

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 10th, 2023

9:30 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship



Atonement Lutheran Church

Invite • Prepare • Go into the World

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14618

GATHERING

PRELUDE

O Day of Rest and Gladness

*WELCOME

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, and the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

**Please Stand As You Are Able*

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake

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***APOSTOLIC 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.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Lord God,
enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

*All children, youth, college students, teachers and educators
are invited to come forward.*

For the beginning of a new school year,
We praise you, O God.

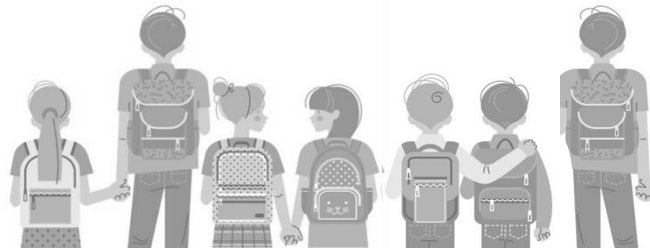
For opportunities to learn and discover,
We thank you, O God.

Teach us your ways, O God, and guide us in your paths. **Amen.**

Blessing:

God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves and our backpacks to you. In our backpacks we carry notebooks, sharpened pencils and homework to be done. In our hearts we carry big feelings, unanswered questions and hopeful expectations of what this new year might bring.

Be with all who teach and all who learn as we walk, or ride the bus, or travel by car; gathering in classrooms. Help us to discover the different gifts you have given to each one of us - gifts to be used for your work in the world. We ask that you would bless these backpacks and those who wear them, reminding us that you are walking with us wherever we journey. In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.



WORD

EZEKIEL 33:7-11

A reading from the book of Ezekiel.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?"

¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING *Romans 13:8-14*

A reading from the book of Romans

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive, St. 1 & 4*



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

***HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 18:15-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Where Charity and Love Prevail

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***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith, and the faith of the Church, with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation. Merciful God; **hear our prayer.**

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Lift High the Cross

-S. Nicholson

*Offering gifts are gratefully received
in the plates located near the sanctuary doors as you exit.*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.

***PROPER PREFACE**

It is indeed right to give you thanks, most loving God, through Jesus Christ our Savior, crucified, risen, and ascended; who is one with us always, one of us, yet from the heart of God. Therefore with saints and evangelists, apostles and prophets, and all the redeemed, we praise your holy name and sing:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sung Twice



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught:

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.

LAMB OF GOD

1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

All are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ's body and blood truly present in the bread and the wine.

~Come forward by the center aisle.

~Children are invited to come forward for a blessing.

~White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are also available.

~Dispose of the cup in the basket provided.

~Please tell an usher if you need communion elements brought to your pew.

SENDING

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our
hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who
lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Rise, Shine, You People

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***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Allegro

-F. Rheinberger

*The congregation is invited to remain for the postlude;
and following it, to respond with "Amen!"*

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister	Rob White
Livestream Recorder....	Karen Goodyear
Counters	Bryan Howe, Adam Darder
Usher	Skip Waterstreet
Altar Care	Judy Lazenby
Fellowship Host	Desiree Wolfe

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS **TODAY* During Worship*

As we begin a new year of learning, all children, youth, college students, teachers, and educators are invited to bring a backpack to worship and receive a blessing for the year ahead. Whether you will be using your backpack in school, or using it other ways, we hope you can join us with your backpack in hand!

SUNDAY FUN DAY **TODAY* at 10:30 a.m. in Founders Hall*

All children ages preschool through grade 5 are invited to join us directly after worship on the second Sunday of each month. Classes will run from about 10:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. with a Bible story, an art project, music, activities, and snacks. *We ask that an adult stay with children under eight years of age to assist us.*

ADULT FORUM/COFFEE HOUR RESUMES **TODAY* at 10:30 a.m. in Reissig Hall*

Please join us for the first Adult Forum/Coffee Hour of the season!

Sept. 10	<i>Cold War Satellite Reconnaissance and Kodak's Role</i> How film-based satellite reconnaissance systems operated and Kodak's vital role in these once-very highly classified programs.	Norm Karsten
Sept. 17	<i>Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur</i> Joel will tell us about these Jewish holidays on, fittingly, the Day of Atonement.	Joel Elliott

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS **TODAY**

We will be **collecting diapers** in sizes **4, 5, and 6**, for refugees through Catholic Family Center Refugee Resettlement Services. These are larger diapers for toddlers which are the the sizes most requested. Help us help our neighbors in need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RIT CAMPUS MINISTRY MEAL *Sunday, September 17th at 6:00 p.m. at RIT*

Each Sunday evening during the school year, Lutheran and Episcopal students at Rochester Institute of Technology gather for worship followed by a home-cooked meal provided by local congregations. During these meals, students share in fellowship and discussion with Pastor Craig Swanson, Lutheran Campus Pastor at RIT.

Join us on September 17th in hosting '*Breakfast for Dinner*' for the students by signing up on the narthex bulletin board to donate food/set-up/serve the meal.

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR CHICKEN BBQ *Saturday, September 23rd 4:30 p.m. (until sold out)*

Come to our drive-through Chicken Barbecue! We are looking for volunteers to help as cashiers and servers. Call or text Jean Seager if you can help. All proceeds will benefit the Brighton Habitat Coalition of Churches.

BULLETIN BOARD UPDATES

Thank you to Becky Wiesmore and our other bulletin board volunteers, for updating our beautiful bulletin boards! Be sure to take a walk down our halls and take a look at all of the updated boards. Our Church Family board is in the process of being updated, as well. Take a look each week to see what's new.

GREEN TIP

For a bigger selection of electric cars than you see at the dealership, ask the salesperson to order you a used electric car on auction. You can choose the make, model, color, year, mileage, and price.

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spake, "all in my way a -
2 "I am the light; I light the way, a god - ly life dis -
3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul's sal -
4 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, and take the cross ap -



bid - ing; de - ny your-selves, the world for - sake, o -
play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day; I
va - tion; from ev - 'ry guile your heart I free, from
point - ed, and, firm - ly cling - ing to his word, in



bey my call and guid - ing. Oh, bear the cross, what -
keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide; take my ex - am - ple for your guide."
well I show how you should so - journ here be - low."
of the soul and lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
bat - tle's strain the crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Where Charity and Love Prevail



- 1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
- 2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
- 3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
- 4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
- 5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Rise, Shine, You People!



- 1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
- 3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
- 4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Atonement Lutheran Church

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor

Email: pastorgails@aol.com

Office: (585) 442-1018

Cell : (614) 477-7863

David McCarthy, Director of Music Ministry

Becky R. Wiesmore, Administrative Assistant

Welcome to worship,

and a special welcome to those who are visiting with us today.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation

or learning more about our ministries,

please speak to our Pastor.



MISSION STATEMENT

Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to:

***Invite** all people into the presence of the living God,*

***Prepare** for ministry in daily life and*

***Go** into the world as disciples*

**Our Church Nursery is available
for parents to use with their children.**

Thank you for joining us in worship today!

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them."*

-Matthew 18:20



Visit our web site at: **www.atonementrochester.org**
Follow us on Facebook: **fb.com/atonementlutheranchurch/**
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Call us via phone at: **(585) 442-1018**
Office hours: **9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tues~Wed~Thurs**