

Our Mission is to nurture each other in God's Word and spread the Good News of Christ to all.

September 14, 2025

14th Sunday after Pentecost



Prepare for Worship

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Amen.

Setting One

706 Come unto Me, Ye Weary



- 1 "Come un - to me, ye wea - ry, and I will give you rest."
2 "Come un - to me, ye wan - d'ers, and I will give you light."
3 "Come un - to me, ye faint - ing, and I will give you life."
4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, which comes to hearts op - pressed!
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, which comes to cheer the night!
O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, which comes to aid our strife!
O pa - tient love of Je - sus, which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, of par - don, grace, and peace,
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, and we had lost our way,
The foe is stern and ea - ger, the fight is fierce and long,
which, though we be un - wor - thy of love so great and free,



of joy that has no end - ing, of love that can - not cease.
but thou hast brought us glad - ness and songs at break of day.
but thou hast made us might - y and strong - er than the strong.
in - vites us ver - y sin - ners to come, dear Lord, to thee!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

CW 154

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



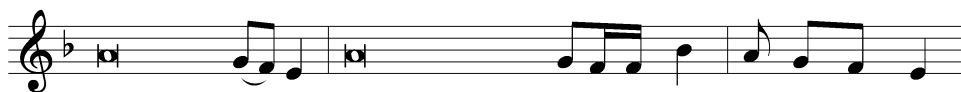
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



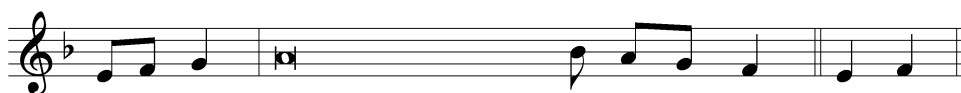
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Hosea 3:1-5

The LORD said to me, “Go again. Show love to a woman who is loved by another man, a woman who keeps committing adultery. Show love just as the LORD loves the people of Israel, even though they keep turning to other gods and loving the raisin cakes.”

²So I bought her for myself for fifteen pieces of silver and nine bushels of barley. ³I said to her, “You will stay with me for many days. You must not be promiscuous. You must not be with any other man, and I will also be for you.”

⁴So the people of Israel will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred memorial stones, and without the special vest or family idols. ⁵Afterward the people of Israel will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his goodness in the latter days.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

51A Be Merciful, O Lord

Refrain



Tone



Wash away all my in- / iquity
and cleanse me / from my sin.
For I know my trans- / gressions,
and my sin is always be- / fore me. *Refrain*

Against you, you only, / have I sinned
and done what is evil / in your sight.
Surely I was sin- / ful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother con- / ceived me.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I / will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whit- / er than snow.
Hide your face / from my sins
and blot out all my in- / iquity.

**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. *Refrain***

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 2:5–11

Now if anyone has caused sorrow, he has not done it to me, but to all of you to some extent (not to overstate it). ⁶This punishment inflicted on such a person by the majority is enough, ⁷so that instead you should rather forgive and comfort him, or else such a person could be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸For that reason, I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹In fact, this was also the purpose of my writing: I wanted to know the result of your being tested, that is, if you are obedient in all things.

¹⁰If you forgive anyone anything, I do too. To be sure, if I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven it in the presence of Christ for your sake, ¹¹so that Satan would not take advantage of us. We are certainly not unaware of his schemes.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

CW 161



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

Luke 15:1–10

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear him. ²But the Pharisees and the experts in the law were complaining, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³He told them this parable: ⁴“Which one of you, if you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that was lost until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls together his friends and his neighbors, telling them, ‘Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!’ ⁷I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.

⁸“Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, would not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says, ‘Rejoice with me, because I have found the lost coin.’ ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

814 Just as I Am, without One Plea



- 1 Just as I am, with - out one plea but that thy
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not to rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me and that thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need, in thee to



thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 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.

6 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.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

The Lost are Found

Luke 15:1-10

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Be seated

The Sacrament

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns. The Lord's Supper makes a second statement. It says, "We are one in all that we do." We don't know if this type of bond exists with our guests, so we ask that if you are not a member of a WELS or ELS congregation you refrain from the Lord's Supper today and meet personally with our pastor if you desire to receive the sacrament in the future.

