

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 14, 2025



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS-LCMS

*Welcoming all to walk together
toward abundant life in Christ.*

THEME: BE HEARERS AND DOERS OF THE WORD

⁴⁷ *Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:*
⁴⁸ *he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock.*
And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. Luke 6:47–48 (ESV)

THE PREPARATION

We prepare our hearts and minds by confessing our sins and humbly turning to our God who alone is able to forgive our sins. “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”
(II Corinthians 5:17)

A NOTE ABOUT SAFETY: We desire to remain a warm and friendly congregation while providing a safe and secure place to worship. To that end, we have a few tips for your participation with us today.

- If you see something, say something. If you happen to notice something out of the ordinary, please mention it to our safety team (yellow badges) or elder (golden badges).
- In a safety emergency, please keep calm and do not leave the secured building unless instructed by a safety team member or elder.

A REMINDER: Please turn your cell phone to mute or to vibrate during the worship service. Thank you.

AS WE GATHER

The charge against Jesus was always the same—He keeps the wrong company. But Jesus has come for sinners, and if you are not a sinner, He does not have anything for you. To emphasize why He has come, our Lord tells the stories of ninety-nine sheep left behind to find one who is lost and a woman who rejoices over finding one lost coin. You are that lost sheep and lost coin for whom Christ has come and in whom heaven rejoices. Jesus has come for you and for you He has offered Himself upon the cross and been laid in the tomb. This is the heavenly joy of the angels above, and it is our earthly joy as well. Christ came for us!

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME, & The TOLLING OF THE BELLS

(The tolling of the bells is an ancient custom that according to some is said to call upon the name of the Lord and alert the community to our call to worship. As the bells toll, we reverently prepare our hearts and minds to receive the blessings God has promised in His Word and Sacraments.)



✠ Confession and Absolution ✠

(Please stand)

OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

LSB 686 sts. 1, 3–4



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -
 4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy

sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
 strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter
 love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,

Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
 Bind my wan-d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
 How I'll sing Thy won-drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er

glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
 feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
 tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine

ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
 heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
 an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–90, alt.

Text: Public domain

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *LSB 184*

C Amen. *Matthew 28:19b [18:20]*

OPENING SENTENCES - INTROIT

Psalm 30:2–5; antiphon: vv. 11a, 12b

P You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;

C **O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!**

P O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,

C **and you have healed me.**

P O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;

C **you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.**

P Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints,

C **and give thanks to his holy name.**

P For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime.

C **Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**

ALL: **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 You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;

C **O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!**

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.**

1 John 1:8-9

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

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

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We
have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and
by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we
have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and
eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk
in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. 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

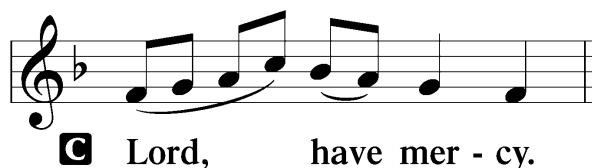
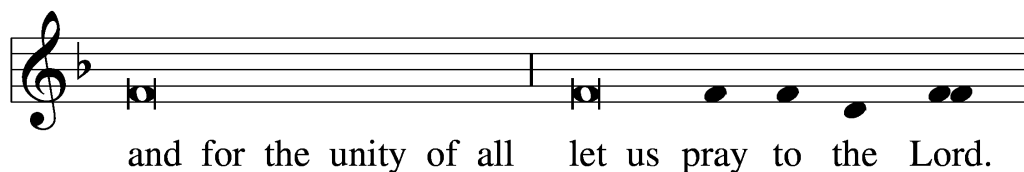
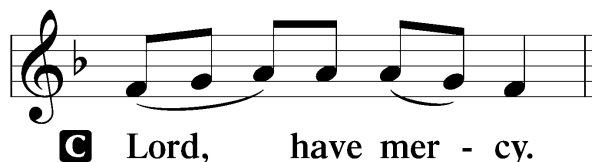
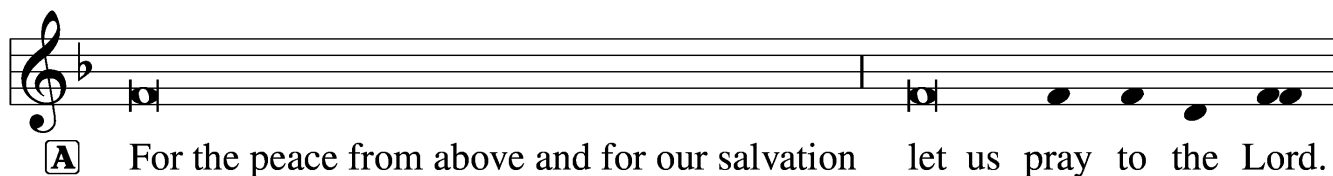
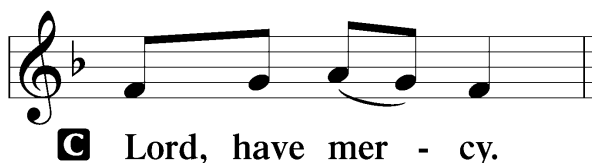
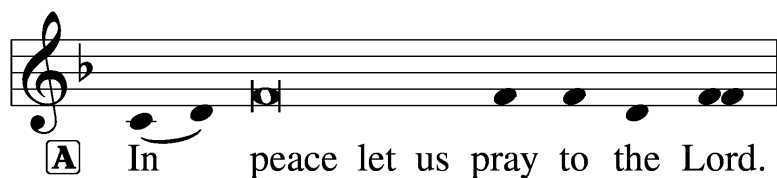
C Amen.

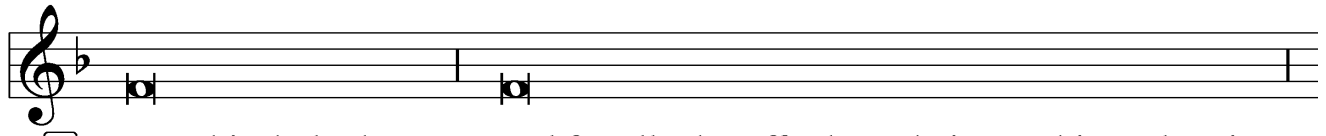
✠ Service of the Word ✠

KYRIE

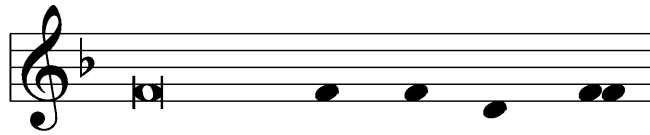
Mark 10:47

LSB 152

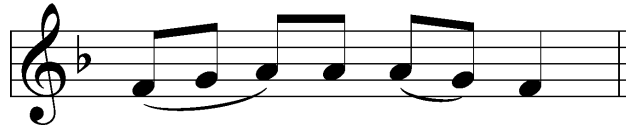




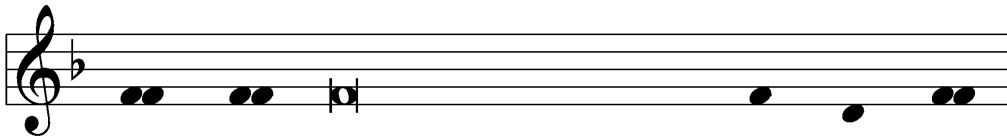
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



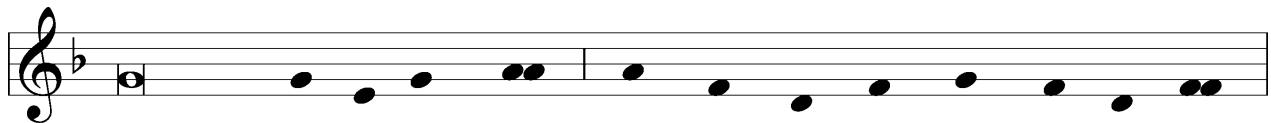
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

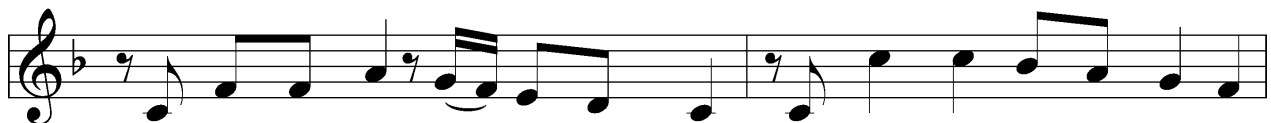
LSB 154



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



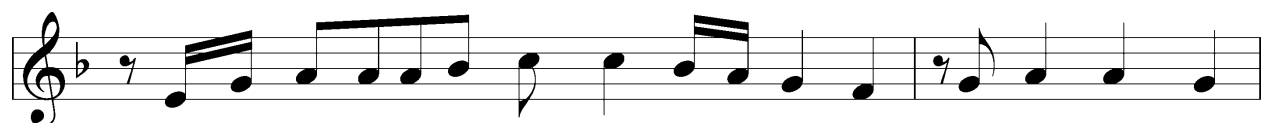
We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



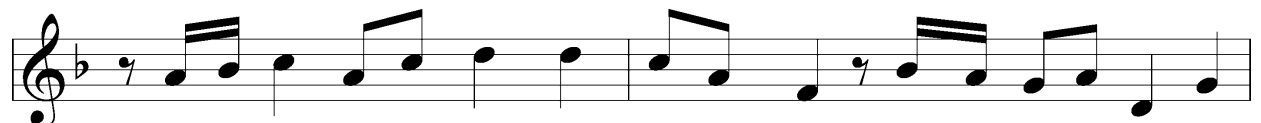
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord,



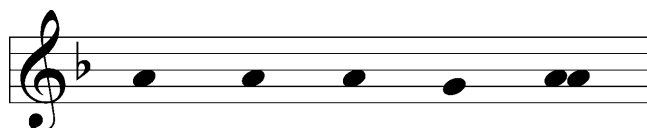
You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

LSB 156



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 34:11–24

(If God is to break the power and reign of sin, He must send into this world His own vice-regent, His servant David. This future human-divine Shepherd and Prince will not destroy the sheep but feed them with bread from heaven (Jn 6:32–40). The brilliance of divine revelation shines into coming centuries. Ezekiel sees this transformation from doom to delight in the perspective of prophetic vision. Past, present, and future merge into a single dimension of timeless fact.)

¹¹“For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹²As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.



¹⁷“As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. ¹⁸Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? ¹⁹And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

²⁰“Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, ²²I will rescue my flock; they

shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. ²³And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Timothy 1:5–17

(This Epistle was written to stop the teaching of false doctrine among the Ephesian churches and to promote the teaching of sound doctrine. Our sinful nature often leads us to be unconcerned about the doctrines God has given us in His Word. When this happens, we are guilty of being poor stewards of the Gospel. Yet, in the good news of Jesus Christ, we are given a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith—all of which enable us to receive God’s gift of sound doctrine with thanksgiving and eagerness.)

⁵The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. ⁶Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, ⁷desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

⁸Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, ⁹understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, ¹⁰the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, ¹¹in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.



¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, ¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full

acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30)

(Children, and parents of little ones, are invited forward to the chancel area.)

(Please stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

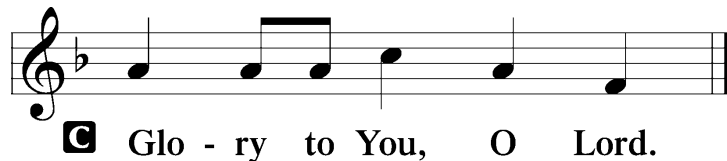
John 6:68

LSB 156



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

Luke 15:1–10



(In the first of three similar parables, Jesus uses the devotion of a shepherd to illustrate God's willingness to find the wayward sinner. God does not abandon us to our foolishness but seeks us out, calling us to repentance and to faith in the Gospel. • Bring us home, dear Lord, and let there be joy in heaven. Grant us daily repentance. Amen)

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ⁴"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. ⁶And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' ⁷Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.



⁸"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? ⁹And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' ¹⁰Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 159

C 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.

(Be seated)

SERMON HYMN

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609 sts. 1–4

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Jesus sinners doth receive;
Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin's delusions live
And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive. | 3. Sheep that from the fold did stray
No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way
Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live:
Jesus sinners doth receive. |
| 2. We deserve but grief and shame,
Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;
Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive. | 4. I, a sinner, come to Thee
With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me;
Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive. |

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann
Neumeister, 1671–1756
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SERMON

Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk

OFFERING

For those worshiping online, please visit www.lccross.org to find links to our Give+ secured online giving portal and our online Pew Card which is called a Connect Card. Or to fill out the card directly go to <https://forms.gle/X46ym1HuZ9DCsq9s6>



For those worshiping in-person, please indicate your attendance and any requests on the Pew Card.

OFFERING HYMN

Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609 sts. 5–7

5. Oh, how blest it is to know:
Were as scarlet my transgression,
It shall be as white as snow
By Thy blood and bitter passion;
For these words I now believe:
Jesus sinners doth receive.
6. Now my conscience is at peace;
From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release
And my ev'ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve:
Jesus sinners doth receive.
7. Jesus sinners doth receive;
Also I have been forgiven;
And when I this earth must leave,
I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave:
Jesus sinners doth receive.



Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756
Text: Public domain

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Let us pray for ourselves and for all people as they have need.

O merciful Shepherd, You came into the world to save sinners. Grant to us forgiveness of our sins, renewal of our lost lives, and the grace to serve You in willing obedience all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O merciful Shepherd, grant us grace that we know Your Word as the sound of Your voice. Grant to us faithful pastors who will rightly divide Your Word of truth and bless all church workers and those in training to serve us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O merciful Shepherd, guard against all false doctrine and against those who teach in conflict with Your Word that the sheep of Your flock be preserved in faith to know and believe rightly by the power of Your Spirit. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O merciful Shepherd, give us good and faithful leaders who will govern us according to Your will and lead us and all nations in the ways of peace, justice, and virtue, that we live good, holy, and upright lives without fear or threat. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O merciful Shepherd, You do not abandon Your sheep even when they are wounded and infirm. Deliver the weak, the suffering, the troubled in mind, and those with hearts weighed low with grief, [*especially . . .*].

We pray that they be healed and comforted according to Your will and delivered from all that afflicts them on the day when You raise Your people to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O merciful Shepherd, You daily and richly supply all things good and beneficial to us and guard us against the evil one. Give us a discerning mind and a generous heart that as You have done for us, we do for others in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O merciful Shepherd, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, and confident that You will hear and answers us, O Lord.

C **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“The Lord’s Prayer”

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

- 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.

CLOSING HYMN

By Grace I'm Saved

LSB 566 sts. 1, 3, 5–6

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?
No! Then this word must true remain:
By grace you too will life obtain. | 5. By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
In tribulation's furnace tried,
By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,
The Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
If grace were not my anchor sure? |
| 3. By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of your own merit
That Jesus died your soul to win?
No, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne. | 6. By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone. |

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709–61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Text: Public domain

SILENT PRAYER & CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE



Acknowledgments

Scripture notes taken from Engelbrecht, Edward A. *The Lutheran Study Bible*. St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2009.
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Pastor: Rev. Dr. R. Brian Stolarczyk ~ Winter Assistant Pastor: Rev. Jerry Menk

Organist: Stephen Kopp III

Flute Soloist: Raymond Stolarczyk ~ Trumpet: Luke Stolarczyk

Handbell Co-Directors: Bill & Ronna Trueman ~ Vocal Choir Director: Arnie Piering

Clarinet: Bill Trueman ~ Drums: Chris Wrightsman

Saxophone: Cheryl Domingo ~ Trombone: Arnie Piering

September 14, 2025

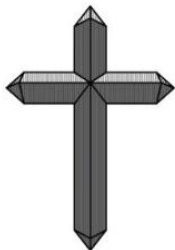
Welcoming all to walk together toward abundant life in Christ

The **ETERNAL LIGHT** this month is provided to the Glory of God by
Diane Barton in memory of her mother, Vivian Barton.

The **FLOWERS** on the altar this week are provided to the Glory of God by
Jim & Margaret Andrews in memory of the birthday of Jim's father, Leo Andrews (09/08).

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Bell Tollers	Marita Noe, Luke Stolarczyk
Elders on Duty	Mark Keck, Chris Trapp
Lay Readers	Gloria Cvelbar, Raymond Stolarczyk
Usher/Greeters	Dorothy Christman, Gary Fleming, Eric McDonald
Altar Servers	Cathy McCabe, Lori Nelson
Safety Team	David Aiken, Mark Keck
Streaming Team	Gloria Cvelbar, Kay Helgersen, Alex Scherer



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES:

7:30AM & 10:30AM

OFFICE HOURS:

By Phone: Monday – Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm
(941) 627-6060 ~ Fax: (941) 627-5467

By email: secretary@lccross.org

Find us on the Web: www.lccross.org

Subscribe to our YouTube Channel or Like us on Facebook.

IF YOU HAVE any comments, questions or suggestions, please contact:

Head Elder Jim McCabe: 847-471-1421

In case of Emergency you may reach Pastor Stolarczyk: Cell: 941-979-7490

**LCC ATTENDANCE REPORT &
WEEKLY INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT 2025**

Week Of: 09/07/2025		
On-Site Attendance 45/89	Weekly Contributions	
	Income:	\$6,086
	Expense:	\$ 11,170

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR EXTENDED VACATION

Please be advised that Jennifer, our Parish Administrator, will be on a leave of absence for the entire month of September. During this time, she will not be available for work items via text, voicemail, or email.

You can always text her to just say hello!

If you have any urgent matters that need attention, please reach out Bill Heffernan 630-240-0075.

She will resume her office duties on Monday, October 6th.

Thank you for your understanding.

SEPTEMBER WILL BE LCC PRAYER SHAWL MONTH!

Prayer shawls are symbolic of God's grace, peace, inclusive and unconditional love. Touching a prayer shawl gives comfort and the assurance that God is near. It is a reminder that we are NEVER alone. the Prayer Shawl Ministry will have a display in the church narthex all through the month of September. The small pocket/purse prayer shawls are also now available in both the church narthex and the FMC on the glass prayer shawl display case.

Prayer shawls are always available upon request by contacting Joyce Spier or the church office.



UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS:

- Mon-Sept 15** Men's Bible Study @ 11:30am (FMC)
- Tues-Sept 16** Church Council Meeting @ 6:00pm (OFH)
- Thurs-Sept 18** Altar Communion Set Up @ 9:00am (Sacristy/Sanctuary)
Bible Class: The Chosen Season 5 @ 10:00am (FMC)
Handbell Rehearsal @ 4:30pm (Sanctuary)