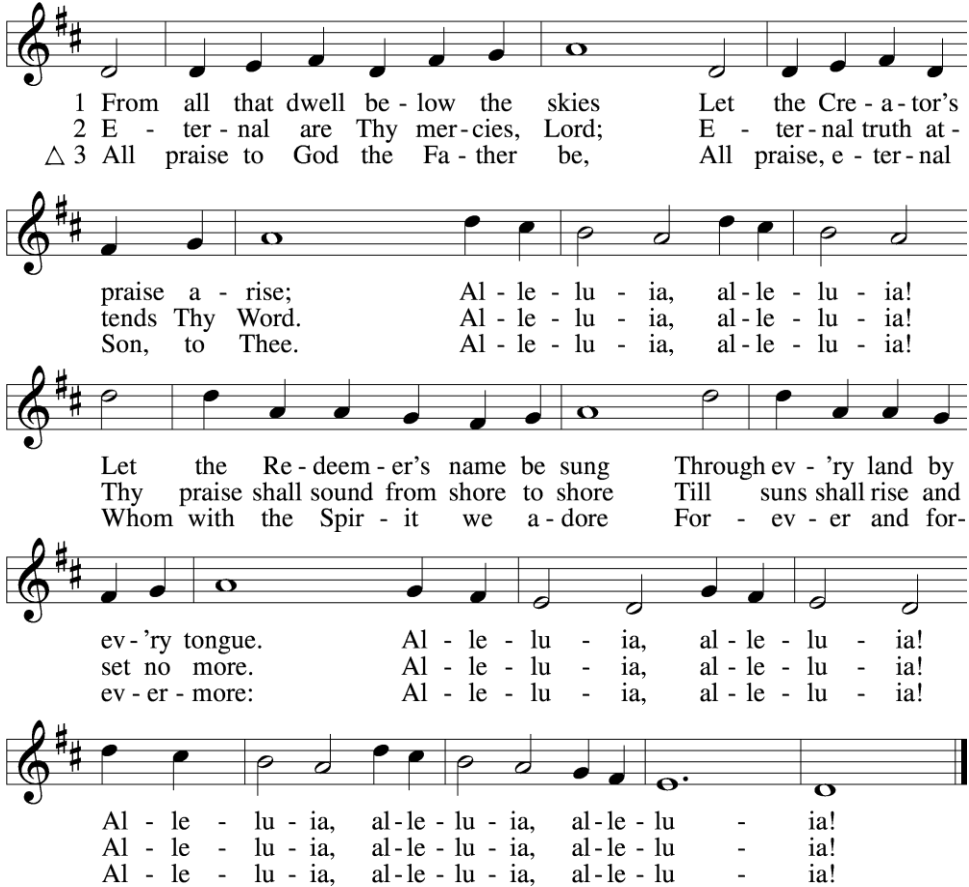


THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

August 9, 2026

“The Softness of God’s Heart in the Hardness of Suffering”

THE OPENING HYMN #816 “From All That Dwell Below the Skies”



1 From all that dwell be-low the skies Let the Cre-a-tor's
2 E-ter-nal are Thy mer-cies, Lord; E-ter-nal truth at-
△ 3 All praise to God the Fa-ther be, All praise, e-ter-nal
praise a-rise; Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
tends Thy Word. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Son, to Thee. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Let the Re-deem-er's name be sung Through ev-'ry land by
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and
Whom with the Spir-it we a-dore For-ev-er and for-
ev-'ry tongue. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
set no more. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
ev-er-more: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: O almighty God,

C: Merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

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.

(please be seated)

THE INTROIT Psalm 34:4-8; *antiphon: Psalm 34:1* (ESV)

P: I will bless the Lord at all times;

C: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

P: I sought the Lord, and He answered me

C: and delivered me from all my fears.

P: Those who look to Him are radiant,

C: and their faces shall never be ashamed.

P: This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him

C: and saved him out of all his troubles.

P: The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: I will bless the Lord at all times;

C: His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #726 *“Evening and Morning”*



1 Eve - ning and morn - ing, Sun - set and dawn - ing, Wealth, peace, and
2 Fa - ther, O hear me, Par - don and spare me; Calm all my
3 Ills that still grieve me Soon are to leave me; Though bil - lows
4 To God in heav - en All praise be giv - en! Come, let us



glad - ness, Com - fort in sad - ness: These are Thy works; all the
ter - rors, Blot out my er - rors That by Thine eyes they may
tow - er, And winds gain pow - er, Af - ter the storm the fair
of - fer And glad - ly prof - fer To the Cre - a - tor the



glo - ry be Thine! Times with - out num - ber, A - wake or in
no more be scanned. Or - der my go - ings, Di - rect all my
sun shows its face. Joys e'er in - creas - ing And peace nev - er
gifts He doth prize. He well re - ceiv - eth A heart that be -



slum - ber, Thine eye ob - serves us, From dan - ger pre - serves us,
do - ings; As it may please Thee, Re - tain or re - lease me;
ceas - ing: These shall I trea - sure And share in full mea - sure
liev - eth; Hymns that a - dore Him Are pre - cious be - fore Him



Caus - ing Thy mer - cy up - on us to shine.
All I com - mit to Thy fa - ther - ly hand.
When in His man - sions God grants me a place.
And to His throne like sweet in - cense a - rise.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Job 38:4-18 (ESV)

[The Lord said to Job] “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone, when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy? Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the

womb, when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stayed'? Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place, that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it? It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment. From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken. Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness? Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL Psalm 34:9, 19 (ESV)

P: Fear the Lord, you His saints,

C: for those who fear Him lack nothing!

