



Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 31, 2025



"Winning souls for Christ. Coaching Christians for life."

4651 Kernan Blvd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224 • (904) 642-8900

A Place to Call Home: Victory Lutheran

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus. We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Please sign the Connection Card inside the worship folder and return it in the basket on the worship table. Members, please update your contact info if there is a change.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

A **Quiet Room** for children who need a moment to get settled with a parent or guardian is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

Visit our website: www.victorylutheran.org or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



Worship Series Focus: **WOUNDS THAT HEAL**

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

"Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

Today's Worship: Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled

Everyone knows that humility is a positive trait and pride is a negative one. So, why bother talking about what we already know? Because in spite of that knowledge, we still helplessly fall into the trap of pride. We all desire acclaim, recognition, and praise. Jesus' sharp words this week teach us that seeking exaltation in futile and fleeing ways will only result in receiving the opposite. Those who attempt to exalt themselves will eventually be humbled by God. In contrast, Jesus promises that those who leave their exaltation to God will receive honor and glory far greater than any that can be awarded in this life. Our exaltation does not need to be our responsibility, because Jesus has already made it his.

Service of the Word

Our Path for Worship



Minister: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being,
praise his holy name.

Congregation: Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

We worship this day in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn Sing Sunday

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name...
who forgives all *our* sins and heals all *our* diseases

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

All: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Therefore, hear the word of Christ through his called servant: All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name...
as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See

After a short introduction, the Congregation sings:

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

We pray. O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by your Holy Spirit to follow the example of your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

Proverbs 25:6–7a

Solomon provides common sense about humility and pride

⁶Do not exalt yourself in the king's presence,
and do not claim a place among his great men;
⁷it is better for him to say to you, "Come up here,"
than for him to humiliate you before his nobles.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 112 | *Light Dawns in the Darkness*

Second Reading

James 2:1–13

James teaches that showing favoritism shows a lack of mercy and puts us at risk of God's judgment

¹My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism. ²Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. ³If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," ⁴have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? ⁷Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

⁸If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing right. ⁹But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it. ¹¹For he who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a lawbreaker.

¹²Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

After a short introduction, the **Congregation** sings:



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Reading

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus teaches humility and promises that those who humble themselves will be exalted

¹One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched.

⁷When he noticed how the guests picked the places of honor at the table, he told them this parable: ⁸“When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take the place of honor, for a person more distinguished than you may have been invited. ⁹If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give this person your seat.’ Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will say to you, ‘Friend, move up to a better place.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

¹²Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. ¹³But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

This is the Word of our Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Children's Message

All children are invited to join Pastor at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.

10:30 Service

Children's Church

Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.



Hymn of the Day

CW737 | Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

Focus on the Scriptures

Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Be Humble with a Purpose

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Thank Offering

To show our thanks to God for his generosity toward us, we gather this thank offering to support our Gospel-focused ministry in the Jacksonville area and beyond. See our website for other ways to support Victory's ministry and mission. If you want to give your thank offering online, you may use the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.



Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder and drop it in the basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.

Prayer of the Church

Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

CW766 | *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*



Serving in Worship

Pastor

Accompanist

Rev. Jonathan Kolander

Mrs. Rachel Cochran

For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...

- 1st: What does humility look like? What is not included with the encouragement to be humble? Is there a situation when we do not need to heed the encouragement to be humble? Read Ecclesiastes 5 & 6.
- 2nd: Where do you see favoritism taking place, and what do you think about it when you see it? Note a reason why favoritism is not warranted, especially in a church setting? What does God want to see from us? See Romans 12:9–21.
- 3rd: What irony do you find in these verses? What was Jesus pointing out? Where do you see this taking place around you? In you? See Philippians 2:1–11.

Acknowledgments

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MY WORSHIP NOTES



For children to use during worship.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

What is the name of the church season or special day today? _____

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue White Purple Red Green

The Sermon Text Was: _____

This is in the: ☐ Old Testament ☐ New Testament



What was the sermon about? _____



My favorite song today was:



Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

☐ Yes
☐ No



Communion?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?



Sunday Service Times

8:00am Worship

9:15am Bible Class and Sunday School

10:30am Worship with Livestream

Contact Information

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Victory is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

