

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2026

"To Live is Christ; to Die is Gain!"

THE WELCOME

Today, we ask the Lord to open our eyes so that we may acknowledge and rejoice in His great gift of mercy and pardon in Christ and walk worthy of this grace every day.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive that we may love as He forgives and loves us.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a belief different from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked to first speak with the Pastor. Visitors who have previously spoken with the Pastor, and who received permission to commune, do not need to seek permission for subsequent visits to this altar. For further study, see: Matthew 5:23f, 10:32f, 18:15-35, 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

THE OPENING HYMN #596 (verses 1-4) *"All Christians Who Have Been Baptized"*



1 All Chris-tians who have been bap-tized, Who know the God of
2 You were be-fore your day of birth, In-deed, from your con-
3 But all of that was washed a-way— Im-mersed and drowned for-
4 In Bap-tism we now put on Christ— Our shame is ful-ly



heav-en, And in whose dai-ly life is prized The name of
cep-tion, Con-demned and lost with all the earth, None good, with-
ev-er. The wa-ter of your Bap-tism day Re-stored a-
cov-ered With all that He once sac-ri-ficed And free-ly



Christ once giv-en: Con-sid-er now what God has done, The
out ex-cep-tion. For like your par-ents' flesh and blood, Turned
gain what-ev-er Old Ad-am and his sin de-destroyed And
for us suf-fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now



gifts He gives to ev-'ry-one Bap-tized in-to Christ Je-sus!
in-ward from the high-est good, You con-stant-ly de-nied Him.
all our sin-ful selves em-ployed Ac-cord-ing to our na-ture.
makes us ho-ly, right, and good Be-fore our heav'n-ly Fa-ther.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (Sunday) (page 268 in the hymnal)

The Baptism of Braxton Harold Alva Segebart

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

C: Amen.

P: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;

C: be gracious to me and answer me!

P: You have said, "Seek my face."

C: My heart says to You, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."

P: Hide not Your face from me. Turn not Your servant away in anger,

**C: O You who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God
of my salvation!**

(Psalm 27:7-9)

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

P: O Almighty God,

**C: Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, and judge of all people, we
confess to You that we have sinned. We have turned away from one another in our
thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done
the good You desire. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Because of
the obedience and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgiving
us all that is past and granting us the Holy Spirit to guide us into the future. 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.

(please be seated)

THE HYMN #596 (verses 5-6) "All Christians Who Have Been Baptized"

**5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift
And give God thanks forever!
It gives the power to uplift
In all that you endeavor.
When nothing else revives your soul,
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
And then in death completes you.**

**6 So use it well! You are made new—
In Christ a new creation!
As faithful Christians, live and do
Within your own vocation,
Until that day when you possess
His glorious robe of righteousness
Bestowed on you forever!**

Text: © 2004 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001990

Tune: Public domain

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on
anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your
Word; 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 Isaiah 55:6-9 (ESV)

“Seek the LORD while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Philipians 1:12-14, 19-30 (ESV)

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . . For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE *(sung) (page 205)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 19:30—20:1-16 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the nineteenth and twentieth chapters.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said] “Many who are first will be last, and the last first. For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day [*a denarius was a day’s wage for a laborer*], he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all

day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED (Saturday only)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #694 *"Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower"*



1 Thee will I love, my strength, my tow - er; Thee will I
2 Thee will I love, my life, my Sav - ior, Who art my
3 I thank Thee, Je - sus, Sun from heav - en, Whose ra - diance
4 O keep me watch - ful, then, and hum - ble; Per - mit me
5 Thee will I love, my crown of glad - ness; Thee will I



love, my hope, my joy. Thee will I love with all my
best and tru - est friend. Thee will I love and praise for -
hath brought light to me; I thank Thee, who hast rich - ly
nev - er - more to stray. Up - hold me when my feet would
love, my God and Lord, A - mid the dark - est depths of



pow - er, With ar - dor time shall ne'er de - stroy. Thee will I
ev - er, For nev - er shall Thy kind-ness end. Thee will I
giv - en All that could make me glad and free; I thank Thee
stum - ble, And keep me on the nar - row way. Fill all my
sad - ness, And not for hope of high re - ward, For Thine own



love, O Light di - vine, So long as life is mine.
love with all my heart— Thou my Re - deem - er art!
that my soul is healed By what Thy lips re - vealed.
na - ture with Thy light, O Ra - diance strong and bright!
sake, O Light di - vine, So long as life is mine.

THE SERMON *"To Live is Christ; to Die is Gain!"* Text: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

THE HYMN #612 “As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered”



1 As reb - els, Lord, who fool - ish - ly have wan - dered
2 Still we re - turn, our con - trite words re - hears - ing,
3 A feast of love for us You are pre - par - ing;



Far from Your love— un - fed, un - clean, un - clothed—
Speech, that with - in Your warm em - brace soon dies;
We who were lost, You give an hon - ored place!



Dare we re - call Your wealth so rash - ly squan - dered,
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain re - vers - ing
“Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more de - spair - ing—



Dare hope to glean that boun - ty which we loathed?
As tears of joy and wel - come fill Your eyes.
Here taste a - gain the trea - sures of My grace.”

Text: © 1992 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001990
Tune: © 2003 Jeffrey N. Blerch. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001990

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(Each petition concludes with the following response: “Let us pray to the Lord,” “**Lord, have mercy.**”)*

THE PREFACE *(responses are spoken)*

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 Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

THE SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy (sung) (page 208 in the hymnal)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Saturday only)

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 INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION AND HYMNS

#547 "The Lamb"



1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.
He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.
His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

#617 "O Lord, We Praise Thee"



1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and a - dore Thee,
2 Thy ho - ly bod - y in - to death was giv - en,
3 May God be - stow on us His grace and fa - vor



In thanks - giv - ing bow be - fore Thee. Thou with Thy
Life to win for us in heav - en. No great - er
That we fol - low Christ our Sav - ior And live to -



bod - y and Thy blood didst nour - ish Our weak souls that
love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast there -
geth - er here in love and u - nion Nor de - spise this



they may flour - ish: O Lord, have mer - cy!
of re - mind us! O Lord, have mer - cy!
blest Com - mu - nion! O Lord, have mer - cy!



May Thy bod - y, Lord, born of Mar - y, That our
Lord, Thy kind - ness did so con - strain Thee That Thy
Let not Thy good Spir - it for - sake us; Grant that



sins and sor - rows did car - ry, And Thy blood for us plead
blood should bless and sus - tain me. All our debt Thou hast paid;
heav'n - ly - mind - ed He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see



In all tri - al, fear, and need: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mer - cy!
Days of peace and u - ni - ty: O Lord, have mer - cy!

#680 "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the
3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the
4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree
ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee
won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise
dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the
Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the
Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the
Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the
sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the
sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the
ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

Text and tune: © 1983 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001990

(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✕ in peace.

C: Amen.

THE POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: O God, You satisfy the longing of our hearts with great mercy and bring us to the fullness of Your grace and favor. . . . ; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 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 look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS