

Morning Worship
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
September 20, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth (Psalm 121:1-2).

Adoration

Opening Hymn

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King;
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, he the perfect Son of Man;
In his living, in his suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in him we stand.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree;
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold;
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life;
But no grave could e'er restrain him, praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope;
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.

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Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes.

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Invocation

The 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 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.

Confession

Call to Confession

The Lord was very angry with your fathers. Therefore say to them, Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to me, says the Lord of hosts, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. Do not be like your fathers, to whom the former prophets cried out, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, Return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.' But they did not hear or pay attention to me, declares the Lord (Zechariah 1:2-4).

Corporate Confession of Sin

Eternal God and most merciful Father, we confess and acknowledge before you that we are sinners, conceived and born in sin. Our flesh rebels against your Spirit, whereby we transgress your holy precepts and commandments. Nevertheless, Father, since we are displeased with ourselves for the sins that we have committed against you, and sincerely repent of the same, we ask you, for Jesus Christ's sake, to show your mercy upon us, and to forgive us all our sins. Help us from now on not only to mortify our sinful lusts and affections, but also bring forth such fruits as are agreeable to your will. Assure us by your Spirit of your mercy, that you love us, your children, in Christ; and that nothing will be able to remove your grace and favor from us. To you, therefore, Father, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

- excerpted and adapted from John Knox, *Book of Common Order*, 1564

Silent Confession of Sin

Assurance

Assurance of Pardon

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him (Colossians 2:13-15).

Thanksgiving

Offertory

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.

Offertory Prayer

Petition and Intercession

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer for the Salvation of Others

Instruction

Hymn of Preparation

How Firm a Foundation (TH94)

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed;
for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

"When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply;
the flame shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine.

"E'en down to old age all my people shall prove
my sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and when hoary hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake."

New Testament Reading

Matthew 9:9-13

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Old Testament Reading

Hosea 5:1-6:6

Leader: The word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Hosea 5:1-7:2

Communion

Hymn of Preparation

Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners! (TH498)

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
friends may fail me, foes assail me,

Refrain: Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah, what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict'ry wins. [Refrain]

Jesus! what a help in sorrow! While the billows o'er me roll,
even when my heart is breaking, he, my comfort, helps my soul. [Refrain]

Jesus! what a guide and keeper! While the tempest still is high,
storms about me, night o'ertakes me, he, my pilot, hears my cry. [Refrain]

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find;
he hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine. [Refrain]

Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We 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 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 is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we 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 we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Sursum Corda

Leader: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with your spirit.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is good and right to do so.

We welcome to Communion (also called The Lord's Table or The Eucharist) all baptized Christians who have received and are resting on Jesus alone for salvation, and are communing members of any church that faithfully proclaims the gospel. If that does not currently describe you, we invite you to participate by observing but not partaking of the elements – in part because of the warnings Scripture gives those who partake of the Supper without discerning its spiritual significance; but also because we don't want you to express something with your body that isn't true of your heart and mind, namely, that you're trusting in and depending on Jesus as your Lord and Savior. We invite you to take this time to consider what you've seen and heard in the worship service, including Jesus' love for sinners as it is portrayed in this meal. There's also a prayer below for those considering Christianity that you might wish to pray. If this raises questions or concerns, we welcome them and invite you to address them to our pastor or elders.

Prayer for those searching for truth: Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. If you are real, please open my heart and mind to the truth of who you are and what you have done in your life, death, and resurrection. Give me faith to trust you for salvation and satisfaction, and to follow you as my Lord. Help me to see this as the only way to the life you promise and for which I long. Amen.

Prayer for Christians: Lord, you have prepared for me a feast; and though I am unworthy to sit down as a guest, I rest on the merits of Jesus, and come clothed in his righteousness. While I see the bread and the cup, may I ponder why Jesus died and hear him say, "I gave my life to purchase yours, presented myself as an offering to satisfy divine justice, shed my blood to blot out your guilt, opened my side to make you clean, endured your curses to set you free." May I obey, extend the hand, take the bread, receive the cup, eat and drink, testify before all that I gladly receive Jesus to be my life, strength, nourishment, joy, delight. In the Supper give me assurance of pardon, adoption, life, and glory. As the outward elements nourish my body, may your

Spirit invigorate my soul, until that day when I hunger and thirst no more, and sit with Jesus at his heavenly feast. Amen.

- excerpted and adapted from *Valley of Vision*, "The Lord's Supper"

Charge and Blessing

Closing Hymn

Behold the Lamb

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us - and we remember.

The promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross.

So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice

As a sign of our bonds of peace around the table of the King.

The body of our Saviour Jesus Christ, torn for you - eat and remember.

The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life paid the price to make us one.

So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice

As a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you - drink and remember.

He drained death's cup that all may enter in to receive the life of God.

So we share in this bread of life, and we drink of His sacrifice

As a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise to respond, and to remember.

Our call to follow in the steps of Christ as His body here on earth.

As we share in His suffering we proclaim Christ will come again!

And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King.

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Benediction

**universal*