



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship
September 13, 2026
9:00 a.m.

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude and Welcome

(please rise in body or spirit)

Confession and Forgiveness

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**

Creation groans from overuse.

Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.

Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

**Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love
to others. Turn our hearts back to you.**

Restore our world and reconcile us to one another.

**Renew us to live as your holy people,
following the way of Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

Opening Hymn In Thee With Gladness ELW 867

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

(ELW p. 138)

The musical score for the Kyrie is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The score is divided into two systems of five staves each. The first system contains the first three staves, and the second system contains the last three staves. The lyrics are: "In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy." (Staff 1), "For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord." (Staff 2), "Lord, have mer - cy." (Staff 3), "For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God," (Staff 4), "and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord." (Staff 5), "Lord, have mer - cy." (Staff 6), "For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise," (Staff 7), "let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy." (Staff 8), "Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men." (Staff 9).

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Hymn Of Praise

Praise to the Lord the Almighty

ELW 858

Prayer Of The Day

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.

(you may be seated)

Reading Genesis 50:15-21

Reader: The Reading today is from Genesis 50

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm *Reader:* The Psalm today is from Psalm 103:1-8

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

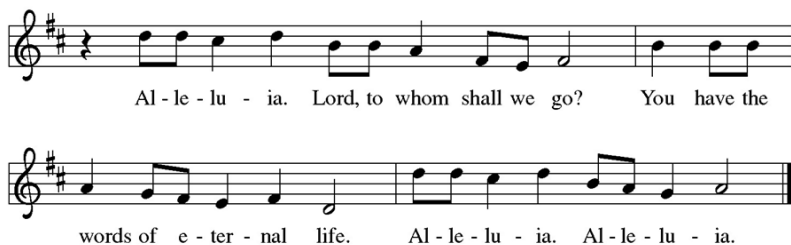
You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

(please rise in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation

(ELW p. 142)



Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Preacher: The Gospel according to

Matthew the 18th chapter

Congregation: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of

that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Preacher: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(you may be seated)

The Message

Pastor Mark Boster

(please rise in body or spirit)

Hymn of the Day

I Come with Joy

ELW 482

The Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the Church

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up leaders to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need, especially those we name aloud or in the quietness of our hearts (*pause...*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember today, our sister Gail Quam. We pray for Sue and all who are grieving for Gail today. We thank you for giving her to us to know and love on this pilgrimage we call life. We trust in the promise that you called her home, and that one day we will, once again, be reunited with her and all the saints who live in the fullness of your glory. Keep us steadfast in your love and care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

Presiding Minister:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Greet one another: **"Peace be with you."**

(you may be seated)

Offering

(please rise in body or spirit)

Offering Prayer

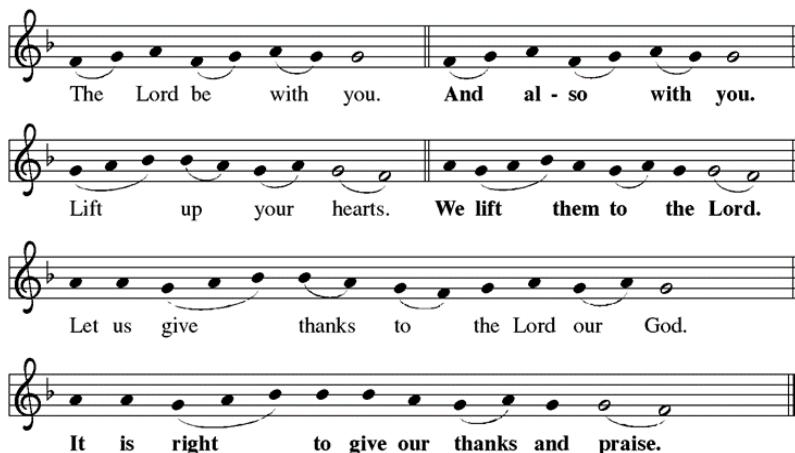
Assisting Minister: Let us pray together.

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

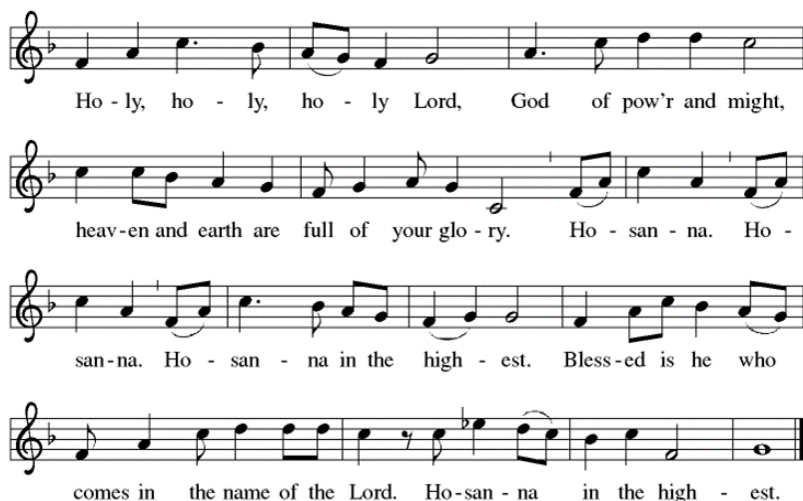
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

(ELW p. 144)



Presiding Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Words Of Institution

The 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.

(you may be seated)

Invitation to Communion

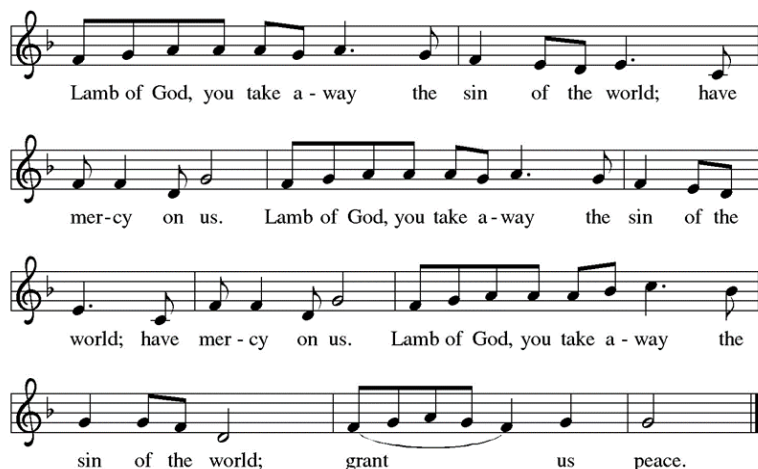
Heaven has come near.
Come, share in the feast!

Communion Distribution

Distribution Music

“Lamb of God”

(ELW p. 146)



Now We Join in Celebration ELW 462

Blessed Assurance ELW 638

(please rise in body or spirit)

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray together.

**Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish
us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send
us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us
living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,
following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
Amen.**

Community Moment

Benediction

Sending Hymn

God Word, Our Hands

Dismissal

Go in peace. Walk in love. Put your faith into action!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude



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