



Luther Memorial Church

Holy Communion

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026 | 10:30 AM

Welcome!

Please silence your cell phone in the nave.

Welcome to Luther Memorial Church! We're glad you're here and invite you to join us in worship and fellowship. Whether you're visiting for the first time, returning after time away or looking for a church community to call home, you are welcome here.

If you would like to learn more:

- Please speak to a pastor,
- Fill out a pew card and place in the offering plate, or
- Visit us online at www.luthermem.org or Facebook

CHILDCARE

Infants and children are welcome in worship. Changing tables are located in the restrooms. A staffed nursery is available Sundays 9 am–noon.

RESOURCES

T-coil audio is available in the nave. Ushers can provide hearing assistance and a wheelchair, if needed. Prayer shawls are available in the narthex.

HYMNAL

The red hymnal in the pew in front of you contains much of the music used in this service. Page numbers are in the front part of the hymnal on the bottom of the page, while hymns are found towards the rear of the hymnal.

PARKING

Free parking is available Sundays in Grainger Hall parking ramp, one block east of the church, off Brooks Street. For closer access, parking is available in the garage under the church off Conklin Place alley.

PRELUDE Two Sinfonia | Cristofano Malvezzi (1547–1599)

GATHERING

Please rise.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Please turn and face the cross as the procession approaches the altar.

#416 PROCESSIONAL HYMN At the Name of Jesus

APOSTOLIC 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

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,

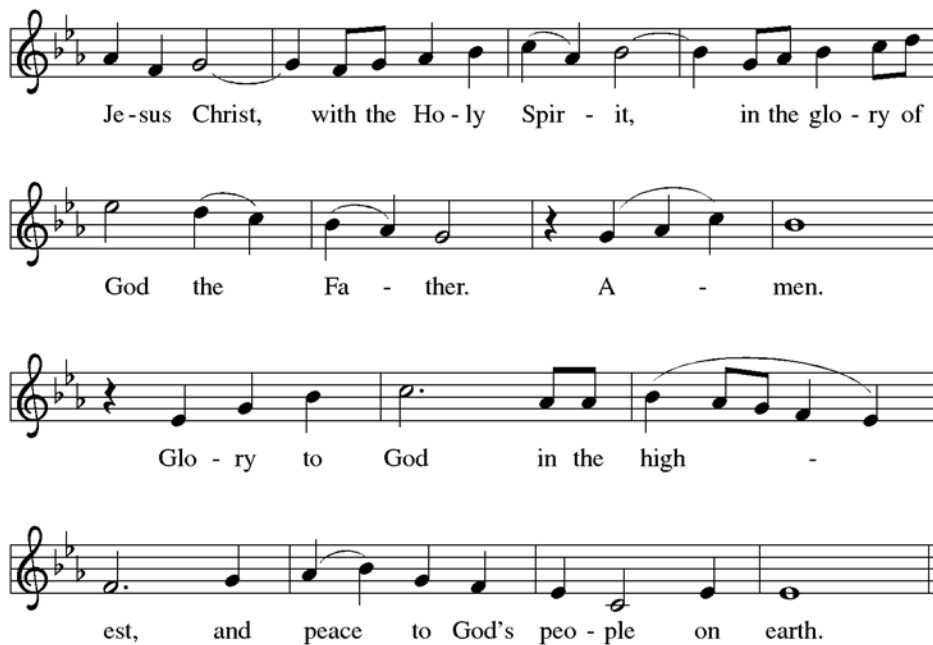
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

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,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

WORD

Please sit.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

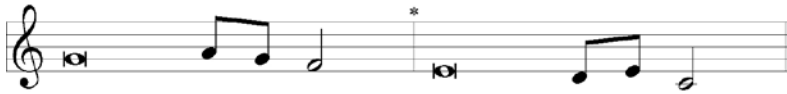
Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-9

The choir sings the antiphon, “Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,” before and after the psalm. The choir and congregation alternate in the singing of the psalm verses, beginning with the choir.



To | you, O Lord,

I lift | up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

**Show me your | ways, O Lord,
and teach | me your paths.**

Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

**Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.

**You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Choir: My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them and they follow me.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

SERMON

Please rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go (Lutheran Book of Worship #505)

Stanza 1 sung by choir; stanzas 2-5 sung by all.

1 Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go, my dai - ly
2 The task thy wis - dom has as - signed, oh, let me
3 Thee may I set at my right hand, whose eyes my
4 Give me to bear thine eas - y yoke, and ev - 'ry
5 For thee de - light - ful - ly em - ploy what - e'er thy

la - bor to pur - sue; thee, on - ly thee, re - solved
cheer - ful - ly ful - fill; in all my works thy pres -
in - most sub - stance see, and la - bor on at thy
mo - ment watch and pray, and still to things e - ter -
boun - teous grace has giv'n, and run my course with e -

to know in all I think or speak or do.
ence find, and prove thy good and per - fect will.
com - mand, and of - fer all my works to thee.
nal look, and has - ten to thy glo - rious day;
ven joy, and close - ly walk with thee to heav'n.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*Please greet your neighbor: **Peace be with you.***

MEAL

Please sit.

OFFERING Jesu, the Very Thought of Thee | Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

Jesu, the very thought of thee,
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far thy face to see,
And in thy presence rest.

No voice can sing,
Nor memory find
A sweeter sound than thy blest name,
O Savior of mankind.

O hope of every contrite heart!
O joy of all the meek!
To those who fall how kind thou art;
How good to those who seek!

But what to those who find? Ah, this
No tongue nor pen can show;
The love of Jesus! What it is
None but his loved ones know.

Jesu, our only joy be thou,
As thou our prize wilt be;
Jesu, be thou our glory now
And through eternity.

Please rise.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

This musical score is for the hymn 'GREAT THANKSGIVING'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

This musical score is for the hymn 'HOLY, HOLY, HOLY'. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is more complex than the first hymn, with some longer notes and rests. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of', 'pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -', 'san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the', and 'name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy... until he comes.

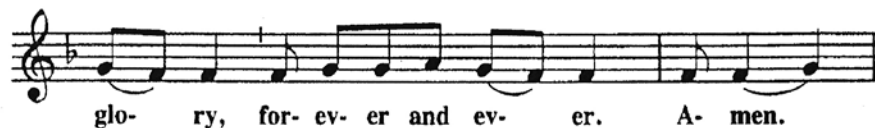
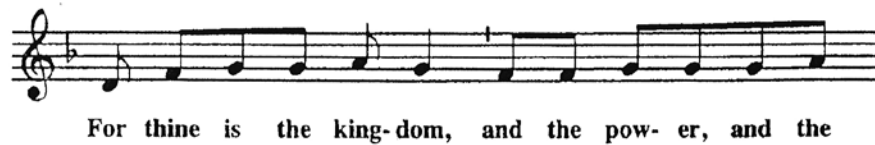
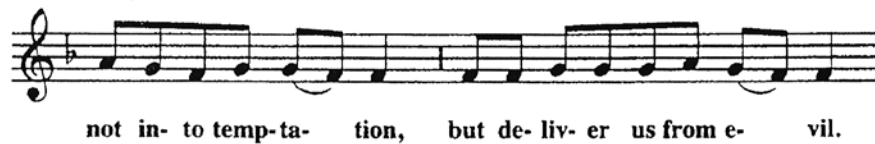
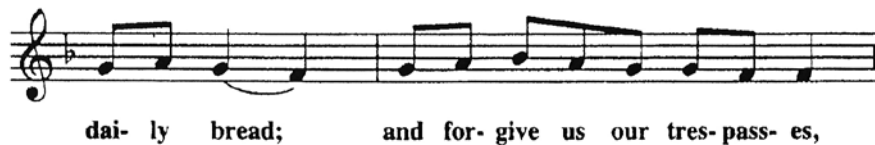
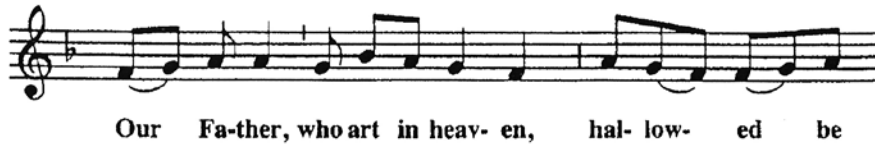
Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

This musical score is for the hymn 'THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE'. It consists of one staff of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.'

Remembering, therefore... now and forever.



LORD'S PRAYER

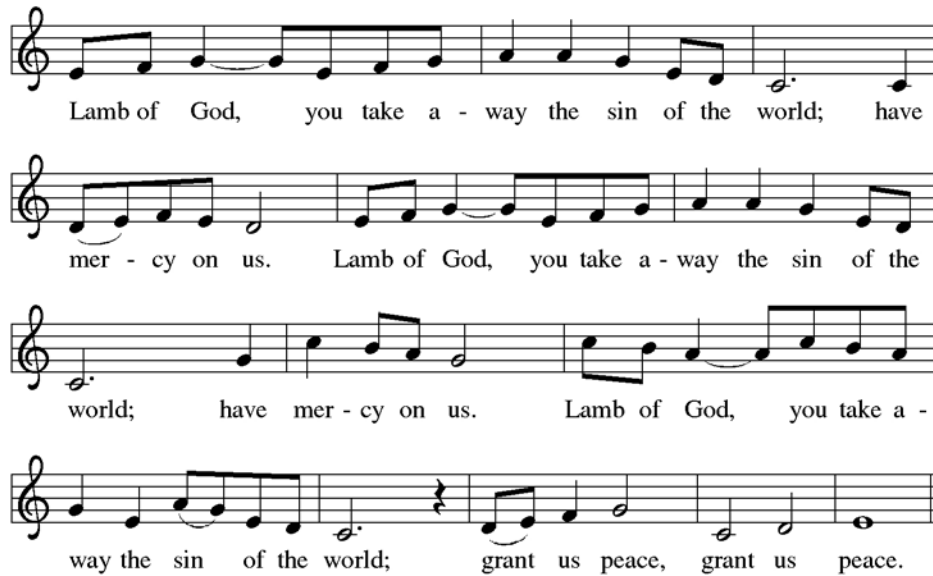


THE COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion. We receive the Body of Christ (bread) in our open hands. Christ is fully present in both bread and cup. The Blood of Christ (wine) may be received in any of three ways: by drinking from the first chalice, by dipping the bread (intinction) into the chalice, or by drinking from an individual glass poured from a second chalice. Gluten-free bread is available on request.

Please sit.

LAMB OF GOD



MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION The Song Called Trumpets | Robert Parsons (1535–1572)

COMMUNION HYMNS

#818 O Master, Let Me Walk with You

#685 Take My Life, That I May Be

Please rise.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

#537 RECESSIONAL HYMN On Our Way Rejoicing

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Swing-Five on *Erhalt uns, Herr* | Johannes Matthias Michel (b. 1962)

TODAY FROM THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

O Thou God Omnipotent,
who so carest for every one
of us, as if Thou carest for
him alone; and so for all, as
if all were but one! Blessed
is the man who loveth Thee,
and his friend in Thee, and
his enemy for Thee. For he
only loses none dear to him,
to whom all are dear in Him
who cannot be lost. And
who is that but our God,
the God that made heaven
and earth, and filleth them,
even by filling them creating
them. And Thy law is truth,
and truth is Thyself. I behold
how some things may pass
away that others may replace
them, but Thou dost never
depart, O God, my Father
supremely good, Beauty of all
things beautiful. To Thee will
I intrust whatsoever I have
received from Thee, so shall
I lose nothing. Thou madest
me for Thyself, and my heart
is restless until it rests in
Thee. Amen.

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo
(354 – 430)

SERVING TODAY

PRESIDER	Pastor Brad Pohlman
PREACHER	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
ORGANIST	Andrew Schaeffer
ACOLYTES	Hattie Thiele
ASSISTING MINISTER	Margaret Miner
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Derren Slinde, Calvin Slinde, Rolf Wulfsberg
CRUCIFER	Corbin Slinde
LECTOR	Deb Raasch
SACRISTAN	Cynthia Vander Woude
AUDIO	David Heins
VIDEO	Lee Powell
HEAD USHER	Eric Oelkers
USHERS	Casey Oelkers, Dylan Oelkers, Kendall Oelkers

Our thanks to the recorder ensemble for playing this morning.

Altar flowers are given by Sandy Bertics in memory of Vicky Bertics.

Today we remember the inurnment of Chuck Hilston in the LM columbarium. The congregation is invited to visit the columbarium and read his page in the memory books.

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