

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2026

Divine Service, Setting One

As We Gather

From the beginning, God implanted His life-creating power into His creation with the command “Be fruitful and multiply” to animals (Genesis 1:22) and to humans (1:28), with one important difference. You are not an accident or only a product of biology. Every human being is a personal soul. So we confess, “I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them” (Small Catechism, Creed, Explanation of the First Article). Because of our inherited sin, however, “the soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). Nevertheless, God’s design is for life—eternal life. He declares, “I have no pleasure in the death of anyone” (18:32). Because God so loves you, He sent His Son to take away your sin by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Therefore, “we preach Christ crucified, . . . the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:23–24). Christ died to sin for you. By Holy Baptism, you died with Christ and are raised to new life in Him. The love of God is yours today by faith in the cross of Jesus Christ. The Father’s declaration of Jesus now becomes yours: “My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

614 “As Surely as I Live,” God Said



1 “As sure - ly as I live,” God said, “I would not
2 And so our Lord gave this com - mand: “Go forth and
3 “All those whose sins you thus re - mit I tru - ly
4 “What you will bind, that bound shall be; What you will



see the sin - ner dead. I want him turned from
preach in ev - 'ry land; Be - stow on all My
par - don and ac - quit, And those whose sins you
loose, that shall be free; To My dear Church the



er - ror's ways, Re - pen - tant, liv - ing end - less days.”
par - d'ning grace Who will re - pent and mend their ways.
will re - tain Con - demned and guilt - y shall re - main.
keys are giv'n To o - pen, close the gates of heav'n.”

5 The words which absolution give
Are His who died that we might live;
The minister whom Christ has sent
Is but His humble instrument.

7 All praise to You, O Christ, shall be
For absolution full and free,
In which You show Your richest grace;
From false indulgence guard our race.

6 When ministers lay on their hands,
Absolved by Christ the sinner stands;
He who by grace the Word believes
The purchase of His blood receives.

△ 8 Praise God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
As was, is now, and so shall be
World without end, eternally!

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Tune: Jeremiah Clarke, c. 1674–1707
Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

P The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

C Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.

P The LORD builds up Je- | rusalem;*
he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.

C He heals the broken- | hearted*
and binds | up their wounds.

P He determines the number | of the stars;*
he gives to all of | them their names.

C Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.

C Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

P The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

Kyrie

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

This Is the Feast

LSB 155

Refrain

C This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor-ty is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
 Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

R The Old Testament Reading is from Ezekiel, chapter 18.

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

R The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 2.

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–27

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

P ²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 strife And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1543, Wittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Merciful Lord, You founded Your Church upon the proclamation of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Purify the tongues of Your servants, that the tongues of the wicked may be silenced. Turn them from their evil ways, that their sins may be washed away. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord God, You have built Your Church and called her to hold fast to the Word of life in the midst of a crooked and twisted world. Preserve her from all grumbling, rivalry and conceit, and sustain her in humble and devout faith until the day of Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, though the world denies Your justice, strengthen Your Church to proclaim it rightly. Let the wicked be broken by Your truth, that they may turn and follow in the way of forgiveness and life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Creator of all things, bless the useful arts of science and industry, that we may use Your resources for the good of Your people and take responsible care of all You have made. Prevent us from misusing Your gifts and our reason, lest we bring harm upon ourselves and others. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Mighty Father, all the might of man is nothing before You, yet You have appointed earthly realms and rulers to punish evil and honor good. Give us faithful leaders who will serve honorably and well. Bless also those who serve in the armed forces to defend us and protect our liberty. Lord, in Your mercy,

P hear our prayer.

P O Lord Almighty, draw near to those who face the distress of sickness, surgery and pain [*especially* _____]. Let them not be afraid, and heal them according to the abundance of Your steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Unite us, O Lord, that we may be of one mind and one will in doctrine, witness and service. Bless us as we come at Your bidding to receive the body and blood of Your Son at His table. Grant that what we receive in this Holy Communion we may keep in holy hearts and holy lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O God, in You there is no shadow due to change. Enkindle Your divine light in us, that we may stand united as Christ's own body, holding fast to the Word of life and shining brightly in the midst of this world's darkness; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Offering

857 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way sts. 1–3

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Welcome to our Visitors

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; and 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 161



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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 Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

