

**9th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sunday, August 7, 2022**  
**Pastor - Rev. Clare Cheney Sedlacek**  
**Organist - Lori Free**

Organ Prelude and Pastor's Greeting

Opening Hymn: **#858 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

Order of Worship: pages 94-96, 147-150

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm: Psalm 33:12-22

Second Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Gospel: Luke 12:32-40

*Response after the announcement:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Response after the conclusion:* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **#824 This Is My Father's World**

Apostle's Creed: page 105 (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

Offertory: Hymn 186 in Service Music - "Create in me..."

Words of Institution and Communion

Lord's Prayer (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Communion Hymn: **#712 Lord, Whose Love In Humble Service**

Sending Song: **#840 Now Thank We All Our God**

Dismissal

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS**  
**CELEBRATING OUR 140th YEAR**  
**IN HIS SERVICE**  
**1882 - 2022**

Pastor Clare Cheney Sedlacek is the pastor at Dr. Martin Luther Church in Oconomowoc. She is a graduate of Oconomowoc High School and the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. She has previously been a high school teacher and coach, and also worked in the television industry.

She received a Master of Arts degree in Children, Youth and Family Ministry from Luther Seminary in 2010, and served as the Children's Ministry Director at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Wisconsin for eleven years.

Pastor Clare graduated from Luther Seminary in May of 2020. Prior to being ordained, she served as Bridge Pastor for Living Hope Lutheran and Christ the King Lutheran in Ozaukee County. She was ordained and installed at Dr. Martin Luther Church in Oconomowoc on May 22, 2021.

Pastor Clare and her husband Jim reside in Oconomowoc. Their daughter, Anne, is a senior at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today.

*If you spend time in Door County please consider becoming a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for information.*

**All baptized Christians who celebrate the Real Presence in the Sacrament of Communion are invited to the Lord's Table.**

**Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School**

**Visit us at [BethanyEphraim.org](http://BethanyEphraim.org),  
and follow our worship service live, and archived,  
on the web site.**

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence (*especially*). Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you (*especially*). Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation (*specific ministries may be named*) and all who care for those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **Amen.**



# Celebrate

Sunday, August 7, 2022  
9th Sunday after Pentecost

*Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.*

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

*God promises childless and aging Abram that a child of his own will be his heir and that his descendants will number as many as the stars. Abram trusts God's promise, and through this faith he is considered righteous.*

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my

heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** (commemoration of Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers [Dominicans], 1221) Psalm 89:1-18. **Tuesday** Hebrews 11:17-28. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Lawrence, deacon, martyr, 258) Luke 12:41-48. **Thursday** (commemoration of Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, 1253) Psalm 82. **Friday** Hebrews 10:32-39. **Saturday** (commemoration of Florence Nightingale, 1910; Clara Maass, 1901; renewers of society) 1 Samuel 6:1-16. **10th Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Maximilian Kolbe, 1941; Kaj Munk, 1944; martyrs) Jeremiah 23:23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29—12:2; Luke 12:49-56.

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Happy is the nation whose God <sup>1</sup> is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to <sup>1</sup> be God's heritage!

<sup>13</sup>**The LORD looks <sup>1</sup> down from heaven,  
and sees all <sup>1</sup> humankind.**

<sup>14</sup>God sits firmly en- <sup>1</sup> throned and watches  
all who dwell <sup>1</sup> on the earth.

<sup>15</sup>**God fashions <sup>1</sup> all their hearts  
and observes <sup>1</sup> all their deeds. R**

<sup>16</sup>A king is not saved by the size <sup>1</sup> of the army,  
nor are warriors rescued by <sup>1</sup> their great strength.

<sup>17</sup>**The horse gives vain <sup>1</sup> hope for victory;  
despite its great strength it <sup>1</sup> cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup>Truly, your eye is upon those who fear <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD,  
upon those who wait for your <sup>1</sup> steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup>**to deliver their <sup>1</sup> lives from death,  
and to keep them alive in <sup>1</sup> time of famine. R**

<sup>20</sup>Our innermost being waits for <sup>1</sup> you, O LORD,  
our helper <sup>1</sup> and our shield.

<sup>21</sup>**Surely, our heart rejoic- <sup>1</sup> es in you,  
for in your holy name we <sup>1</sup> put our trust.**

<sup>22</sup>Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, <sup>1</sup> be upon us,  
even as we place our <sup>1</sup> hope in you. R

*Abraham and Sarah exemplify the vision of faith that people of God enact in every age. Their hope and trust in God's promise allowed them to face an unknown future and to receive the promise of God.*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

<sup>8</sup>By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup>By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup>For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup>By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself

was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup>Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

<sup>13</sup>All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup>for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup>If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

## Gospel

Luke 12:32-40

*Jesus encourages disciples to invest their hearts and live fully into God's reign. Instead of facing life with fear, those who know God's generosity are always ready to receive from God and to give to others.*

[Jesus said:] “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup>Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. <sup>34</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup>be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. <sup>37</sup>Blessed are

those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. <sup>38</sup>If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup>“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”