

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Education Sunday
September 21, 2025**

The Celebrant: The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw
Assisting: The Rev. Fr. Daren E. Evans and The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins
Homilist: Dr. Brenda Allen, President of Lincoln University

Verger: Karen Ragland

Music Ministry: St. Thomas Chancel Choir and The Lincoln University Choir

Order of Service

The Prelude

The Lincoln University Choir

The Opening Hymn- “We’ve Come A Long Way Lord”

Refrain:

We've come a long way, Lord, a mighty long way
We've come a long way, Lord, a mighty long way
We've borne our burdens in the heat of the day
But we know the Lord has made the way
We've come a long way, Lord, a mighty long way

Verse 1:

We've been in the valley and we've prayed ev'ry day
We've been in the valley and we've prayed ev'ry day
We've been in the valley and we've prayed ev'ry day
And we know the Lord has made a way
We've come a long way, Lord, a mighty long way [Refrain]

Verse 2:

We've had hard trials each and ev'ry day
We've had hard trials each and ev'ry day
We've borne our burdens in the heat of the day
But we know the Lord has made the way
We've come a long way, Lord, a mighty long way [Refrain]

A Word of Welcome

The Celebrant

The Opening Salutation

The Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. AMEN.

The Collect for Purity

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

The Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy Name; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The Gloria in excelsis

The Celebrant and The People

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our

prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. AMEN.

The Proclamation of the Word

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The People: And also, with you.

The Celebrant: Let us pray

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

The First Reading: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

Robin Vann-Lynch, Ph. D., Educator, School District of Phila

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. "For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 79:1-9

Carolyn E. Paige, M. Ed., retired administrator, School District of Philadelphia

O God, the heathen have come into your inheritance;

they have profaned your holy temple; *

they have made Jerusalem a heap of rubble.

They have given the bodies of your servants as food for the birds of the air, *

and the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the field.

They have shed their blood like water on every side of Jerusalem, *

and there was no one to bury them.

We have become a reproach to our neighbors, *

an object of scorn and derision to those around us.

How long will you be angry, O LORD? *

will your fury blaze like fire for ever?

Pour out your wrath upon the heathen who have not known you *

and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon your Name.

For they have devoured Jacob *

and made his dwelling a ruin.

Remember not our past sins;

let your compassion be swift to meet us; *

for we have been brought very low.

Help us, O God our Savior, for the glory of your Name; *
deliver us and forgive us our sins, for your Name's sake.

The Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Derek Griffith, Ph.D., University of PA

A Reading from the First Book of Timothy.

First of all, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The Reader: The Word of the Lord.

The People: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn—"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) #189 (vv. 1-2)

**1) Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not,
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be. [Refrain]**

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed thy hand hath provided,

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

**2) Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. [Refrain]**

The Holy Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

The Priest: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

The People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me?'

I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may

welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

The People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily Hymn--"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

LEVAS # 189 (v. 3)

**3) Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]**

**Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

The Message

Brenda Allen, Ph.D., President of Lincoln University

The Call to Christian Discipleship

The Celebrant

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate
from the Virgin Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

AMEN.

The Prayers of the People

Edwin Santana, MBA, Lincoln University

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Concluding Collect

The Celebrant

The Confession

BCP 360

The Celebrant: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us kneel and confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (Silence is kept)

The Celebrant and The People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. AMEN.

The Absolution

The Celebrant

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **AMEN.**

The Peace

The Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

The People: And also, with you.

A Musical Selection

The Lincoln University Choir

The Holy Eucharist

The Offertory Sentence and

Offer your gift now via text: Text “AECST” to 73256

The Offertory Selection

The Lincoln University Choir

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

The People: And also with you.

The Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

The People: We lift them to the Lord.

The Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

The People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *(Celebrant adds a short Proper Preface)*

Therefore, we praise you, joining with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

The Celebrant and the People: (Sung)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night He was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper He took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The Memorial Acclamation (Sung)

Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ will come again.

The Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise

and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed.

The People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Agnus Dei (Sung)

The Celebrant: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Have mercy upon us.

The Celebrant: Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world.

The People: Grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

Let us pray: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy; Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **AMEN.**

The Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Distribution of Communion

The Post-Communion Prayer

The Celebrant and the People:

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Sending Forth of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors

The Celebrant: In the healing name of Jesus and with the compassionate embrace of this parish family, I send you forth bearing these Holy Gifts to those to whom you go today, so that they may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

The People: We who are many are one body, and we all share one bread and one cup.

The Announcements

Richard Jones, Rector's Warden

The Recognition of Visitors and Guests

The Blessing of Birthdays, Anniversaries and Travel

Procession to the Columbarium

Inurnment of Dolores Teackle Bliss

September 21, 1946-May 15, 2025

Inurnment of Elizabeth Hawkins Brooks

May 1, 1943-July 21, 2025

The Final Blessing

The Celebrant

The Closing Hymn- "In Christ There is No East or West"

LEVAS #62

**1) In Christ there is no East or West, in Him no South or North.
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.**

**2) In Him shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord Close binding human kind.**

**3) Join hands, disciples of the faith, what e're your race may be!
Who serves my Father as a son is surely kin to me.**

**4) In Christ now meet both East and West, In Him meet South and North.
All Christly souls are one in Him throughout the whole wide earth.**

The Dismissal

The Postlude

St. Thomas Music Ministry

