

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION

WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00

21 SEPTEMBER 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

*We are a community on the move,
discovering Christ together on the journey of faith.*

We see Christianity as a path to be walked together—learning, serving, praying, sharing, and growing alongside sisters and brothers. As we live and practice our faith, we not only encounter a new community; we also find the presence of God.

Read more about who we are at: www.genevalutheran.church

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



We are glad you are here—welcome!

Thank you to those sharing in worship leadership this morning:

Prayer leader: Anotida Mtata

Reader: Naomi Mungure

Altar care: Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti

Assisting ministers: Elisabeth Benn, Gladys Kiptum,

Cynthia Wilbers-Muturi

Ushers: Natalya Le Geyt, Ben Le Geyt

Offering counter: May Chin Long, Penuel Kiondo-Zanetti

Church school: Tim Fieldsend, Kiki Lawal, Nanah Naing'ola, Ritu Suna

Flowers: German-Speaking Congregation

Videographers: Ray Woodcock, Breanna Ndwiga

Our congregation is committed to handling personal data in a responsible and transparent way and in compliance with Swiss law. You'll find our Data Privacy Notice at:

<https://genevalutheran.church/data-privacy/>

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva
English-Speaking Congregation
20, rue Verdaine CH1204 Geneva, Switzerland
Telephone: 022 310 50 89
pastor@genevalutheran.ch office@genevalutheran.ch
www.genevalutheran.church
Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis
Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost + 21 September 2025, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: *Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay*

Welcome

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting

from Psalm 113

Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time on and for evermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the LORD is to be praised.

The LORD is high above all nations,
and God's glory above the heavens.

Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high,
who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,

to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of the people.

Praise the LORD!

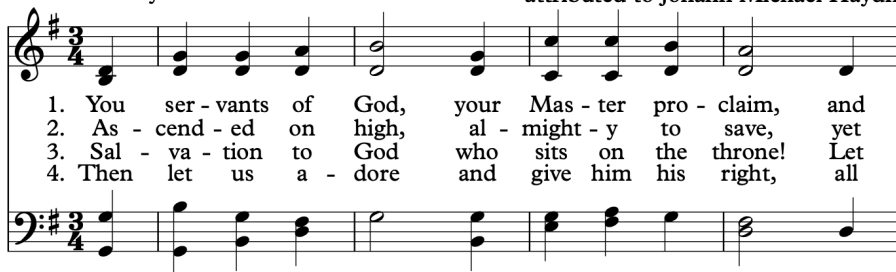
Hymn

You servants of God

During the last verse the children are invited to go to church school.

Charles Wesley

attributed to Johann Michael Haydn



1. You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and
 2. As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet
 3. Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let
 4. Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all



pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful name; the
 still he is nigh, his pres - ence we have. The
 all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son. The
 glo - ry and power and wis - dom and might, all



name, all - vic - to - rious, of Je - sus ex - tol; his
 great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing, as -
 prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim, fall
 hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove, and



king - dom all glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
 crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
 down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Hear this, you who trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier
and practice deceit with false balances,
buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."
The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy and justice,
We confess our blouses and shirts,
too often sown by those working in unsafe factories.
We confess our shoes,
too often put together by those without any bargaining rights.
We confess our cell phones,
too often containing rare earths mined by children.
We confess our travel,
too often discounting the damage our miles cause.
We confess our mindset,
too often attracted by cheap prices
without considering the lives cheapened by how we buy.
We confess our unfaithfulness,
not loving you with our whole heart and strength and mind,
not loving our neighbors as ourselves.
Forgive us and turn us toward the poor,
not as objects of our charity,
but as those loved by you,
as sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus,
whose self-giving is the gift of life. Amen.

Sung Response

Ore poriaju

Guaraní: Paraguay

O - re po - ria - ju ve - re ko Ñan - de - ja - ra. O -
 O - re po - ria - ju ve - re ko Je - su - cris - to. O -

re po - ria - ju ve - re - ko Ñan - de - ja - ra
 re po - ria - ju ve - re - ko Je - su - cris - to.

*Lord, have mercy on us.
 Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.*

Words of Grace

Hymn of Praise

Gloria, gloria, gloria

Luke 2:14

Pablo Sosa: Argentina

La, la, la

Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria
 Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria

en las al - tu - ras a Dios. Y en la tie - rra paz pa - ra a - que - llos
 glo - ry to God on high. And on earth peace to the peo - ple in

For the ending repeat 2 times each time softer

que a - ma el Se - ñor. Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria.
whom God is well pleased.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Epistle Reading

Galatians 1:11-24

For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin. For I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." And they've glorified God because of me.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

Simeí Monteiro: Brazil

A - le - lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia,

A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia, A - le - lu - ia!

