

A black and white photograph of a church interior. The view is from the back of the sanctuary looking forward. A large, high, pointed arch window dominates the background, letting in bright light. Below the window is an ornate altar with a statue of a figure, possibly Christ, under a gothic canopy. The altar is flanked by two tall, narrow organ cases with multiple pipes. In the foreground, rows of dark wooden pews are visible, separated by a central aisle. To the left of the altar, there is a white pedestal with a small object on top. To the right, there is a white structure with a dark, pointed top, possibly a lectern or a small altar. The overall atmosphere is solemn and architectural.

everyday celebrations

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

# Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

*August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

*8 am and 11 am Worship Service*

## **As We Gather**

To be the “favorite child” in a family is often a source of competition and sometimes a source for comedy. Years ago, a pair of sibling entertainers, the Smothers Brothers, made their family relationship a staple of their onstage humor when Tom, the older brother, would remind Dickie, the younger, “Mom always did like you best.” As we gather with God’s people at worship week by week, we can be certain that our gracious God values all of us and is pleased to see us grow in grace year by year. The psalmist wrote that “the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor” (Psalm 84:11). In the same Psalm 84 is the verse where the psalmist exclaims to God, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere” (v. 10). There is nothing better than for God’s favorite people, which we are, to be gathered in a most favorite place—which this is! It doesn’t get any better than that!

## **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Today Your Mercy Calls Us**

**LSB 915**

Today Your mercy calls us  
To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy  
Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
And make us clean today.

Today Your gate is open,  
And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father’s welcome  
And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten,  
A present joy be giv’n,  
A future grace be promised,  
A glorious crown in heav’n.

Today our Father calls us;  
His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather  
Around the heav’nly gates.  
No question will be asked us  
How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered,  
It is our Father’s home.

O all-embracing Mercy,  
O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without You  
When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us,  
To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open,  
One ear will hear our prayer.

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## Invocation

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

*Amen.*

## Confession and Absolution

Let us now confess our sins to God, our Father.

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us Your forgiveness. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of our sins, those known to us and those unknown as well. Create in us clean hearts, gracious Lord, and put new and right spirits within us that we may be reconciled to You and at peace with all people. We trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness that we seek today and at all times. Give us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us into paths of righteousness and finally bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained 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.**

## O Bless the Lord, My Soul

**LSB 814 (v. 1 & 3)**

O bless the Lord, my soul!  
Let all within me join  
And aid my tongue to bless His name  
Whose favors are divine.

'Tis He forgives thy sins;  
'Tis He relieves thy pain;  
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses  
And makes thee young again.

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# **Service of the Word**

## **Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*Amen.*

## **Old Testament Reading**

***Isaiah 66:18-23***

***(They shall see My glory.)***

<sup>18</sup> “For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, <sup>19</sup> and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup> And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> “For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain.

<sup>23</sup> From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## **Epistle**

***Hebrews 12:4-24***

***(A Kingdom that cannot be shaken.)***

<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

<sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

<sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

<sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

<sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup> and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

<sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

<sup>15</sup> See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup> that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup> For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

<sup>18</sup> For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## Holy Gospel

***Luke 13:22-30***

***(The narrow door.)***

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

***Glory to You, O Lord.***

<sup>22</sup> He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem.

<sup>23</sup> And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them,

<sup>24</sup> “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ <sup>26</sup> Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ <sup>27</sup> But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ <sup>28</sup> In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup> And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Apostles' Creed

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.

## **A Multitude Comes from the East and the West**

**LSB 510**

A multitude comes from the east and the west  
To sit at the feast of salvation  
With Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the blest,  
Obeying the Lord's invitation.  
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

O God, let us hear when our Shepherd shall call  
In accents persuasive and tender,  
That while there is time we make haste, one and all,  
And find Him, our mighty defender.  
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

All trials shall be like a dream that is past,  
Forgotten all trouble and mourning.  
All questions and doubts have been answered at last,  
When rises the light of that morning.  
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

The heavens shall ring with an anthem more grand  
Than ever on earth was recorded.  
The blest of the Lord shall receive at His hand  
The crown to the victors awarded.  
Have mercy upon us, O Jesus!

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**Message**

***Vicar Caleb Gustafson***

**Prayers of the Church**

## **Service of the Sacrament**

**Preface**

**LSB 194**

The Lord be with you.  
***And with thy spirit.***

Lift up your hearts.  
***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
***It is meet and right so to do.***

## Proper Preface

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## Sanctus

**LSB 195**

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven 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 Words of Our Lord

### The Peace

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

## Agnus Dei

**LSB 198**

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.

## What Is This Bread?

**LSB 629**

What is this bread?  
Christ's body risen from the dead:  
This bread we break,  
This life we take,  
Was crushed to pay for our release.  
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.

What is this wine?  
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;  
The cup of grace  
Brings His embrace  
Of life and love until I sing!  
O taste and see—the Lord is King.

So who am I,  
That I should live and He should die  
Under the rod?  
My God, my God,  
Why have You not forsaken me?  
O taste and see—the Lord is free.

Yet is God here?  
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,  
In mouth and soul  
He makes us whole—  
Christ, truly present in this meal.  
O taste and see—the Lord is real.

Is this for me?  
I am forgiven and set free!  
I do believe  
That I receive  
His very body and His blood.  
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

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## **Dismissal**

### **Post-Communion Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us pray.

O Lord, we thank You for Your continuing grace and favor and for having fed us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Grant that the bread of life and blood of Christ that has been shared and received in this blessed Meal may be for us that life-giving food that sustains us on our earthly journeys as we seek to bring You honor and praise all our days; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing of God's People (Benediction)**

#### **Glorious Things of You Are Spoken**

**LSB 648**

Glorious things of you are spoken,  
Zion, city of our God;  
He whose word cannot be broken  
Formed you for His own abode.  
On the Rock of Ages founded,  
What can shake your sure repose?  
With salvation's walls surrounded,  
You may smile at all your foes.  
  
See, the streams of living waters,  
Springing from eternal love,  
Well supply your sons and daughters  
And all fear of want remove.  
Who can faint while such a river  
Ever will their thirst assuage?  
Grace, which like the Lord, the giver,  
Never fails from age to age.



Round each habitation hov'ring,  
See the cloud and fire appear  
For a glory and a cov'ring,  
Showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner  
Light by night and shade by day,  
Safe they feed upon the manna  
Which God gives them on their way.

Savior, since of Zion's city  
I through grace a member am,  
Let the world deride or pity,  
I will glory in Your name.  
Fading are the world's vain pleasures,  
All their boasted pomp and show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasures  
None but Zion's children know.

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Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

# Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am Contemporary Service

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## Welcome and Announcements

## Opening Song of Praise

## Invocation

## Old Testament Reading

**Isaiah 66:18-23**

*(They shall see My glory.)*

<sup>18</sup> “For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, <sup>19</sup> and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. <sup>20</sup> And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. <sup>21</sup> And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord.

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<sup>23</sup> From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

## Epistle

**Hebrews 12:4-24**

*(A Kingdom that cannot be shaken.)*

<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

<sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him.

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<sup>12</sup> Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, <sup>13</sup> and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. <sup>14</sup> Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. <sup>15</sup> See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; <sup>16</sup> that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup> For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

<sup>18</sup> For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” <sup>21</sup> Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” <sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, <sup>23</sup> and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, <sup>24</sup> and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

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*Thanks be to God.*

## Holy Gospel

**Luke 13:22-30**

*(The narrow door.)*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

*Glory to You, O Lord.*

<sup>22</sup> He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. <sup>23</sup> And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, <sup>24</sup> “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ <sup>26</sup> Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ <sup>27</sup> But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ <sup>28</sup> In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. <sup>29</sup> And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. <sup>30</sup> And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to You, O Christ.*

## Apostles' Creed

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.

## **Praise Song**

## **Message**

*Vicar Caleb Gustafson*

## **Confession and Absolution**

Let us now confess our sins to God, our Father.

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us Your forgiveness. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of our sins, those known to us and those unknown as well. Create in us clean hearts, gracious Lord, and put new and right spirits within us that we may be reconciled to You and at peace with all people. We trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness that we seek today and at all times. Give us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us into paths of righteousness and finally bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained 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.**

## **Holy Communion**

## **Distribution Song(s)**

## **Prayers**

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Blessing of God's People (Benediction)**

## **Closing Song of Praise**

## **Acknowledgments**

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