

**will. Forgive us for those things we have not undertaken and for which we know our wrong. We have not loved you and our neighbors as we ought. We have denied our dependence on you. Lead us away from this grief and sorrow. Save us so that we may fulfill our vows to you and attend to the needs of your people. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Forgiveness**

**\*\*Hymn**

*“Gloria Patri”*

*“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.”*

### **Recognition of Departing Member—Ms. Nancy Cloud**

**\*\*The Passing of the Peace of Christ**

**Leader:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Let us share this peace with one another.

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### *THE WORD*

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### **Time with Our Youngest Saints**

*(Children are dismissed to go to the nursery)*

### **Unison Prayer for Understanding**

*Psalm 119:105, 108*

**You speak to us, Lord, with tongues of wisdom. Let your Holy Spirit now open us to hear with greater clarity the teachings of today that we may hold dear in yet new ways what it is you will for us, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

### **The Reading from the Epistles**

*James 3:1-12*

*(see insert for reading)*

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Reading from the Gospels**

*Matthew 5:13-16*

*<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. <sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” <sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”*

**Liturgist:** The gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **A Gift of Music**

**Sermon**

*“Who Is This Guy?”*

**\*\*Hymn 101**

*“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

**\*\*Affirmation of Faith**

**The Apostles Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy**

catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

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*THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD*

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Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

*"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 debts, as we forgive our debtors,  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

Invitation to the Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

**\*\*Hymn** *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

*"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!" Amen.*

**\*\*Prayer of Dedication**

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*THE SENDING*

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**\*\*Hymn 391** *"Take My Life"*

**\*\*Charge and Blessing**

**\*\*Postlude**

*\*\*please stand as you are able*

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## *First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster*

*Order of Worship for Sunday,  
September 15, 2024*

*The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

Liturgist: Mr. LeRoy Horn

Interim Organist—Mr. Jim Parrish

Ushers—Mrs. Joyce Bryant and Mr. Jim Bryant

Pastor—The Reverend Michael Denney

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*Please silence electronic devices prior to worship.*

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*THE GATHERING*

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Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

**\*\*Call to Worship**

*Ps. 116:5, 9, 12-13*

Liturgist: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

People: Let us walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living,

Liturgist: What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?

People: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD....

**\*\*Prayer of the Day**

**\*\*Hymn 263**

*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

**\*\*Call to Confession**

**\*\*Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, in the face of sin, our gravest enemy, we call to you for help. You know our fault before we speak. Forgive us for what we have done in opposition to your