



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost September 14, 2025 10: 45 Blended

As We Gather

Christ, or Good Shepherd, pursues us, his wandering sheep, and brings us home.
Today, he gathers us at home in His presence so that He, our Shepherd, can fill
us, His sheep, with His love and mercy.

Welcome

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP +

Opening Song "King of Kings"

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit
three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever
to the King of kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit
three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever
to the King of kings

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Praise the Father Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings
Praise forever to the King of kings

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

A Confident of salvation, let us confess our sins to our loving, heavenly Father.

C **We confess that we have not lived as Your children, Father in heaven. In our thinking, speaking, and acting, we have not demonstrated to the people around us the kind of love You have shown us. Forgive us for these our sins. Open our eyes of faith that we may anticipate seeing You in the eternity that awaits us. Then move us toward purity of living that will give You the glory each day until You return.**

P Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, we are God's children now because of the hope God has poured into us. 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.

SSP 40 How Deep (I will not boast) Song of Forgiveness III

I will not boast in anything.

No gifts, no power, no wisdom.

But I will boast in Jesus Christ:

His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?

I cannot give an answer.

But this I know with all my heart:

His wounds have paid my ransom.

Prayer of the Day

A Let us pray responsively.

Almighty and everlasting God, You knit together Your faithful people of all times and places into one holy communion, the mystical Body of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C Grant us so to follow Your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that, together with them, we may come to the unspeakable joys You have prepared for those who love You;

A through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +

First Lesson Ezekiel 34:11-24

Ezekiel 34:11-24

¹¹"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I

will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

¹⁷"As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

²⁰"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle 1 Timothy 1:5-17

1 Timothy 1:5–17

⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

⁸Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound

doctrine, ¹¹in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.

¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CLC Chimes "Father, I Adore You"

Gospel Luke 15:1-10

Luke 15:1-10

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one

sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Children's Song "Child of God"

If anybody asks who I am,
who I am, who I am,
If anybody asks who I am,
Say that I'm a child of God

If anybody asks you how I am,
how I am, how I am,
If anybody asks you how I am,
Say that I'm alive and free.

If anybody asks you who's my friend?
who's my friend, who's my friend?
If anybody asks you who's my friend?
Say that Jesus is His name.

Text: Public domain

Children's Message

Hymn of the Day "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive" LSB 609 vs 1,2,3,6,7

Jesus sinners doth receive;
Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here our ills have perfect healing.

Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray
No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Now my conscience is at peace;
From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release
And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive;
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave:
Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756
Text: Public domain

Message "Lost/Found" Luke 15:1-10

Prayer of the Church

- A** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the whole church, that the message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world and the forgiveness of sins be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- A** We pray for the nations of the world, that governments would be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms may be hindered, bringing a sense of security and well-being in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- A** Send down upon Your church, Your Body, the grace of Your Holy Spirit that we may be united in faith and in the confession of Your name. Unite us together to accomplish Your purpose at SPLC. Give strength, wisdom, and understanding to those who serve on our Call Committee and our staff. Grant grace and patience to all our congregation as we faithfully seek the pastor You have appointed to shepherd us. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- A** We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel the chaplains that minister to them. Also, we remember at this time the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times. Lord, in Your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized and those who are chronically ill, *(AT) Atinae Lealiiiee, John Okonski, Craig & Jan Felzien, Yvonne Keith, Melissa Ruhberg, Karen Manion, Jan Peterson, Armando Flores, Cythina Estes, Betty Tucker, Joe Northcutt, Carla Weikert, Kathie Carlson, Robert Wood, Eric Peterson, Kerstin Krueger, Mary Fodor Joseph Davis, Tammy Tolbert,* Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they may have a sense of purpose in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A That “the LORD give strength to His people and bless His people with peace”; into Your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord who has taught us to pray...

Lord’s Prayer

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.**

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Offering Mary Rosenboom "Thank You, Jesus"

Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

Communion Instructions

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

Prayer of Thanksgiving

A Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have not left us without hope, for You promised a Redeemer, who by His obedient death and victorious resurrection crushed Satan underfoot and opened to us the door of everlasting life. With repentant joy we receive the salvation He won for us on the cross. Gathered now at His bidding, we pray that You would grant us to faithfully eat His body and drink His blood, and thereby to receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in this Sacrament. Strengthen us to live in hope each day until we join saints and angels around Your throne in eternity.

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.

The Words of Our Lord

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."

+ HEADING +

"We Proclaim Your Death" SSP 9

L The Mystery of Faith

C We proclaim your death, O Lord,
And profess your Resurrection
until you come again

Text: Marty Haugen

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Song of Forgiveness "Lamb of God" SSP 10

L Lamb of God,

C You take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.

L Lamb of God,

C You take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy on us.

L Lamb of God,

C You take away the sin of the world,
Grant us peace.

Text: Tony Alonso

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Distribution "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" SSP 39

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Text: Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

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Distribution Hymn "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" LSB 611

Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.

Text: Public domain

Distribution Hymn "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" LSB 427

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Text: Public domain

Song of Blessing "Lord Bid Your Servant Go in Peace" LSB 937

Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,
Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
This child so long foretold.

This is the Savior of the world,
The Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
The joy of Israel.

With saints of old, with saints to come,
To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest
Be honor, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1–2): James Quinn, 1919–2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, 1948–2025

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Post Communion Thanksgiving

A Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ WE DEPART IN HIS PEACE +

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

A As our Shepherd, our Savior will lead us as we walk with Him in faith.

C **Following our Shepherd every day, let us share His mercy with all we meet.**

A 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.**

Dismissal

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **We go in His Name.**

Closing Song "Lift High the Name of Jesus" SSP 81

Lift high the name of Jesus

Of Jesus our King

Make known the power of His grace

The beauty of His peace

Remember how His mercy reached

And we cried out to Him

He lifted us to solid ground

To freedom from our sin

Oh sing my soul
And tell all He's done
'Til the earth and heavens
are filled with His glory

Lift high the name of Jesus
Of Jesus our Lord
His pow'r in us is greater than
Is greater than this world
To share the reason for our hope
To serve with love and grace
That all who see Him shine through us
Might bring the Father praise

Oh sing my soul
And tell all He's done
'Til the earth and heavens
are filled with His glory

Lift high the name of Jesus
Of Jesus our Light
No other name on earth can save
Can raise a soul to life
He opens up our eyes to see
The harvest He has grown
We labor in His fields of grace
As He leads sinners home

Oh sing my soul
And tell all He's done
'Til the earth and heavens
are filled with His glory

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Postlude

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