**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**AS WE GATHER**

We focus today on the words of James, which call us to an active faith that loves our neighbors. We are forced to ask ourselves: What good is a faith that bears no fruit of love and service to others? Such a question might make us worry about our salvation. Friends in Christ: do not fear; your living, saving faith in Christ will inevitably overflow with His good works. Christ powerfully works in us as we live out our daily vocations. Serve the Lord with gladness.

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES** *Psalm 146*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Praise the Lord, O my soul!

**People: I will praise the Lord as long as I live.**

Pastor: Blessed are those whose hope is in the Lord;

**People: the Lord sets the prisoners free.**

Pastor: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

**People: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.**

Pastor: The Lord upholds the widow and the fatherless.

**People: The Lord will reign forever!**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Yes, the Lord reigns over every nation, language, and people. Yet, we have not loved all people as Christ has loved us. The fruits of our faith are not always evident. But our Lord is gracious and merciful, and He offers His forgiveness to all.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we have failed to love others as You love them. We have failed to reflect Your grace to the world in service and sacrifice. We have failed in our actions and in our unwillingness to act. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may follow You in joy. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy sent Jesus Christ into our world to serve and save all people, showing no partiality or favoritism. By His death, He forgives all our sins. By His resurrection, He destroys death forever and offers us eternal life. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. We set free to love and serve our neighbors. Amen.**

**HYMN** *“Praise the Almighty”* (*LSB* 797)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 35:4-7a *(bulletin insert)*

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** James 2:1-10, 14-18 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 7:31-37 *(bulletin insert)*

**HYMN** *“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”* (*LSB* 848)

**SERMON “*Done Well”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”* (*LSB* 637)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have renewed us by the body and blood of Christ. Empower and energize us to serve our neighbors in faith toward You and fervent love toward all people; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”* (*LSB* 924)