P: Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

C: but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

THE EPISTLE Romans 10:5-17 (ESV)

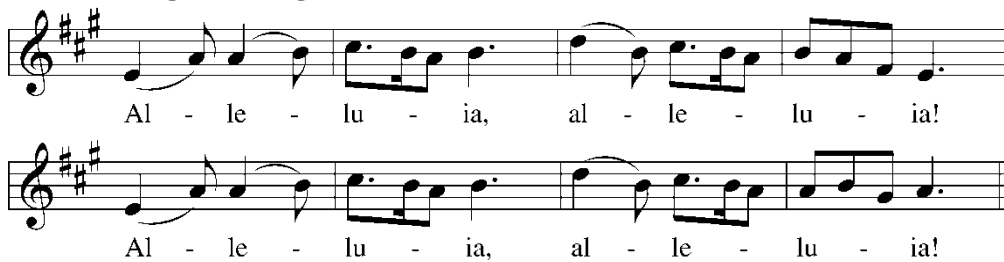
For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the Law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them [*Leviticus 18:5*]. But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" [*Deuteronomy 30:13*] (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The Word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" [*Deuteronomy 30:14*] (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame" [*Isaiah 28:16*]. For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" [*Joel 2:32*]. How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" [*Isaiah 52:7*]. But they have not all obeyed the Gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what He has heard from us?" [*Isaiah 53:1*] So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE ALLELUIA VERSE



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THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 14:22-33 (ESV)

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

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

Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowds. And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone, but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out His hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE 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.

(please be seated)

THE MEMORY VERSE *The 3rd Commandment & What does this mean?*

from Luther's Small Catechism

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #717 *"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"*



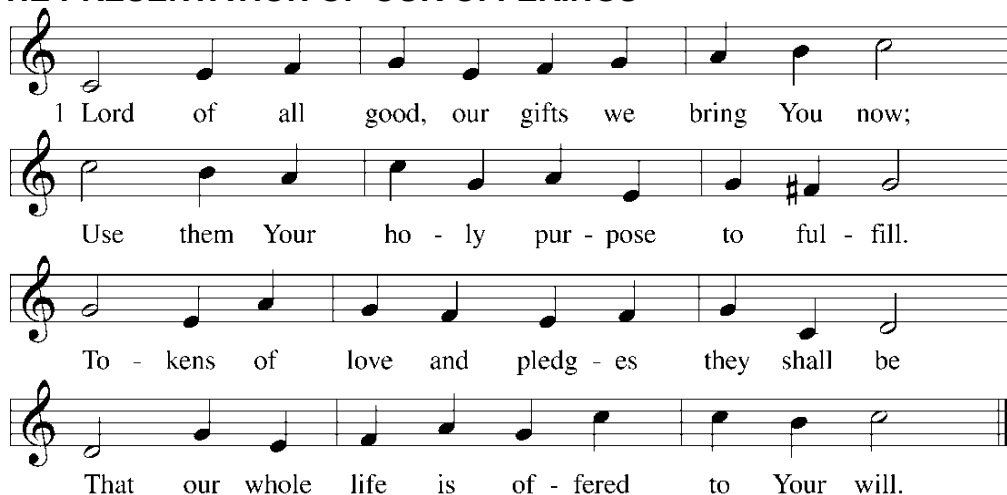
1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the
2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, O'er which our traf - fic
3 O Spir - it, whom the Fa - ther sent To spread a - broad the
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, Our peo - ple shield in
rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep Its
runs a - main By moun - tain pass or val - ley low; Wher -
fir - ma - ment; O Wind of heav - en, by Thy might Save
dan - ger's hour; From rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, Pro -
own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
ev - er, Lord, Thy peo - ple go, Pro - tect them by Thy
all who dare the ea - gle's flight, And keep them by Thy
tect them where - so - e'er they go; Thus ev - er - more shall
cry guard - ing hand From those in per - il on the sea.
watch - ful care From ev - 'ry per - il on the land.
rise to Thee Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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THE SERMON *"The Softness of God's Heart in the Hardness of Suffering"* Text: Job 38:4-18

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS



1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
Use them Your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill.
To - kens of love and pledg - es they shall be
That our whole life is of - fered to Your will.

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Lord, in Your mercy," "**hear our prayer.**")

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.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

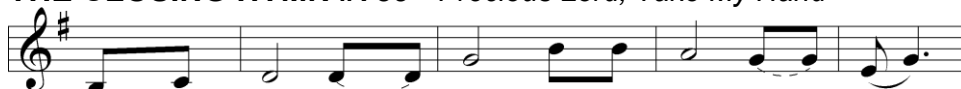
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✕ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #739 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"



1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand;
2 When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
3 When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws near



I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
When my life is al - most gone,
And the day is al - most gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
At the riv - er I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,



Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.
Take my hand, pre - cious Lord; lead me home.

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS