
∞ 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ∞

ORDER OF WORSHIP • SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 • 9:00 AM

✝ Indicates the congregation should stand as able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

✝ SONG OF LAMENT LAMB OF GOD, LAMB OF GOD

The cantor sings the petitions. All sing the refrain:

Lamb of God, ___ Lamb of God, ___

Lamb of God ___ have mer - cy ___ on us.

✝ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

✝ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ the God of manna, the God of mercy, the God of miracles.

All: **Amen.**

WL: Trusting in the power of God's unending love, let us confess to the one who seeks and saves the lost.

a brief silence for meditation and confession

WL: Lord, have mercy.

All: **We confess to you our failure to love. We come to you broken. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Fill us with your love.**

WL: Christ, have mercy.

All: **We confess to you the failings of our strength. We come to you tired, worried, and dispirited. Renew us with your power that we might serve you with joy.**

WL: Lord, have mercy.

All: We confess to you the failings of our faith. We are shaken, and our fear crowds out your still small voice. Inspire us to trust in you and to walk in your nonviolent way of death and resurrection.

WL: Beloved people, have no fear! The love of God is stronger than death. "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, everything is made new." (2 Cor. 5:17) "We have been buried with Christ, in our baptism, sharing in his death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:4) Once you were lost, and now you are found. Once you were dead, and now you are alive. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

✝ SONG OF HOPE AND JOY

DON'T BE AFRAID

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
My love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,
And I have promised, promised to be always near.**

When the cantor directs, all sing together:

**Jesus Christ is ris'n today, alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!**

✝ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

WL: Let us pray. O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

EZEKIEL 34:11-24

R: Our first lesson on this 14th Sunday after Pentecost is from the 34th chapter of the prophet Ezekiel.

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

“As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

“Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away, I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. I the Lord will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the Lord have spoken.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

R: The Second lesson is from First Timothy, chapter 1.

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

✠ VERSE

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND
LBW #448, STANZAS 1 & 2

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relived;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**

✠ HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 15:1-10

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord!

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully

puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

TODAY'S MESSAGE

✠ HYMN

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

**Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.**

**See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.**

REFRAIN **"Come home, come home!
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?**

**Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? *REFRAIN***

**Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!**

**Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. *REFRAIN***

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

WL: Let us boldly confess our faith, with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

All: **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.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

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SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: As Jesus taught His disciples to pray, so we pray together:

All: **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.**

✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN

TAKE AND EAT

REFRAIN: **Take and eat, take and eat,
this is my body given up for you;
Take and drink, take and drink,
this is my blood, given up for you.**

The verses are sung by the Parish Choir

✠ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve
you in body and soul to life everlasting.

All: **Amen.**

✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is
good and the harvest is plentiful. You have strengthened us at your
table with these gifts of the earth. Send us boldly forth, that we
may share your abundance and work for the good of all; through
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

✠ BLESSING

WL: 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.

All: **Amen.**

✠ SENDING HYMN PRAISE THE LORD, RISE UP REJOICING
LBW #196

✠ DISMISSAL

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SOLI DEO GLORIA TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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Liturgy from Lutheran Service Book.

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LAMB OF GOD, LAMB OF GOD

Text and Music by David Ludwig

DON'T BE AFRAID

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