

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

August 17th, 2025



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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Cover: “The Parable of the Unjust Steward” by Jan Luyken (1649-1712).

THE COMMON SERVICE

Hymn ----- Seek Where You May to Find a Way

CW 395

1. Seek where you may To find a way That leads to your salvation.
My heart is stilled; On Christ I build-He is the one foundation.
His Word is sure; His works endure. He will o'erthrow My ev'ry foe;
Through him I more than conquer.
2. Seek whom you may To be your stay; None can redeem his brother.
All helpers failed; This man prevailed, The God-Man, and none other.
The Servant-Lord Our life restored. We're justified, For he has died,
The guiltless for the guilty.
3. Seek him alone, Who did atone, Who did your souls deliver;
Oh, seek him first, All you who thirst For grace that fails you never.
In ev'ry need Seek him indeed; To ev'ry heart He will impart
His blessings without measure.
4. My heart's delight, My crown most bright, Jesus, you are forever.
Not wealth or pride Or aught beside Our bond of love shall sever.
You are my Lord; Your precious Word Shall be my guide What e'er betide.
Oh, teach me, Lord, to trust you!

Stand.

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.



CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

The musical notation consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp). The melody for the word 'Amen' is written on the staff, with a double bar line at the end. The lyrics are written below the notes.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Glory be to God

Gloria in Excelsis



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

O Lord, your ears are always open to the prayers of your humble servants who come to you in Jesus' name. Teach us always to ask according to your will that we may never fail to obtain the blessings you have promised; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- Proverbs 16:1-9

A person may have thought things through in his heart,
but an apt answer from his tongue comes from the LORD.
All of a person's ways are pure in his own eyes,

but the LORD weighs motives.
Commit what you do to the LORD,
and your plans will be established.
The LORD has made everything for his own purpose,

even a wicked person for a day of trouble.
Anyone with an arrogant attitude is disgusting to
the LORD.
Be sure of this: That person will not go
unpunished.
Through mercy and truth, guilt is atoned for,
and through the fear of the LORD, one turns away
from evil.

When the LORD is pleased with a man's ways,
he causes even his enemies to live at peace with
him.
Better a little with righteousness
than a large income without justice.
A person's heart plans his way,
but the LORD makes his steps secure.

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 34

CW p.80

Refrain

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Taste and see that the LORD is good;*
blessed are they who take refuge in him.

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous*
and his ears are attentive to their cry.

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him,*
and he delivers them.

Refrain

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them;*
he delivers them from all their troubles.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted*
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

The LORD redeems his servants;*
no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

**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.**

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- 1 Corinthians 10:6–13

Now these things took place as examples to warn us not to desire evil things the way they did. Do not become idolaters like some of them—as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to celebrate wildly.” And let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell. Let us not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and so were being destroyed by the serpents. And do not grumble, as some of them grumbled, and were

destroyed by the destroyer. All these things that were happening to them had meaning as examples, and they were written down to warn us, to whom the end of the ages has come.

So let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. No testing has overtaken you except ordinary testing. But God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it.

Verse of the Day

Matthew 6:33

M: Alleluia. Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Alleluia.



Stand.

Gospel ----- Luke 16:1–9

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Jesus also said to his disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager who was accused of wasting his possessions. The rich man called him in and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you can no longer be manager.’

“The manager said to himself, ‘What will I

do, since my master is taking away the management position from me? I am not strong enough to dig. I am ashamed to beg. I know what I will do, so that when I am removed from my position as manager, people will receive me into their houses.’

“He called each one of his master’s debtors to him. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe

my master?’ He said, ‘Six hundred gallons of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and write three hundred.’ Then he said to another, ‘How much do you owe?’ And he said, ‘Six hundred bushels of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and write four hundred and eighty.’

“The master commended the dishonest man-

ager because he had acted shrewdly. For the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the children of the light are. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with unrighteous mammon, so that when it runs out, they will welcome you into the eternal dwellings.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one

baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- What Is the World to Me

CW 477

1. What is the world to me With all its vaunted pleasure
When you, and you alone, Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord, My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
2. The world seeks to be praised And honored by the mighty,
Yet never once reflects That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize Above all things is he,
My Jesus, he alone. What is the world to me!
3. The world seeks after wealth And all that money offers,
Yet never is content Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good; Content with it I'll be;
My Jesus is my wealth-What is the world to me!
4. What is the world to me! My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss eternally.
Once more then I declare: What is the world to me!

Sermon ----- Luke 16:1-9

Dogged Pursuit of Eternal Dwellings

Stand.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

CW 272

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a
right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be seated.

Offering

The Rite of Confirmation

Stand.

Prayer of the Church

*The minister offers the petitions and the congregation joins with “**hear our prayer.**”*

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Online giving option:
mluther.org/give



Offerings support the spread
of the Gospel here and around the world.

- M: Almighty God, You entrust to Your people the abundant wealth of Christ's salvation in Your Word and Sacraments. Bless pastors, that they may be faithful stewards of these mysteries, and grant that Your people would make proper use of Your Means of Grace and rejoice in Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Lord God, by Your Holy Spirit help us always to be good and faithful stewards of all that You so graciously provide. Especially grant that we may generously speak of the salvation that You provide for all through Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: God of justice, deliver our common life from all cheating, swindling and robbery. May integrity and uprightness preserve us, that each would seek not his own advantage, but the good of others. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: O Lord, You save a humble people, but Your eyes are on the haughty to bring them down. Give true wisdom to the people of our nation and humility to those who act and decide for our governance, and let the lamp of Your perfect Word and way enlighten their faith and deeds. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Faithful God, preserve those who are suffering temptation and any affliction [*especially* _____]. Make clear to them the way of escape, that they may be able to endure it and stand firm through faith in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.
- M: Heavenly Father, give us patience in tribulation and restore to us the joy of Your salvation. Comfort the weeping with Your lovingkindness, console the grieving with the hope of the resurrection, and help us to live in harmony with one another. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Gracious Lord, give true repentance and faith to those who commune this day, that they may eat Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of their sins and in the unity of a true confession. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: We give thanks to You, O Lord, for You have forgiven our debt of sin for the sake of Jesus. Preserve us in His grace and life until that day when You gather us with Your saints in glory around Your throne; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C: 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 SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei





Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymn:

Hymn ----- Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared

CW 312

1. Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared This feast for our salvation;
It is your body and your blood, And at your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed, We come to you for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.
2. Although you did to heav'n ascend, Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in your presence they behold Your glory, all excelling,
And though your people shall not see Your glory and your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,
3. Yet, Savior, you are not confined To any habitation,
But you are present ev'rywhere And with your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.

4. We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your precious Word believing
That your true body and your blood Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true, And there is naught you cannot do,
For you, Lord, are almighty.
5. Though reason cannot understand, Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is ev'rywhere At once in many places.
I leave to you how this can be; Your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unfailing.
6. Lord, I believe what you have said; Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust, And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.
7. Grant that we worthily receive Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins, May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for your grace And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.
8. For your consoling supper, Lord, Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.

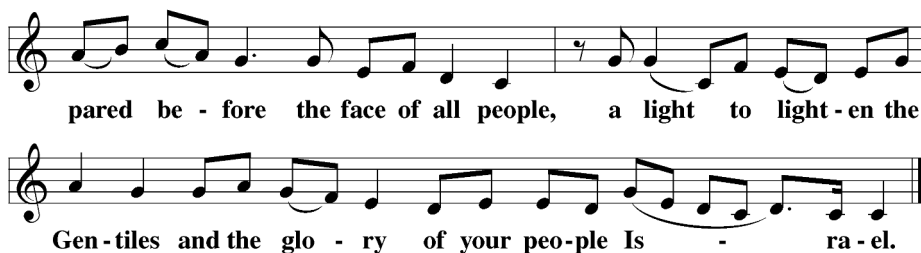
After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

Song of Simeon

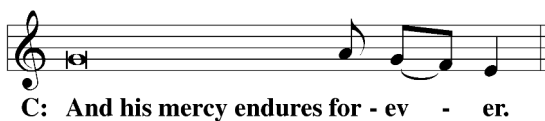
Nunc Dimittis

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-

The image shows two staves of musical notation. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The notation is in a simple, accessible style, likely for congregational singing. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating where a note spans across two words.



M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



Be seated.

Hymn ----- Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

CW 484

1. Brothers, sisters, let us gladly
Give to God our all, our best-
Service hearty, thorough, honest,
With a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving,
All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion;
Come before him with a song.
2. By his mercy, by his bounty,
By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness he has shown us,
What high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely,
Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that his love protects us,
That his wisdom all controls.
3. Gracious Lord, accept our service
For the sake of Christ, your Son;
Lo, our hope abides now only
In the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us; help and guide us;
Watch to comfort and restore
Till in heav'n we rest rejoicing,
Praising you forevermore.