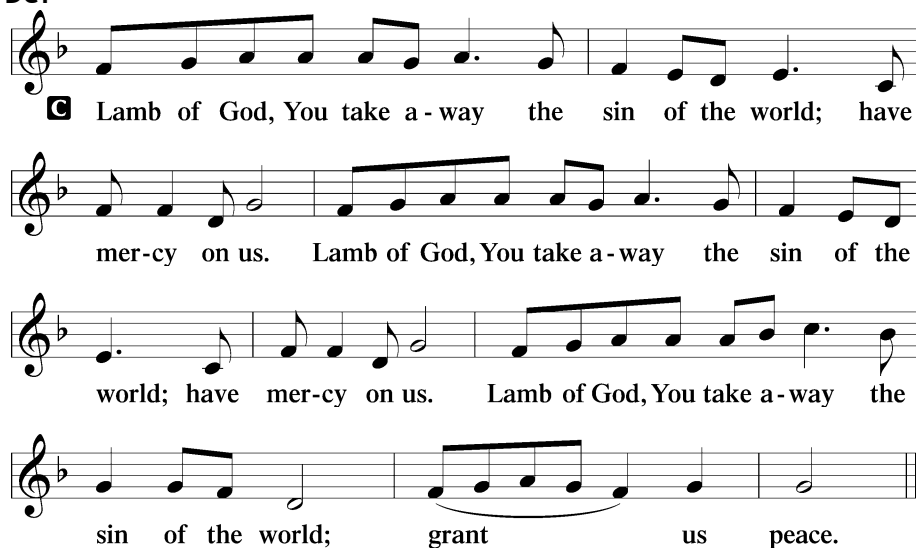
LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

554 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!
 2 When once You vis - it dark - ened hearts,
 3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,
 4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,
 5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -
 Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -
 The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the
 For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -
 May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:
 ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.
 joys we know, All that we can de - sire:
 self in - flame To seek You more and more!
 lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
 Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823–76
 Text and tune: Public domain

630 Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling



1 Now, my tongue, the mys - t'ry tell - ing Of the glo - rious
 2 Giv'n for us, and con - de - scend - ing To be born for
 3 That last night at sup - per ly - ing Mid the Twelve, His
 4 Word made flesh, the bread He tak - eth, By His word His
 Δ 5 Glo - ry let us give and bless - ing To the Fa - ther



bod - y sing, And the blood, all price ex - cel - ling,
 us be - low, He with us in con - verse blend - ing
 cho - sen band, Je - sus, with the Law com - ply - ing,
 flesh to be; Wine His sa - cred blood He mak - eth,
 and the Son, Hon - or, thanks, and praise ad - dress - ing,



Which the Gen - tiles' Lord and King, Once on earth a -
 Dwelt, the seed of truth to sow, Till He closed with
 Keeps the feast its rites de - mand; Then, more pre - cious
 Though the sens - es fail to see; Faith a - lone the
 While e - ter - nal a - ges run; Ev - er too His



mong us dwell - ing, Shed for this world's ran - som - ing.
 won - drous end - ing His most pa - tient life of woe.
 food sup - ply - ing, Gives Him - self with His own hand.
 true heart wak - eth To be - hold the mys - ter - y.
 love con - fess - ing Who from both with both is One.

Text: Thomas Aquinas, c. 1225–1274; tr. The Hymnal 1940
 Tune: Chants ordinaires de l'Office Divin, Paris, 1881
 Text: © The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017219
 Tune: Public domain

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

331 The Advent of Our King



1 The ad-vent of our King Our prayers must now em-ploy,
 2 The ev-er-last-ing Son In-car-nate deigns to be,
 3 O Zi-on's daugh-ter, rise To meet your low-ly King,
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a-gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho-ly joy.
 Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.
 Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.
 And His true mem-bers all u-nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
 The sinful self be put away,
 The new self now put on.

△ 6 All glory to the Son,
 Who comes to set us free,
 With Father, Spirit, ever one
 Through all eternity.

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is at **9am** on Sunday mornings studying our Lutheran identity.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory by Penny Stapp for Courtney's birthday.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets Wednesdays at **10am** studying the Ecclesiastes.

The next **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** is Sat. **Oct 10** at **9am**.

Church Council next meets **Oct 11** at **8am**.

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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