

✠ Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠
September 6, 2026
10:00 AM



*Gathering People to Christ,
Building Believers in Christ,
Serving the World as Christ*



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The Rev. Dr. Eric Tritten, Senior Pastor, x28

Bob Brantsch, Director of Christian Education, x27

Sue Anderson, Director of Music Ministry

Ryann Jagger, Youth Director

Megan Polak, Preschool Director, x18

Becka Koudelka, Office Administrator, x26

Esther Williamson, Deaconess

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION . . .

The word “Sacrament” means that God is at work here. A Sacrament is an act of God, not just a pious ritual of the Church. What God does here is present us with the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, “in, with, and under” the bread and wine. It is more than just a reminder or a symbol of Christ. It is Christ. And so the proper approach is one of repentance for sin, and trust in God’s promise. “He is truly worthy who has faith in the words: Given and shed for you,” as Dr. Luther often said. We ask those who have never communed with us to please speak with the pastor before doing so. Everyone is welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

Welcome: Although the attention of many is distracted on this Labor Day weekend, the focus of the Readings is clear. We have a Savior who has come to find the lost and restore them through forgiveness, and we have a purpose in speaking this Gospel to the whole world. This is not an easy calling. The lost often do not want to be found, and the wicked are content in their ways. We act not as self-appointed guardians of the truth but as instruments of God, through whom He speaks His Word of love to the lost and erring and by whom they are saved. The most difficult application is always to those who have fallen from the faith into error or sin. Our greatest temptation is to surrender them to their error or sin. Our greatest calling is to address them with the voice of God’s Word through whom the Spirit works to restore the lost. Today we pray that we will not be distracted from this goal and purpose.

Assisted Listening Devices: are available for those who have trouble hearing the service. Please see an usher to use one.

Communication Cards: Please fill out the bright yellow communication cards located by the bulletins as you enter. If you are a visitor or your address has changed, please include that in the space provided. Prayer requests for next week may be written on the back.

Communion Procedure: Then, ushers will release one side at a time from the middle. The

pulpit side will fill in the front starting at the side closest to the street and fill in all the way to the other wall. The lectern side does the same in reverse—start from the wall closest to the lectern and fill in the entire way across to the other wall. Grape juice is in the outer ring and is lighter in color than the wine. The wine is darker in color. After communing, return to your seat via the side aisle. The entire congregation will be dismissed after all have communed. There are baskets for the used communion cups hanging on the outside edge of the first pew. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, alert an usher and the Pastor will bring communion to you.

Cushions are available for those who may need them; ask an usher for assistance.

Nursery Welcomes Your Child: The church nursery is available during both Sunday worship services and Sunday school for preschool age children and younger. The nursery is staffed with a professional Nanny. It is located to the right as you enter the building, just past the coat room.

Prayer Requests: Please use the pink sheets to request prayers to be read during the service. Place in the offering plate.

Quiet Room: The Luther Room (located at the end of the hall to the left as you enter the building) is available for use as a “quiet room.” It is equipped with comfortable chairs and a TV that shows the service.

Members and Visitors: Please take a moment to fill out the bright yellow Guest & Member Communication Cards and place it in the offering plate during the Offering time. Thank You.

Welcome

Hymn

"Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

LSB 915, sts. 1-4



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt. | Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857 | Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Memory Verse

Philippians 2:1-2

- C** 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.

Confession and Absolution

Psalms 103:10

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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.
- P** He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** Amen.

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray. O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Hymn

“Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King”

Come Thou Fount of ev’ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy never ceasing call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I’m fixed upon it, Mount of Thy redeeming love.

I was lost in utter darkness ‘til You came and rescued me.
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free.
Now my soul can sing a new song; now my heart has found a home.
Now Your grace is always with me, and I’ll never be alone.

Chorus

Come Thou Fount, come Thou King. Come Thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear Your bride—to You we sing. Come Thou Fount of our blessing.
Come Thou Fount, come Thou King. Come Thou precious Prince of Peace.
Hear Your bride—to You we sing. Come Thou Fount of our blessing.

O, to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be.
Let Thy goodness like a fetter bind my wand’ring heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, Lord, take and seal it. Seal it for Thy courts above! *Chorus*

Come, Thou Fount of our blessing.

Text: John Wyeth, Robert Robinson, Thomas Miller
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Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7–9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, you shall give them warning from Me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn

from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Romans 13:1–10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.

³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵"Whoever receives one such child in My

name receives Me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off

and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of My Father who is in heaven that one of

these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I among them.”

P 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 Message

Pr. Eric Tritten

Hymn

"Show Us Christ"

Verse 1

Prepare our hearts, O God. Help us to receive.
Break the hard and stony ground, help our unbelief.
Plant Your Word down deep in us, cause it to bear fruit.
Open up our ears to hear. Lead us in Your truth.

Chorus

Show us Christ, show us Christ. O God, reveal Your glory
Through the preaching of Your Word until every heart confesses "Christ is Lord."

Verse 2

Your Word is living light upon our darkened eyes.
Guards us through temptations, makes the simple wise.
Your Word is food for famished ones, freedom for the slave,
Riches for the needy soul. Come speak to us today. *Chorus*

Text: Bob Kauflin, Doug Plank

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Sermon

Blessed

Offertory

"Christ the Sure and Steady Anchor"
Milly Myers, soprano

**by Matt Boswell
and Matt Papa
arr. Paul Campbell**

Verse 1 (Solo)

Christ the sure and steady anchor in the fury of the storm.
When the winds of doubt blow through me, and my sails have all been torn.
In the suffering, in the sorrow,
When my sinking hopes are few,
I will hold fast to the anchor. It shall never be removed.

Verse 2 (Solo)

Christ the sure and steady anchor, while the tempest rages on.
When temptation claims the battle, and it seems the night has won.
Deeper still then goes the anchor, though I justly stand accused.
I will hold fast to the anchor. It shall never be removed.

Verse 3 (Solo)

Christ the sure and steady anchor, through the floods of unbelief.
Hopeless somehow, O my soul, now, lift your eyes to Calvary.
This my ballast of assurance: See His love forever proved.
I will hold fast to the anchor. It shall never be removed.

Stand

Verse 4 (All)

Christ the sure and steady anchor as we face the wave of death.
When these trials give way to glory and we draw our final breath.

We will cross that great horizon, clouds behind and life secured.
And the calm will be the better for the storms that we endured.
(Repeat)

(Solo)

Christ the shore of our salvation, ever faithful, ever true.
We will hold fast to the anchor. It shall never be removed.

Text: Matthew Boswell, Matthew Papa | Text: © 2015 Getty Music Hymns and Songs; Getty Music Publishing; Love Your Enemies Publishing; Messenger Hymns. Used by permission: CCLI no. 1894790

Pastoral Prayers

Prayer of the Church

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

Silence for prayer

A That the Lord would move us to seek out the lost, address them with the voice of God's Word, and restore them who receive this warning with penitence, that the hearts of all once forgiven be moved to forgive one another in Christ's name, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A That the church burn with zeal for the lost and for those caught up in heresy, error, and immorality and learn to rejoice with the angels over every sinner who repents and is saved, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A That the Lord of the church well supply His people with faithful pastors and church workers and that He impart His rich blessing upon training for church work vocations, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A That the Lord raise up for us good and faithful leaders on every level of government, bless those who serve with gifts of wisdom and prudence, and protect and defend all who protect and defend us, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A That the Lord continue to show mercy to those afflicted in body, mind, or soul; grant them comfort and aid; and sustain them in this mercy to everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A That the Lord would bless the homes where His people dwell, giving courage and strength to husbands and wives in the fulfillment of their promises and blessing all parents with wisdom and grace to attend to the children in their care, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A That we learn gratitude for the manifold and rich gifts that God supplies every day and that we learn generosity to share with those in need, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A That we use our skills and abilities in honest labor and that the work of our hands be blessed, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A That the Lord would grant to all who approach this altar with repentant hearts and faith to receive here the gifts bestowed in this communion of Christ's flesh and blood, and that the Lord bless us with unity of doctrine and life together, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A That the Lord grant us a blameless life and a blessed death, that at the last we be received into the arms of His mercy, and that the Lord grant His comfort and peace to the dying and all who grieve, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

Silence for meditation

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

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.

The Words of Our Lord

P 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."

Proclamation of Christ

A As often as we eat of this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Hymn

"Blessed Is He"

Chorus

(Praise Team)

Blessed is he whose sins are forgiven, whose guilt is covered by the blood of the Lamb.
Oh, blessed is he whose sins are forgiven, whose guilt is covered by the blood of the Lamb.
Oh, ooh.
(ALL repeat)

Bridge

(Praise team)

And blessed is he whose sin the Lord does not count against him.
And blessed is he in whom is found only truth.

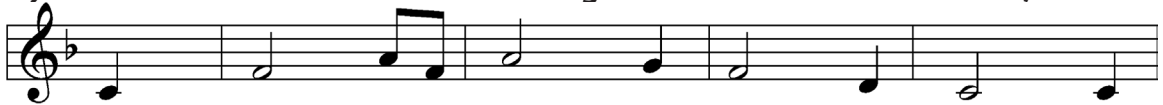
Chorus (All)

Text: Sue Anderson | Text: © 2000 Yellow House Music Used by permission: Sue Anderson. Used by permission

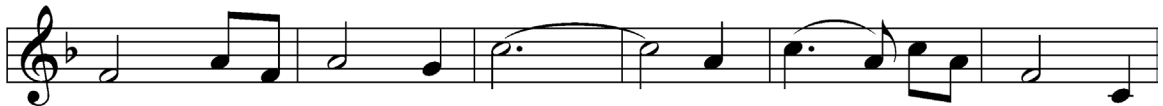
Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

LSB 744, sts. 1-5



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1-4): John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond | Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati | Text and tune: Public domain

Hymn

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

Verse 1

How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss—the Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Verse 2

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

Verse 3

I will not boast in anything—no gifts, no pow’r, 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.

Text: Stuart Townend | Text: © 1995 Thankyou Music CCLI#1894790. Used by permission: CCLI no. 1894790

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P 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.

Memory Verse

Philippians 2:1-2

C 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.

Hymn

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

LSB 922 sts. 1-4



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.
 2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
 3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
 Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My
 I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.
 heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.
 Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.
 Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing— You are My own.
 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.
 Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008 | Tune: Welsh, 18th cent. | Tune: Public domain
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