ Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

- A Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya. El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ is ris - en, ris' n in - deed.

P The Holy Gospel according to **Luke the 14th** chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

¹ On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON (followed by Nursery)

SERMON

Hymn of the Day: ACS # 1059

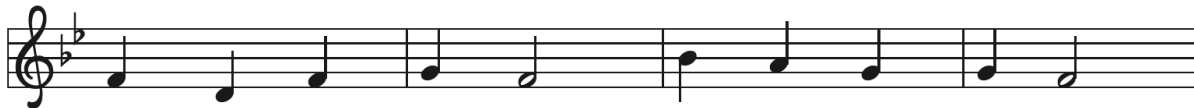
Come Now, You Blessed



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"
 2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?
 3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,
 4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,



said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.
 When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?
 when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,
 look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,



"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,
 When did we see you sick or in pris - on?
 when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,
 then may we know you, wel - come and show you



sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."
 What have we done that you call us your own?
 you cared for me in the small - est of these."
 love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: MATTHEW 25, Emily R. Brink, b. 1940

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PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Apostle's Creed

P Let us all affirm our faith by using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C **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.**

PRAYERS

Each petition ends:

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the leaders of towns, cities, provinces, states, and nations (*especially in Ukraine, Palestine, Israel, Sudan; and the United States, our state of New Jersey, and our city of Trenton*), we pray. Guide them to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence (*especially Joe, Nick, Bob, Justin, Billy, Gloria, Rosemary, Kelly, Terri, Nelson, and those who have been oppressed at Delaney Hall*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us (*especially our fellowship hosts and hostesses, and Enid's Pantry workers*).

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for our partner churches: Abiding Presence and Prince of Peace; we pray for our newly installed Bishop Christa Compton. We are grateful for the tenure of Bishop Tracie Bartholomew and send our blessings for her next ministries. We pray for Presiding Bishop-elect Yehiel Curry, and for the ELCA. We also pray for the concerns of this congregation and the Synod: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays, *especially Pastor Erich and Zelinne Rivera*; and for those celebrating anniversaries; also for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(Pastor) Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

C Amen.

THE OFFERING

Offering Prayer

A Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

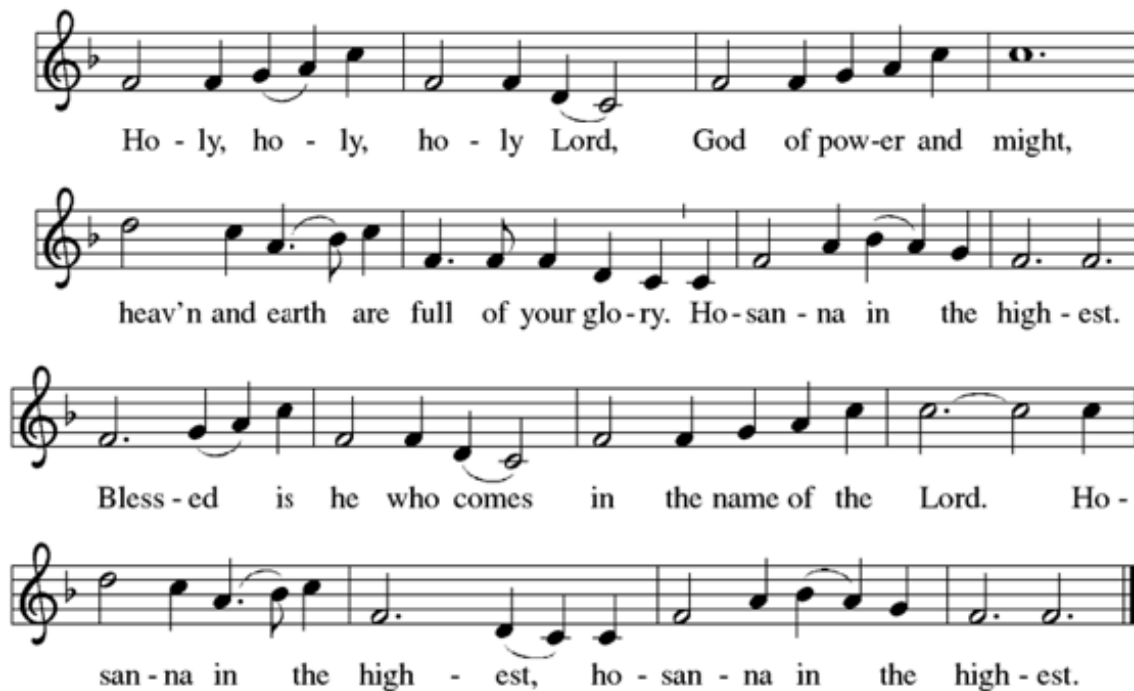
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n 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 AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P We praise you God of Freedom,
for you send messengers in every time and place giving voice to
your love: You speak through thirsty women, broken men, the
poor and impure. You choose what is despised to make us
whole. A servant girl bears Jesus, your blessing, who turns the
old world upside down. He forsakes the temple, laughs at the
powerful kisses sinners and heals the unclean. He breaks open
prisons, frees slaves and captives, feasts with the outcast and
celebrates strangers. Loving each one entirely, he teaches us the
way of compassion and peace.

In the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus gathered with his
faltering friends for a meal that tasted of freedom. He 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 them to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Merciful God, fill us with your blessing
and embrace us in communion
with saints and sinners,
the hurt and the hurting,
with Mary Magdalene, Peter the Fisherman,
and friends and strangers everywhere
as we give you all glory and honor and praise, now
and forever,

C Amen

Lord's Prayer

P Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C 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, the power, and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

(Children return from the Nursery)

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

P The table is set. The doors are open.
The gifts of God are:

C **Free!**

All are welcome at God's Table. If you would like to share in communion with us today, you are more than welcome to do so. There are no prerequisites at God's table and nothing we do to earn a seat at the table, it is freely given to us by God. Please, come and eat!

Distribution

TABLE BLESSING

P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Let us pray.

C **May we who have fed at Wisdom's table
take her welcome out to where doors are locked
and tables are bolted to the floor.
May the Spirit drive us
to break our bread
on the altar of this world.
Amen.**

Benediction

+Sending+

P The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit

✝ bless you and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ACS # 969

Welcome Table



1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
 2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
 3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.



I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel - come ta - ble,
 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,



I'm goin' - a eat at the wel - come ta - ble, some of these days.
 I'm goin' - a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey, some of these days.
 I'm goin' - a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: WELCOME TABLE, African American spiritual

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude