

Pentecost 15

September 21, 2025

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 20 (Year C)

No one likes to be in debt to another, and yet it seems to be a reality of this human life. Our sin is a debt that cannot be repaid, yet through Christ we have been forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God. Jesus paid our debt by offering us grace and mercy through his death on the cross. We, too, are called to offer grace and mercy to our neighbors, forgiving their debt so that they also might know God's love.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Amos 8:4-7**Prophecy of the End of Israel**

The message given to Amos by the Lord was one of impending judgment upon the unfaithful Israel. "She is ripe for destruction," said the Lord. Her national identity and existence would soon be no more as she would be taken from her homeland. Far too long had Israel abused and neglected the poor, cheating them at the grain scales and selling them the chaff of the wheat instead of the kernel.

Psalm 113**There is No One Like the Lord**

The Lord sits enthroned on high, wrote the psalmist. He pulls the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from ashes. He sets the lowly among princes and makes the barren woman a mother.

Second Lesson: 1 Timothy 2:1-15**God Desires All People to Be Saved**

Paul urged Timothy to encourage others to pray for all people, for kings, rulers, and leaders that all might live a quiet and peaceful life. Our witness to the world is to be dignified in every way so that all might bear witness to the love of the One God, and to Christ Jesus, who is the mediator between human beings and the Father.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 16:1-15**The Dishonest Manager**

Jesus told the parable of unfaithful manager who was called to give account to his master. Fearful of losing his job and desiring to make friends, he went the master's debtors and began to reduce their debt. We, too, are debtors to our Lord, and we must learn to take seriously his mission to forgive the sins of our neighbors.

Suggestions for the Sunday:

- * The liturgical color is green.
- * The Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise may be used during Ordinary Time.
- * Use the Apostles' Creed.
- * The psalmist said, "Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore" (Psalm 113:2). In what ways do we "bless" the name of the Lord? This verse ties in beautifully with Luther's explanation to the Second Commandment: We should fear and love God so that we call upon his name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.
- * The song "Blessed Be Your Name" by Matt Redman would be an appropriate anthem for the day. (CCLI# 3798438)

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
All Depends on Our Possessing	447	---	732	589	194	194
Son of God, Eternal Savior	364	---	842	655	---	---
Take My Life, and Let it Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
Sent Forth By God's Blessing	221	---	643	547	58	58
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	543	---	790	858	11	11
Father, We Thank You	---	704	652	478	---	---
O God, My Faithful God	504	---	696	806	238	238
Father, We Praise You	267	---	---	---	8	8
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230
Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing	259	---	924	545	54	54

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
(CCLI# 6399315)

Build Your Kingdom Here
(CCLI# 6186078)

Lord, I Need You
(CCLI# 5925687)

Make Me a Servant
(CCLI# 33131)

Find Us Faithful
(CCLI# 18259)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.