

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 28, 2025

“A Child-Like Faith”

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #979 *“God, Whose Almighty Word”*



1 God, whose al - might - y word Cha - os and
2 Lord, who once came to bring, On Your re -
3 Spir - it of truth and love, Life - giv - ing,
△ 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed Three, Glo - ri - ous



dark - ness heard And took their flight: Hear us, we
deem - ing wing, Heal - ing and sight, Health to the
ho - ly dove, Speed forth Your flight; Move on the
Trin - i - ty, Wis - dom, love, might! Bound - less as



hum - bly pray, And where the Gos - pel day
sick in mind, Sight to the in - ly blind:
wa - ter's face, Bear - ing the lamp of grace,
o - cean's tide, Roll - ing in full - est pride,



Sheds not its glo - rious ray, Let there be light!
Oh, now to hu - man-kind Let there be light!
And in earth's dark - est place Let there be light!
Through the earth, far and wide, Let there be light!

THE INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Lord God, by nature we are sinful and spiritually blind. In our darkness, we have staggered about, placing our love and trust in false gods that we can see with our physical eyes: false gods such as money, family, and our own selves. Forgive us for not seeking You above all, and grant us eyes of faith to find forgiveness in the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We humbly ask You to have mercy upon us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 145 (ESV)

P: I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your name forever and ever.

C: Every day I will bless You and praise Your name forever and ever.

P: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.

C: One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.

P: On the glorious splendor of Your majesty, and on Your wondrous works, I will meditate.

C: They shall speak of the might of Your awesome deeds, and I will declare Your greatness.

P: They shall pour forth the fame of Your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of Your righteousness.

C: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P: The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made.

C: All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless You!

P: They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and tell of Your power,

C: to make known to the children of man Your mighty deeds, and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.

P: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is faithful in all His words and kind in all His works.

C: The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

P: The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due season.

C: You open Your hand; You satisfy the desire of every living thing.

P: The LORD is righteous in all His ways and kind in all His works.

C: The LORD is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

P: He fulfills the desire of those who fear Him; He also hears their cry and saves them.

C: The LORD preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy.

P: My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,

C: and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.

**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.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, in Your kindness You cause the light of the Gospel to shine among us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, help us to share the good news of Your salvation that all who hear it may rejoice in the gift of Your unending love; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 60:1-5 (ESV)

Rise shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Titus 2:11-14 (ESV)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession who are zealous for good works.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE *(sung) (page 156 in the hymnal)*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 18:1-3 (ESV)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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

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 *3rd Petition of the Lord's Prayer & What Does This Mean?* *from Luther's Small Catechism*

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

What does this mean? The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's will done? God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #588 *"Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"*



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

THE MISSION REPORT ~ Gary Thies—LCMS Mission Development Counselor

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS (pages 192-193 in the hymnal)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (Sunday)

The Receiving of Caleb and Emily Schroeder along with their children Ada and Lane

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (printed inside the back cover of the hymnal)

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 #921 "On What Has Now Been Sown"



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par-don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless-ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS