

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Reverend Ronald Breight

Pastor

Douglas Skalka

Organist

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Worship Assistant

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Acolyte

Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above. Services are
live-streamed on our Facebook page.

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The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2026

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ORDER OF SERVICE

Prayer on entering church: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

Shall We Gather at the River

Anthony Giamanco

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear

All because we do not carry Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations! Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?

Precious Savior, still our refuge Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

INVOCATION

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.**

CONFESSION¹

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made Heaven and Earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(We take a moment of silence before the Lord as we call to mind how we have not properly loved Him, ourselves, or other people.)

- P: O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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

KYRIE

Hymnal p. 186

- P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- A: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Hymnal p. 187

- P: Glory be to God on high,
C: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6–9

L: The first reading for the seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost is from chapter fifty-five of Isaiah.

The Lord is near.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing,
A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev'rything,
Your portion shall remain.

He is your treasure, He your joy,
Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy,
Your shield and great reward.

Why spend the day in blank despair,
In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care;
He makes your burdens light.

His wisdom never plans in vain
Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that His counsels may ordain
A blessed ending makes.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

L: The second reading is from first chapter of Philippians.

To live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*please rise*)

Hymnal p. 190

P: Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord.

Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness
but will have the light of life.

cf John 8.12

A: (*sung*) **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Matthew, chapter twenty.

C: *(sung)* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED²

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hymnal p. 578

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

**Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.**

Refrain

**Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess.**

Refrain

**From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.**

Refrain

**Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.**

*Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send
Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!*

(Please rise) **God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.**

*Refrain: Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee
Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!*

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SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

For Me to Live Is Jesus

Jeffrey Blersch

OFFERING HYMN

Hymnal p. 192

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the church, and the world.

Following each petition:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) is being celebrated in today's service. In preparation for that, please be reminded that the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are not merely representations or symbols of Jesus' body and blood but Jesus' body and blood sacrificed on the cross are present in, with, and under the bread and wine (The Real Presence). How is this possible? This is beyond human understanding, but we remember that with God all things are possible. This truth is a divine mystery instituted by Jesus, taught by his Apostles, fervently held by the Christian church, and one in which we participate through faith. To be properly prepared to receive this sacrament, you must

- 1) Recognize that you have indeed sinned against God and other people and are accountable to God for those sins;
- 2) Be sorry (repentant) for those sins;
- 3) Believe that in this sacrament Jesus bestows forgiveness, life, and salvation; and
- 4) Sincerely desire to live a godly life from this point forward.

If you are not a member of Christ Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor before receiving communion here for the first time. If you choose to come forward to receive a blessing rather than the Lord's Supper, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

PREFACE

Hymnal p. 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: *(sung)* It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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 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

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you in all ways.

C: (*sung*) Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Prayer before communing: Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Form a line at the communion rail starting at the left side. When the line is half full, begin filling it in from the right side. When invited, approach the rail and kneel/stand. If you want to receive a gluten-free wafer at communion, let the worship assistant know as he comes by with the wafers. After communion, exit through the right doorway, place individual communion cups in the tray, and proceed down the stairs back to your seat.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Hymnal p. 606

**I lay my sins on Jesus, The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious Till not a spot remains.**

**I lay my wants on Jesus; All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases; My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases; He all my sorrows shares.**

**I rest my soul on Jesus, This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces; I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus, Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes His name abroad is poured.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Hymnal p. 570

**Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O lamb of God, I come, I come.

VOLUNTARY

Lord, It Belongs Not to My Care

Jonathan Kohrs

NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared
before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of Thy people Israel.

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.

THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C: *(sung)* **and His mercy endureth forever.**

COLLECT

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: *(sung)* **Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Hymnal p. 685

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world, that would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.
Let us suffer here with Jesus, And with patience bear our cross,
Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;

All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth here after.
Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
Let us also live with Jesus; He has risen from the dead,
That to life we may awaken. Jesus You are now our head.
We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

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Prayer after worship: Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in A

Brenda Portman

¹*The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." John 20:22-23. We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.*

²*It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. Romans 10:10. Our response to the Word of God that has just been read is our confession of faith in the one, true, triune God.*

³Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it! Luke 11:28*

Christ Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