Music Simeí Monteiro, © 1996 GBGMusik, New York.

Gospel

Luke 16:1-13

The Gospel according to Luke, chapter 16.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then 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 account 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 Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

Sermon

Andy Willis

Hymn

Take my gifts

Shirley Erena Murray

Colin Gibson: Aoteroa/New Zealand

1. Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
 2. Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
 3. Take what - ev - er I can of - fer, gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free.
 har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God;
 skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,

Now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way;
 spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
 things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

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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 again 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 of Intercession

God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Peace

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

Gathering of Gifts *Que esta iglesia sea un árbol* Choir
Spanish and Music by Pablo Sosa, Argentina. English by Andrew Donaldson

1. *May this church be like a tree, behind your house, there in your garden,
meeting-place for joy, and feast, and simple prayer beneath its branches.
With its roots in earth so fertile, and its arms raised high to heaven,
may this church bear fruits of justice, acts of loving and compassion.*

*Refrain: Tree ever growing by living water,
running eternal, flowing from God.*

2. *May this church be like a tree, there in the street or in the plaza,
for the birds a nesting branch, for passersby, a welcome shelter.
May it stand as if it's watching, near my house, just round the corner,
waiting for this weary pilgrim with its arms wide to embrace me.*
3. *May this church be like a tree, O God, that thrives where you have planted;
may it stand to show the way, your way of loving and self-giving,
offering shade, and fruit for sharing, giving up its wood for burning,
may this living church that names you be a tree of life eternal.*

Your gifts are essential to our congregation's ministry.

You can give in several ways: by placing money in the offering bag, by bank transfer (details on the back of the bulletin), or by TWINT.

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TWINT!**



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Confirm amount and
donation



Offertory

Bendice Señor, nuestro pan

Argentina

Ben - di - ce, Se - ñor, nues - tro pan, y da pan a los que tien - en
Lord, bless the bread you have given, and give bread to all who are

ham - bre y ham - bre de jus - ti - cia a los que tien - en
hun - gry, give hun - ger for jus - tice to those with

pan. Ben - di - ce Se - ñor nues - tro pan.
bread. Lord, bless the bread you have given.

English, Donald Wetherick

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sursum corda

Pastor *People*

The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Pastor *People*

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Preface

Sanctus

Santo, santo, santo

Argentina

Flowing ♩ = 64

C G Am F G C

San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! ¡Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

F G C Am F G C

co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e res Se - ñor!
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembering

Remembering Christ at this table, we continue to learn that with this bread we become his body. With this wine, we become his blood.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Lord's Prayer

in our many languages

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.***

Agnus Dei

Cordeiro de Deus

Traditional adapted by Simeí Monteiro

Simeí Monteiro: Brazil

Cor-dei-ro de Deus que ti-ras o pe-ca-do do mun-do
tem pie-da-de de nós. Cor-dei-ro de Deus que ti-ras
o pe-ca-do do mun-do tem pie-da-de de nós. Tem pie
da-de de nós. Oh! Cor-dei-ro de Deus, vem e dá-nos a paz!

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*Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Have mercy on us, O Lamb of God, come and give us peace.*

Invitation to Communion

Songs during Communion

Somos pueblo

English Carolyn Jennings

Misa Popular Nicaragüense

1. So - mos pue - blo que ca - mi - na por la sen - da del do - lor.
 1. We are peo - ple on a jour - ney; pain is with us all the way.
 2. God has sent the in - vi - ta - tion to the hum - ble and the poor.
 3. This is bread that God pro - vides us, nour - ish - ing our u - ni - ty.
 4. Christ is ev - er pres - ent with us to u - nite us all in love.
 5. All who tru - ly thirst for jus - tice seek their lib - er - a - tion here.

a - cu - da - mos ju - bi - lo - sos a la san - ta co - mu - nión.
 Joy - ful - ly we come to - geth - er at the ho - ly feast of God.

English Carolyn Jennings © 1993 The Pilgrim Press. Used by permission.

Jesu, Jesu

Tom Colvin: UK

Ghana folk song; arranged by Tom Colvin

Refrain

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
 us how to serve the neigh - bors we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh - bors are rich and poor, neigh - bors are black and
 3. These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
 4. Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we are
 5. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 white, neigh - bors are near and far a - way.
 love; all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 slaves, this is the way we should live with you.
 feet, this is the way we should live with you.

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El cielo canta alegría

Pablo Sosa: Argentina



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School Now in Session!

After a pause for the summer months, church school is now back in session! We meet each Sunday during the school year (except on the first of each month, when worship is in the evening, and during school vacations). There are two classes—one for ages 3-8, and one for 9 through confirmation age—both meeting in the top floor classrooms. Children begin the worship service with their families and return to the sanctuary in time for Communion. Questions? Contact the church office.

Women's Circle Invitation

Ladies, come and join our Women's Circle! We gather in our church, our village, on one Saturday each month from 10am to 12pm for coffee and croissants and for fellowship and fun. All women church members and regular attendees are welcome. Dates for the coming months: **11 October, 8 November**. Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore, Cynthia Wilbers, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler or the office for more information.

Choir Rehearsals – Thursday Evenings

The choir of the English-Speaking Congregation is open to anyone—we meet on Thursday evenings from 19h30 until 21h00 to learn the music for the upcoming Sunday worship service and work on additional pieces. The rehearsals will be led by our music director, Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg. Come and sing! *Please note: there is no rehearsal on 11 September, on account of the Jeûne Genevois holiday.*

Being With Course – Starting in October

The Being With course, developed by St Martin-in-the-Fields church in London, is an invitation into Christian life—for those who are new to the faith, and for those who wish to continue their journey. Unlike many introduction to Christianity classes, this one is not much focused on doctrine or Bible study—instead, it's “an immersive experience of learning how to be with ourselves, with others and the world around us, and learning how to be with God.”



Fulata Moyo and Andy Willis will be offering the course in our congregation this October-December. To sign up, or for more information, contact the church office: office@genevalutheran.ch / 022 310 50 89.

Worship Committee – 24 September

Your voice is needed in planning worship for our community. You are invited to the first worship committee of the fall, Wednesday, 24 September, 19h00 in the church. Use the entrance on Rue Verdaine. We begin with supper together, sharing the food we bring. While we slurp and chew, we will discuss how worship is going in general. Then we launch into ideas for Advent Christmas. This group is not elected nor formally chosen, so it is open to whomever is willing to engage with others to make worship as meaningful as possible. If you let Terry MacArthur know, tmacarthur@bluewin.ch he will send you the Biblical texts for Advent, so you can explore them a little before the meeting. When you are in the garden, you might notice the insect hotel hanging from a tree. That came from Advent a few years ago. It was named, Bethlehem B & B. O come, all ye worship committee members, joyful and triumphant, come all ye- - well you get the idea.

Serving at the Soup Kitchen – 27 September

Our congregation will be serving at the Soup Kitchen on Saturday, 27 September 2025. It takes place from 8h00 until about 13h00 at Le Jardin de Montbrillant (Rue de Montbrillant 3) just behind Geneva Cornavin train station. All are welcome to sign up and help prepare and serve a warm meal. Contact the church office or Elisabeth Benn (chriselis_benn@bluewin.ch) for more information.

Creative Writing Group – Wednesday, 24 September at 19h00

Everyone who loves to write is invited to join a new creative writing group, meeting in the Sacristy at the church. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 24 September at 19h00. Bites will be provided. All welcome! Please contact Cynthia Wilbers or the church office for further info.

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday. Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

28 September – Group A

5 October – Group B

12 October – Group C

19 October – Group D

*If you can help on a week when your group is assigned,
please let your group's coordinator know*

Cover Image:
Photo by [OC Gonzalez](#) on [Unsplash](#)

This Week's Schedule:

Wed, 24 Sept.	19h00	Creative writing group
Wed, 24 Sept.	19h00	Worship committee
Thurs, 25 Sept.	19h30	Choir rehearsal
Sat, 27 Sept.	8h00	Soup kitchen
Sun, 28 Sept.	9h45	Confirmation class
	11h00	Worship and church school
<i>Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30</i>		

Our church is entirely self-supporting. Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. There are three ways you can donate today:

By bank transfer: Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



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- By cash:** Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship.
- By U.S. dollar check:** Make the check payable to “Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,” and on the memo portion, write “GMG 0858”.

Thank you for your support of our ministry together!

If you are a guest in our congregation today, *please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers. We’d love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about the church.*

ELCG Connection Card	
Name	_____
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Email	_____
Comments	_____
New to Geneva? Y/N	Date _____