

18th Weekend after Pentecost
September 26-27, 2026
Holy Communion

The Prelude is a signal to *end our conversation* and prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND

(u)

PASSING OF PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Lead Me Lord"

Lead me Lord, / lead me in thy righteousness; /
make thy way plain (/) before my face.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
- C** Amen.
- P** Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. Compassionate God,
- C** we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.
- P** Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
- C** Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "God Is Here"

- 1 God is here! As we_ your people/
meet to of - fer praise_ and prayer,/
may we find in ful - ler measure/
what it is_ in Christ_ we share.
*Here, as in the world_ around us,/
all our var - ied skills and arts/
wait_ the coming of_ the Spirit/
in - to o - pen minds and hearts.**
- 4 Lord of all, of church_ and kingdom,/
in an age_ of change_ and doubt,/
keep us faithful to_ the gospel;/
help us work_ your pur - pose out.
*Here, in this day's ded - ication,/
all we have_ to give, receive;/
we_, who cannot live_ without you,/
we_ adore_ you! We believe!**

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**
- C And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Come Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs"

**Come, let us join our cheerful songs/
with angels round the throne;/
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,/
but all their joys are one.
*Jesus is worthy to receive/honor and pow'r divine;/
And blessings, more than we can give,/
be, Lord, forever thine.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together.

G God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(d)

ANTHEM

LESSON OF THE DAY

Philippians 2:1-13

The lesson begins:

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

P The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al – le - luia! / Lord to whom shall we go? / Al – le – luia.

***You have_ the words / of_ eternal life. /**

Al – le – lu – ia, al – le – luia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?" Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin'—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then he said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' "'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

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SERMON

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SERMON RESPONSE "O God, Who Gives Us Life"

O_ God, who gives / us_ life and breath, /
who shapes us in_ the womb,
*who_ guards our lives / from birth to death, /
then_ leads_ us from the tomb:
*deliver us from fears that kill / the life we have from you. /
Help us to know your_ Spirit, /
still is_ mak – ing all things new.

APOSTLES' CREED

P

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 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.

(d)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

- P** We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote opportunity, peace and prosperity for all. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for people in any need (*especially...*). Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for Hope Lutheran Church, that through the work of its ministry teams we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
- C** Amen.

OFFERING

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OFFERTORY

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,/
and_ fill to the brim our cup of blessing./
Gather a harvest(/)from the seeds that were sown,/
that we may be fed(/)with the bread of life.
*Gather the hopes(/)and the dreams_ of all;/
unite them with the prayers we offer./
Grace our table with your presence,/
and give us a foretaste(/)of the feast to come.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- 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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy Ho - ly Holy, Lord_,/God of power and might_,/
Heav'n and earth_(/)are full of Your glory,/
Hosannah in_ the highest.
*Blessed_ is He who comes_ /in the name of the Lord,/
Hosannah in_ the highest_,/Hosannah in_ the highest!

P Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

P Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at

his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

☞ As a community, let us pray in the way our Lord Jesus has taught us: *(Spoken)*

☞ 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☞ Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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COMMUNION is given and received.

(During Distribution)

“Lamb of God”

- 1 O Lamb of God_/you bear the sin_/of all the world_ away;/
*You suffered death_/our lives to save_:/
have mercy now_, we pray.
- 2 O Lamb of God_/you bear the sin_/of all the world_ away;/
*You set us free_/from guilt and grave_:/
have mercy now_, we pray.
- 3 O Lamb of God_/you bear the sin_/of all the world_ away;/
*Eternal peace_/with God you made_:/
Give us your peace_, we pray.

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- P** Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"Seek Ye First"

- 1** Seek ye_ first the_ king - dom of God/
and His_ righteous - ness/
And all these things shall be added unto you

Ref. Alle – lu, alleluia

- 2** Man shall not live by_ bread_ a - lone/
but by_ ev'ry_ word/
That pro - ceeds from the mouth_ of_ God (Refrain)
- 3** Ask and it shall be_ given unto you,/
seek and_ ye shall_ find/
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you (Refrain)

DISMISSAL

- A** Let us go forth, to know Christ and to make Christ known,
C Caring for our members and supporting our community.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

When We Walk With The Lord (Trust And Obey)

Words by
John Henry Sammis

Music by
Daniel Brink Towner

1. When we walk with the Lord, in the light of His word, what a
2. Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies, but His
3. Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share, but our
4. But we never can prove the delights of His love un - til
5. Then in fel - low - ship sweet, we will sit at His feet, or we'll

glo - ry He sheds on our way; While we do His good will, He a -
smile quick - ly drives it a - way; Not a doubt nor a fear, not a
toil He doth rich - ly re - pay; Not a grief nor a loss, not a
all on the al - tar we lay; For the fa - vor He shows, and the
walk by His side in the way; What He says we will do, where He

bides with us still, and with all who will trust and o - bey. Trust and o -
sigh nor a tear, can a - bide while we trust and o - bey.
frown nor a cross, but is bless'd if we trust and o - bey.
joy He be - stows, are for those who will trust and o - bey.
sends we will go; Nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.

bey, for there's no oth - er way to be hap - py in Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey.