

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

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PASTOR TOM HURLEY



September 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

“WHOSE AUTHORITY”

*Whoever you are...
Wherever you are in your JOURNEY OF FAITH...
YOU are WELCOME here!*

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Welcome

Gathering Music

Our celebration begins with this morning's pre-service music selection. Use this time to prepare your heart for worship by reading and meditating on the lessons for today.



Invocation and Prayer

Leader: From the beginning, God implanted His life-creating power into His creation with the command, “Be fruitful and multiply.” So we confess from Luther’s Catechism, “I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.” God’s design is for life—eternal life. Because God so loves you, He sent His Son to take away your sin by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Jesus died to sin for you. By Holy Baptism, you died with Jesus and are raised to new life in Him. The love of God is yours today, by faith, in the cross of Jesus. The Father’s declaration of Jesus now becomes yours: “My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Leader: I will go to the altar of God,

People: to God my exceeding joy.

Leader: Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us.

People: This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.

Leader: Let us pray: Almighty God, we thank You for the gift of life in this world, for our bodies and souls, but especially, for restoring Your original design of eternal life through the sacrifice of Your only begotten Son, Jesus, our Lord. For us who have been baptized into His death, You have transformed death to be but the gate to the day of resurrection to eternal life. Help us to hold fast to the Word of life and live to Your praise and glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD'S GRACE

Leader: God invites His whole creation to the great feast of His salvation. That we may boldly enter into His gates of mercy, let us lift up our prayer of repentance and faith.

People: Lord God, heavenly Father, with thanksgiving for Your great love and promise of new life and hope for living, we confess to You all our sins, our waywardness, our neglect of Your call, as well as our failure to be of help to our neighbor and one another. We, humbly pray, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew and cleanse our hearts and minds, and give us true faith in Your promised grace and deliverance.

Pastor: The feast of God's salvation has already begun for you by your Baptism into Jesus. Now receive the Lord's abiding forgiveness, faith, strength, and help to live in the certain hope of eternal life in fellowship with Him: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.



Opening Song: "Beautiful Savior" – LSB # 537

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH HIS WORD

(SCRIPTURE READINGS ON PAGE 7-8)

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1 – 4, 25 – 32

Reader: This is God's Word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1 – 18

Reader: This is God's Word.

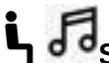
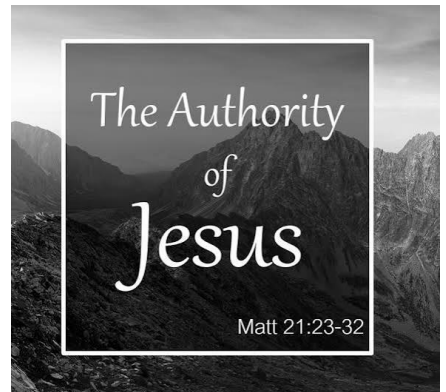
People: Thanks be to God.



Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:23 – 32

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.



Song of the Day: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" – LSB #790

Message: "Whose Authority?" – Pastor Tom Hurley

WE BRING OUR PRAISES, PRAYERS AND GIFTS



Nicene Creed – *(All speak together)*

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 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 catholic 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.



The Prayers – Congregation: “Hear our prayer.”

WE ARE REFRESHED BY GOD’S GRACE

Pastor: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. From the beginning, You declared Him Your beloved Son in whom You are well pleased, and through Him it is Your good pleasure to restore life to all in the forgiveness of sins won for us by the blood of His cross. Now by faith in Him it is Your good pleasure to call us Your own beloved sons and daughters. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You.

Words of Institution

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Communion



Please come forward as the ministers (Pastor and Lay Leader) serve you the Sacrament. As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say to each communicant, "The Body of Christ, given for you... The Blood of Christ, shed for you." The communicant may say, "Amen." We invite non-communicating children to come forward for a blessing and to cross (X) their arms.

Dismissal Blessing

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

People: **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

Pastor: Let us pray: Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise that You are always faithful in Your promises and in Your gifts. Grant that we may so receive the gifts of Your grace, that we be led by Your Spirit to live holy, upright, and godly lives, multiplying Your mercies by forgiving one another as You have forgiven us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

WE GO OUT TO SHARE GOD'S GRACE

Benediction

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



Closing Hymn: "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" – LSB #803

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS – Melissa and Phil are happy grandparents to: Luna Mira Muller-Srivastav, born on September 19, 6lbs 15oz.

THE STREET CHAPLAINCY OF MARIN – Last Sunday, Kieawnie Clar came and shared the mission of Street Chaplaincy of Marin. It brings compassionate spiritual care to the unsheltered and temporarily sheltered persons of Marin County and brings community between the homeless persons and the non-homeless faith communities and other organizations. She encouraged us to support their mission in various ways, please take a look at their website: www.streetchaplaincy.org

ADULT FORUM – Join us after service today for the Adult Forum or Monday mornings at 9:30 on Zoom for our Adult Forum. Look for the ZOOM invitation in your email.

SERVING IN THE LORD'S FIELD TODAY:

Lay Leader: Nelson Gremmels
Comm. Assistant: Nelson Gremmels
Ushers/Greeter: Sherrald McMurray
Reader: Linda Sotto
Altar/Pre-Post Clean: Judy Montoya
Counter: Chuck Bakken
Fellowship: Sherrald McMurray

SERVING IN THE LORD'S FIELD NEXT SUNDAY:

Lay Leader: Fe Rittenbach
Comm. Assistant: **No Comm.*
Usher/Greeter: Chuck & Elfi Bakken
Reader: Linda Sotto
Altar/Pre-Post Clean: *Cecilia Bowman**
Counter: Chuck Bakken
Fellowship: John & Gail Hutson

**No Communion on these Sundays. Altar person will fill the candles on the Altar, change and light the hanging candle.*

BIRTHDAY: Chuck Rancancio

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Lance & Susan Desmond, John & Gail Hutson

SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Joseph Worthington (*Grandson of the Bakken's*) and LTJG Charles Gremmels (*Grandson of Nelson & Shirley Gremmels*).

SURGERY/ILLNESS/PRAYER REQUEST:

Mike Gremmels – Prayers for recovery from surgery.

Max Newman – Prayers for recovery from stem cell transplant.

Lance Desmond – Prayers for kidney transplant to become available soon, for successful treatment for his neuropathy, and successful hernia surgery.

Joy Bloom – Prayers for comfort and peace.

Eddie Hailey – Prayers for completely healing his brain damage (*Sherrald McMurray's brother*).

Fern Johnson – Prayers for her continued health and her move to Nevada.

Carmen Rancancio – Prayers for her health and for her great-grandson, Gabriel & his father, Daniel.

Ken Benson – Continued healing from cancer.



First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1 – 4, 25 – 32

The word of the Lord came to me: ² “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³ As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴ Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶ When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷ Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸ Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰ “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1 – 18

2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that

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Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23 – 32

²³ And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