Stand

Preface

165

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



Proper Preface

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,
bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

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.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

Distribution

578 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, high - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part com - fort to a
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, by your Spir - it



blood for me, died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; all my wants to him are known,
 and your Word. When my way - ward heart would stray,



lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, love that found me—
 joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, faith and hope to
 all my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in
 keep me in the nar - row way; grace in time of



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!
 won - drous thought— found me when I sought him not.
 walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
 earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.
 need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901 Text and tune: Public domain

673 O Lord, We Praise You



1 O Lord, we praise you, bless you, and a - dore you,
 2 Your ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
 3 May God be - stow on us his grace and fa - vor



in thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore you. Here with your
 life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
 that we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior and live to -



bod - y and your blood you nour - ish our weak souls that
 love than this to you could bind us; may this feast of
 geth - er here in love and un - ion, nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 that re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
 blest com - mun - ion. O Lord, have mer - cy!



May your bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, that our
 Lord, your love and kind - ness did move you; let your
 Let not your good Spir - it for - sake us; grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, and your blood for us plead
 sup - per move us to love you. All our debt you have paid;
 heav'n - ly - mind - ed he make us. Give your Church, Lord, to see



in all tri - al, fear, and need. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 peace with God once more is made. O Lord, have mer - cy!
 days of peace and u - ni - ty. O Lord, have mer - cy!

A suggested prayer to use after receiving Holy Communion

Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood.

Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.

Stand

Thanksgiving

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

Amen.

932 Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.



The sup - per is end - ed; O be now ex - tend - ed
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of his teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
One bread that has fed us, one light that has led us



shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
u - nite us as one in his life that we share.



His grace did in - vite us; his love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for God's king - dom and an - swer his call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS September 14 - 21, 2025

Sunday	8:00 am	Worship with Communion
	9:00 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Kunama Worship
	11:35 am	Handbell Practice
Monday	4:00 pm	Elders
	5:15 pm	Church Council
Wed.	5:30 pm	Catechism & Bible History
	6:30 pm	Evening Prayer
	6:45 pm	Bible Class
Thursday	10:00 am	Womens' Fellowship Group
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship
	9:00 am	Homeless Meal Delivery
	9:00 am	St. Croix Lutheran Academy Presentation
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Kunama Worship
	11:30 am	Kunama Bible Study
	11:35 am	Handbell Practice
	1:00 pm	Iowa Cubs Baseball Fellowship

In Our Prayers

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list:

Ukraine

Ray & Gloria Overson, Sherry Just and Randy Michael- shut-ins

George Kokke, Diane Butrum, Gary Finch, Merle Carter, Linda Thielke, Larry

Borchert, Jeff Overson, Makenzie Phippen - health

Addyson Pender & Zach Ostendorf - engaged

Payton Weis - expecting in February

Online Giving

Thank you for your generous and cheerful offerings to the Lord.

www.LHELC.org/giving



Saint Croix Lutheran Academy Presentation *Sept. 21 at 9 am*

St. Croix Lutheran Academy welcomes 500 middle school and high school students in grades 6 through 12 from the greater Twin City metro, across the United States, and to date, from over 40 countries across five continents. SCLA offers a caring, Christ-centered college-prep education to a global population - spiritually, intellectually, and physically - in a caring, Christian community.

Find out more as Principal Kallies joins us for a brief presentation.

www.stcroixlutheran.org

Fall Festival, October 18, 3-6 pm

The Family Ministry and Evangelism Committees are joining together to put on the Fall Festival. You can help by signing up to run an activity station or bring snacks. You can also help by attending and bringing a friend. On **October 4, 10-noon**, we will be hanging invitations on door in the church neighborhood. Sign up to help.

Prepare for Next Sunday

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the readings for this week on Monday through Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday through Saturday. The Word for next Sunday:

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20, 1 Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19, Luke 16:1-13

September Forward in Christ

The September issue of Forward in Christ is available on the shelf outside of the sanctuary. You may also read it at forwardinchrist.net if you prefer.

Some articles of note:

When Valerie Frecks began working at Grace Lutheran Child Learning Center in Sahuarita, AZ, she discovered more than just a job. Read her journey of faith on pages 7-9.

The Conference of Presidents and the Synodical Council provide synodical leadership. Learn how they work together to advance God's kingdom. Pages 10-13.

Does the Bible condone slavery? The Scriptures may not answer this question directly, but the Lord is not silent on the topic. See what he says in "Please explain" on pages 30-31.

These articles and others like it will be discussed on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am in the library in the Womens' Fellowship Group.

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Acknowledgments

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