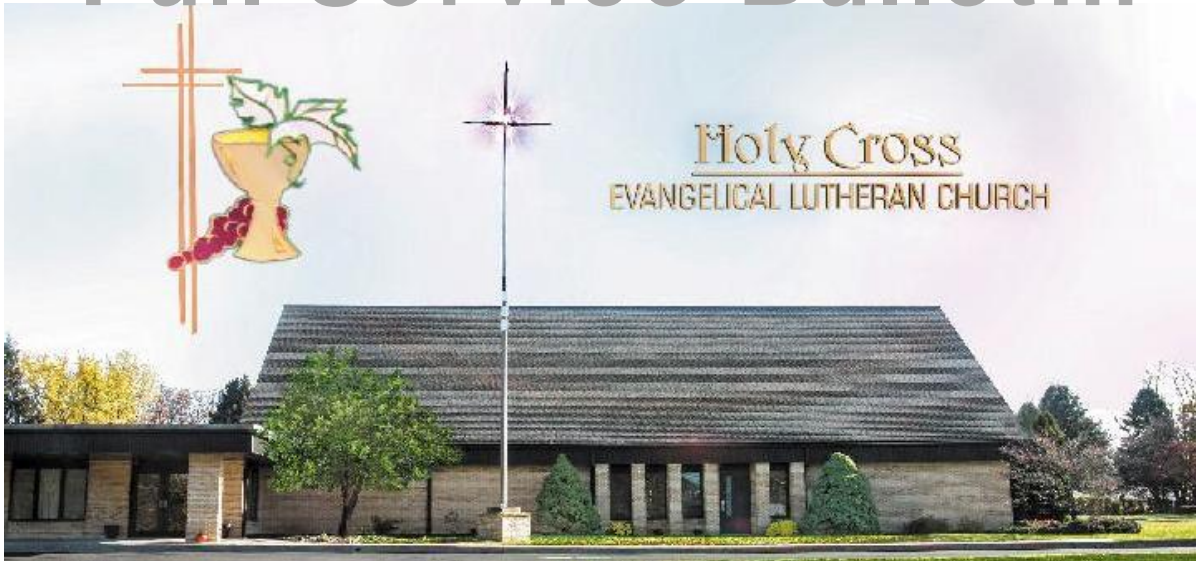


Full Service Bulletin



HOLY COMMUNION SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)

PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

*During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, peruse the bulletin, find the scripture readings in the pew Bible, and focus your thoughts on the Lord. You may pray: **Almighty God, You provide the true bread from heaven, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Prepare us to receive His body and blood, that abiding in Him, and He in us, we may be filled with the power of His endless life. Amen.***

CHILDREN

We welcome children of all ages. The Children's Library is available if a child needs a break during the service.

INTRODUCTION

In our gospel reading, Jesus invites us to forgive one another. His invitation, however, is not optional for Christians. It is the heart of the gospel and the distinctive character of life in Christ. Out of love for us in our weakness and sin, God forgives us, heals us, and strengthens us to be a forgiving people.

COMMEMORATION

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179 - A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

WELCOME AND MEDITATION

GATHERING HYMN *(Please rise.)*

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (Maj # 24 - favorite)

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a -
a - tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal -
reign - ing and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus -
fend you; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at -
dore him! All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be -
va - tion! Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw
tain - ing. Have you not seen all that is need - ful has
tend you. Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can
fore him! Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a -
near, join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
been sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
do if with his love he be - friend you.
gain. Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Stralsund, 1655

INVOCATION *(= All may make the sign of the cross.)*

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one
God, Who is Sower, Seed and Fruit. **C: AMEN.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Please kneel.)

P: God of heaven and earth, **C: We name before You the sin
that enslaves us, the sin that wounds us and others, the
sin that scars our world.**

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

**C: Forgive us and heal us. Guard us from all evil. Give to
us and the whole creation the freedom of the glory of the
children of God. AMEN.**

P: Come, all who are weary, all who carry heavy burdens. As tender as parent to child, so gentle is God to us. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for us. As far as east is from west, so far God removes our sin, renewing our lives in Jesus Christ. **C: AMEN.**

GREETING *(Please rise.)*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God from which nothing can separate us, and the life-giving Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

*With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
"Let all the peoples praise him." (Romans 15:6,11)*

HYMN OF PRAISE *"Glory to God" (WOV p 29)*

Refrain

I Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. *Refrain*

II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. *Refrain*

For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.
Final refrain
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray together: **O Lord God, merciful judge, You are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore You, that we may delight in doing Your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.**

RESPONSIVE READING...Psalm 103:1-13

(congregation reads indented)

Praise the LORD, O my soul;

all my inmost being, praise His holy name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul,

and forget not all His benefits—

Who forgives all your sins

and heals all your diseases,

Who redeems your life from the pit

and crowns you with love and compassion,

Who satisfies your desires with good things

so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works righteousness

and justice for all the oppressed.

He made known His ways to Moses,

His deeds to the people of Israel:

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

He will not always accuse,

nor will He harbor His anger forever;

He does not treat us as our sins deserve

or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is His love for those who fear Him;

as far as the east is from the west,

so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him;

PRAISE SONG *(Please sit.)*

“Bless His Holy Name” (Maj # 22 - favorite - Andraé Crouch)

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is with - in me, bless his ho -
 ly name. He has done great things, he has done great
 things, he has done great things: bless his ho - ly name!

Fine

D.C. al fine

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

FIRST READINGGenesis 50:15-21 p. 85

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READINGRomans 14:1-12.....Pg. 1765

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please rise.)*

“He is Lord” (Maj # 187 - favorite)

He is Lord, he is Lord, he is ris-en from the dead and he is Lord;
 ev-'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con-fess that Je - sus Christ is Lord.

Text: Philippians 2:10-11, adapt. Music: HE IS LORD, traditional

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPELMatthew 18:21-35.....Pg. 1527

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON (*Please sit. See outline in Announcements insert.*)

The Rev. Aage Larsen “*Forgiveness Has Its Limits*”

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

(Romans 15:13)

HYMN OF THE DAY (*Please rise.*)

“*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*” (LBW # 307; tune LBW # 234)

1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew;
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;
 but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de part?
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

SMALL CATECHISM READING

P: Let us confess our faith by reading a portion of Luther's Small Catechism, *Part III. The Lord's Prayer*:

P: How does the prayer conclude?

C: "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.* AMEN."

P: What does this mean?

C: That I should be certain that such petitions are acceptable to our Father in Heaven and will be granted, for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. "Amen. Amen." means: "Yes, yes, it shall be so."

**These words were added in later editions of the catechism, but were not in Luther's Small Catechism.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

OFFERING

We no longer pass the plate, but your offerings are needed more than ever. The plate is located at the back of the center aisle. Please place your offering and your Communication Card there as you come in or go out. Thank You!

WE COMMUNE WITH CHRIST

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please rise.)*

P: The LORD be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the LORD.**

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, Holy Father, through Christ our Lord; Who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn: (*"Alleluia" - Michael W. Smith*)

Al - le - lu - ia. Ho - ly, ho - ly
are You, Lord God Al - might y. Wor thy is the Lamb, wor thy is the Lamb.
You are ho - ly, ho - ly are You, Lord God Al - might - y.
Wor thy is the Lamb, wor thy is the Lamb. A - men.

PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. In great love You sent to us Jesus, Your Son, Who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, Who preached good news to the poor, and Who, on the cross, opened His arms to all.

In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup; gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me.

Remembering, therefore, His death, resurrection, and ascension, we await His coming in glory. Pour out Your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all Your people in the body of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

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. AMEN.

