## Welcome to St. Luke Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Setting the Prisoners Free 10 - Courage in the Midst of Conflict - Acts 22:30-23:11

In Acts 22:30–23:11, Paul stands before a divided and hostile council, facing conflict not with fear, but with courage rooted in his faith. Despite the chaos, God uses Paul's boldness and wisdom to reveal the gospel even in the most challenging circumstances. That night, the Lord stands by Paul and assures him that his mission is not over—he will testify in Rome. When we face conflict for the sake of Christ, we are never alone; God gives us courage and stands with us.

#### INVOCATION and OPENING PRAYER

□ "God of Wonders"

#### THE CALL TO CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

□ □ "O Jesus King Most Wonderful" #554

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READERS are Larry and Patti Balback

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Amos 8:4–7 (The coming day of bitter mourning)

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, <sup>5</sup>saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, <sup>6</sup>that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?" <sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** Acts 22:30-23:11 (Paul Before the Council).

<sup>30</sup> But on the next day, desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them. 23 ¹And looking intently at the council, Paul said, "Brothers, I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day." ² And the high priest Ananias commanded those who

stood by him to strike him on the mouth. 3 Then Paul said to him, "God is going to strike you, you whitewashed wall! Are you sitting to judge me according to the law, and yet contrary to the law you order me to be struck?" 4 Those who stood by said, "Would you revile God's high priest?" 5 And Paul said, "I did not know, brothers, that he was the high priest, for it is written, 'You shall not speak evil of a ruler of your people." 6 Now when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Brothers, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees. It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial." 7 And when he had said this, a dissension arose between the Pharisees and the Sadducees, and the assembly was divided. 8 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, nor angel, nor spirit, but the Pharisees acknowledge them all. 9 Then a great clamor arose, and some of the scribes of the Pharisees' party stood up and contended sharply, "We find nothing wrong in this man. What if a spirit or an angel spoke to him?" 10 And when the dissension became violent, the tribune, afraid that Paul would be torn to pieces by them, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him away from among them by force and bring him into the barracks. 11 The following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome."

**RESPONSE** – "Thanks be to God"

ALLELUIA - Page 156 in Hymnal (Please rise if you are able)

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 16:1–15 (The parable of the dishonest manager)

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus] also said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. <sup>2</sup>And he called him and said to him. 'What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.' 3And the manager said to himself, 'What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.' 5So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6He said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' 7Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' He said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.' 8The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness.

For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light, 9And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. 10"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. 11If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? 13No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." 14The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. <sup>15</sup>And he said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."

### NICENE CREED (Back page in the Hymnal)

**THE MESSAGE:** Setting the Prisoners Free 10: Courage in the Midst of Conflict - Acts 22:30-23:11- Pastor James Paulgaard

#### **WE OFFER OUR GIFTS**

**⊿** "Above All"

RECORD OF FELLOWSHIP (Please complete the Record of fellowship during the Offering, Located at the ends of the pews)

### PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever, Amen.

#### THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks,

He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My & body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My & blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### THE LORD'S SUPPER

**DISTRIBUTION** 
☐ "We Give Thee But Thine Own" #781 "You Are My King"

#### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Grant, O Lord, that what we have received with our lips we may keep with pure hearts, and that through the gift imparted to us in this present life we may hereafter receive life everlasting; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

#### THE BLESSING

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SCRIPTURE READINGS for September 28th: Amos 8:4-7, Acts 22:30 - 23:11, Luke 16:1-15

# Announcements

WELCOME VISITORS - We are delighted that you have joined us this morning. We pray for the Holy Spirit to richly bless your worship with us, and we invite you to join us again. If you are looking for a church home or have any questions, please speak with the Pastor or an Usher. Being a friendly congregation is a priority here at St. Luke. You can help us by leaving your name and address on the Friendship Register when it is passed down your pew. After the blessing at the end of the Service, greet your fellow worshippers and introduce yourself!

ST. LUKE SERVICES ONLINE - You can watch us online, every Sunday morning, 11:30 a.m. Go to sllc.ca for the link. DONATE ONLINE - sllcoffering@gmail.com or ask Deb Kroeger for a monthly automatic donation form. 2025 ALTAR FLOWERS CHART is posted on the Bulletin Board. Please sign up for your favorite date(s) to provide flowers for the Altar.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR - Hear these inspirational messages at AM 550 at 11:30 a.m. If you are unable to listen to the radio at that time you can hear The Lutheran Hour anytime on-line at <a href="https://www.lutheranhour.ca">www.lutheranhour.ca</a>

SERMON SUMMARY for September 28th. Faith that Transforms 1: Spirit-Led Living - Galatians 5:16-26 - Summary: "Spirit-led Living" begins with fixing our eyes on Jesus, who fulfilled the law perfectly and now pours out His Spirit to empower us. As we yield to Him daily, the Spirit shapes our hearts to bear His fruit—love, joy, peace, and more—reflecting Christ's own character in our lives. Walking in step with the Spirit keeps us close to Jesus and makes our lives a living testimony of His transforming grace to the world.

FOOD DONATIONS - A bin has been placed in the Atrium for food donations to help people in our congregation and community who come to St. Luke for assistance. If you or someone you know needs such assistance, please contact the church office. The food cupboard needs: Canned soup, tomato paste, crackers, peanut butter, Canned Pork and beans, Canned Vegetables, granola bars, canned tuna/salmon/chicken etc. You can also pick up Gift cards which could be donated to the food cupboard.

**OPPORTUNITY BOARD** - lots of new posts are ready for your helping hand. As always we are grateful for the ongoing support of volunteers.

**VOTERS' MEETING** - Sunday, September 28th following the Service.

# THIS WEEK AT ST. LUKE

SUNDAY 11:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Quilting 10:30 a.m. English Class

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### ST LUKE COMMUNION - We extend an invitation to our members and guests who:

-confess their sins before God

-earnestly desire, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to amend their sinful lives.

-are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and are confirmed in this faith.

-believe receiving Christ as true Body and Blood, that the Elements are not merely a symbolic matter.

-believe in salvation by Christ's death and resurrection alone

Unsure - Please speak with the Pastor or an usher. (For those with special needs, grape juice is provided in the center ring on individual tray). See Page 329 in Hymnal for those who wish to question themselves before Communion.