BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

SENDING SONG

"IF YOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE YOU"

3200 Park Road **ELW 769** Charlotte, NC 28209 (704) 523-7981

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 31, 2025

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ALTAR FLOWERS

In loving memory of Carol Cushing and in honor of Charles Cushing on their birthdays.

(ELW p. 209)

Given by Charles, Karen, and Hannah Berry, Rachel and Lucas Poppante, and Corey Cushing.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. Keith Copeland Tony & Vilma Lee, Organ button pusher

Assisting Minister: Julie Bartlett

Greeter: Cozette Nowak

Cheris Copeland Reader:

Cheris Copeland & Communion

Assistants:

Dreema Brunnemer

Audio/Video:

Dale McKee Ushers:

Altar Guild: Judy Hall

Altar Flowers: Berry family

NO FRIENDSHIP ROOM Friendship Room:

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Keith Copeland;

pastorkeith@stlukeselca.org

Office Administrator – Ami-Luise Vucovich:

office@stlukeselca.org

Church Website - www.stlukeselca.org

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 11063

Charlotte, NC 28220-1063

CONTACT US:

(704) 201-6633

Financial Recording Specialist, Kathy West;

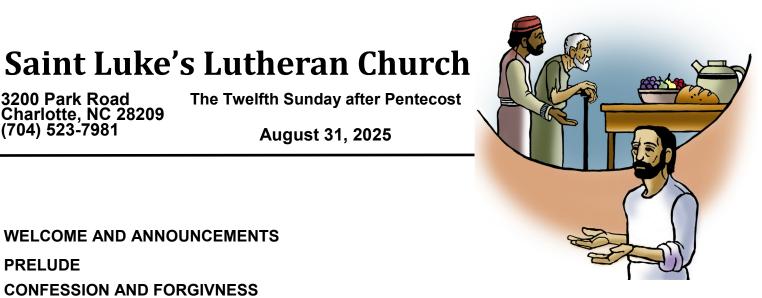
west@stlukeselca.org

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(ELW p. 205)

Let us pray. 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. Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SUMMER PROGRAM



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVNESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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. Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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 Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"GATHER US IN"

ELW 532

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

(ELW p. 204)

(ELW p. 203)

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth: we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise. Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love. Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above; on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand. Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call; Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all: Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright. For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

(NRSV OT p.746)

⁶Do 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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

(NRSV NT p.276)

¹Let mutual affection continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember 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. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵Keep 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." ⁶So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" ⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ELW p. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

(NRSV NT p.94)

The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

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. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "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, 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. 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. 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. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH YOU"

ELW 818

CREED

(ELW p. 105)

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 OF INTERCESSION

...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

...through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. Amen.

PEACE

OFFERING

ORGAN OFFERTORY

OFFERING RESPONSE

ELW 188

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 206)

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 (ELW p. 207)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

(ELW p. 207)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest,

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

(ELW p. 207)

LORD'S PRAYER

(ELW p. 208)

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to God's table of Grace! Individually wrapped gluten free wafers are available for you to pick up from the table in front of the baptismal font.

COMMUNION SONG

(ELW p.208)

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray. O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**