COMMUNION *(Please be seated)*

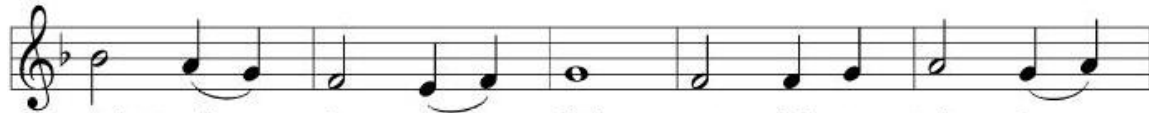
P: Come to the table and taste of God's goodness and mercy. *All who are baptized and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior may partake. Please fill out a communication card and put it in the offering plate. We have returned to kneeling for communion by "tables." People who want to minimize contact and maintain greater physical distance can take a pre-filled glass and stand a foot back from the altar rail. For a gluten-free rice wafer (blue-green) say "Rice." Grape juice (white) is in pre-filled glasses. Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.*

COMMUNION HYMNS *(sung while others are receiving.)*

1. "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" *(ELW # 803 - favorite)*



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748 Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

2. "The Old Rugged Cross" *(Maj # 228 - favorite - George Bennard)*

1 On a hill far a-way stood an old rug-ged cross,
 2 Oh, that old rug-ged cross so de-spised by the world,
 3 In the old rug-ged cross, stained with blood so di-vine,
 4 To the old rug-ged cross I will ev-er be true,
 the em-blem of suf-f'ring and shame;
 has a won-drous at-trac-tion for me;
 a won-drous beau-ty I see;
 its shame and re-proach glad-ly bear;
 and I love that old cross where the dear-est and best
 for the dear Lamb of God left his glo-ry a-bove,
 for 'twas on that old cross Je-sus suf-fered and died,
 Christ will call me some day to my home far a-way,
 for a world of lost sin-ners was slain.
 to . . . bear it to dark Cal-va-ry.
 to . . . par-don and sanc-ti-fy me.
 where his glo-ry for-ev-er I'll share.

Refrain
 So I'll cher-ish the old rug-ged cross, till my
 tro-phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug-ged
 cross, and ex-change it some day for a crown.

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER (10:45)

L: Let us pray together: **C:** Generous God, we give You thanks that again this day You have opened wide Your hand and satisfied us with the food of life, the body and blood of Christ. Sharing Your compassionate heart, may we be a blessing to all who hunger and thirst; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.

BLESSING

P: God almighty, God most merciful, God ever present, bless us,
keep us, and + grant us peace. **C: AMEN.**

SENDING HYMN “This is My Father’s World”

(Maj # 73 - favorite - Text: Maltbie D. Babcock; Tune: Franklin L. Sheppard)



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,
na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.
This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The
rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev - 'ry - where.
Lord is king, let the heav - ens ring; God reigns, let the earth be glad!

PASSING THE PEACE

L: As we leave to serve the Risen Lord in the power of His Spirit,
let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we
have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

*Everyone is invited to remain for fellowship and refreshments.
Snacks, coffee and hot water are available in the Gathering Place.
You can brew your own coffee/tea using the Keurig® in the Parlor.*

ALTAR FLOWERS AND BULLETINS ARE SPONSORED BY:

*Holy Cross
to the glory of God*

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

GREETER: 8:30-Adam Barlow / 10:45-Irene Graham

SOUND: 8:30-Chris Chmela / 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer

LIVE STREAM: 8:30-Jan Stryker

SONG LEADER: Nancy Cook

LITURGIST: 8:30-Seth Miller / 10:45-Lyn Stryker

LECTOR: 8:30-Ruthann Kistler / 10:45-Lyn Stryker

GUEST PREACHER: The Rev. Aage Larsen

USHERS: 8:30-Jan Stryker / 10:45-Irene Graham

COMMUNION SERVERS: 8:30-Seth Miller / 10:45-Lyn Stryker

ALTAR: Darlene Treisner, Diane Hahn

COUNTERS: Jan Stryker, Karen Brown

GRASS CUTTERS: Sam Glasmire, Rich Stein

PHONETREE: Jonathan Mosebach

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski

PRAYER CARE: call Pat Gilbert (610) 867-7759

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*
Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Jonathan Mosebach, *Office Secretary*
Jim Steiner, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*
Lisa Wechsler, *Treasurer* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM
(*Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts*)

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