

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

July 26th, 2026



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Louis, MO

Pastor Seth Georgson

314-914-6457

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*Cover: “Jesus Warns against False Prophets” From the Church Postil of Martin Luther, 1562.
(AI upscaled)*

THE COMMON SERVICE

Hymn ----- God Has Spoken by His Prophets

CW 281

1. God has spoken by his prophets, Spoken his unchanging Word,
Each from age to age proclaiming God the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil One firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, his throne eternal, God the first and God the last.
2. God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory, With the Father ever one,
Spoken by the Word incarnate, God from God, before time was,
Light from Light, to earth descending—He reveals our God to us.
3. God is speaking by his Spirit, Speaking to the hearts of all,
In the ageless Word expounding His own message for us all.
Through the rise and fall of nations One sure faith is standing fast.
God abides, his Word unchanging, God the first and God the last.

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.

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.

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.

Grant us, Lord, the spirit to think and do what is right that we, who cannot do anything that is good without you, may by your help be enabled to live according to your will; 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 ----- Jeremiah 23:16–29

This is what the LORD of Armies says.
Do not listen to the words of the prophets who
prophesy to you.
They are giving you false hope.
They proclaim visions that come from their own
hearts
and not from the mouth of the LORD.
They keep saying to those who despise me,
“The LORD has said that you will have peace.”
And to everyone who walks in the stubbornness
of his own heart,
they say, “No harm will come to you.”

But have any of them stood in the council of the
LORD,
to see and hear his word?
Who has listened to his word and heard it?
Look, a storm from the LORD!
His wrath has gone out,
like a whirlwind twisting down,
whirling over the heads of the wicked.

The LORD’s anger will not turn back until he
has completely fulfilled the purposes of his heart.
In later days you will understand it fully.

I did not send these prophets, yet they ran.
I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.
But if they had stood in my council,
they would have made my people hear my words,
and they would have turned them from their evil
ways
and from their evil deeds.
Am I a God who is only nearby, declares the LORD,
and not a God far away?
Can anyone hide in secret places
so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD.
Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.

I have heard what the prophets who proph-

esy lies in my name have said. They say, "I have
had a dream! I have had a dream!" How long will
this be in the hearts of these lying prophets? These
prophets proclaim the fantasies of their own
hearts. They think they can make my people for-
get my name with the dreams each one tells his
neighbor, the way their fathers forgot my name
because of Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream
tell his dream. But let the one who has my word
speak my word faithfully.

What has chaff to do with grain? declares
the LORD. Is not my word like a fire? declares the
LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in
pieces?

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 1

CW p.64

Refrain

Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

Blessed is the man

who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked*
or stand in the way of sinners.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season*
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.

Refrain

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,*
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will perish.

**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 ----- Romans 8:12–17

So then, brothers, we do not owe it to the sinful flesh to live in harmony with it. For if you live in harmony with the sinful flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live.

Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are afraid again, but

you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we call out, “Abba, Father!” The Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God’s children.

Now if we are children, we are also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

Verse of the Day

3 John 4

M: Alleluia. I have no greater joy than when I hear that my children are walking in the truth. Alleluia.



Stand.

Gospel ----- Matthew 7:15–23

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. You do not gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles, do you? So then, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, by their fruit

you will recognize them. Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and drive out demons in your name and perform many miracles in your name?" Then I will tell them plainly, "I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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 ----- O Lord, Look Down from Heaven

CW 205

1. O Lord, look down from heav'n, behold, And let your pity waken.
How few are we within your fold, Your saints by all forsaken;
True faith seems quenched on ev'ry hand;
Your Word is not allowed to stand.
Dark times have us o'ertaken.
2. O God, root out all heresy, And of false teachers rid us
Who proudly say, "Now where is he Who shall our speech forbid us?
By right or might we shall prevail; What we determine cannot fail;
We want no lord and master!"
3. Therefore said God, "I must arise—The poor my help are needing.
To me ascend my people's cries, And I have heard their pleading.
For them my saving Word shall fight And fearlessly and sharply smite,
The poor with might defending."

4. Defend your truth, O God, and stay This evil generation,
And from the error of its way Keep your own congregation.
The wicked ev'rywhere abound And would your little flock confound,
But you are our salvation!

Sermon ----- **Matthew 7:15-23**

By Their Fruit You Will Recognize Them

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

Stand.

Online giving option:

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Offerings support the spread

of the Gospel here and around the world.

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.
- M: Heavenly Father, Your Son has purchased and obtained us as Your flock by the shedding of His blood. Keep Your sheep from all arrogance, from short-sightedness, and from the many wolves that prowl and seek our harm. Shepherd us continually by Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: O Lord, You have provided pastors to preach Your Word, administer Your Sacraments and shepherd Your people. Guard them from leading Your sheep astray. Grant that, through their preaching, Your people may be pierced by the Law and saved by the Gospel. Finally, shield them from the assaults of the devil, who would silence Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Remember all families, Lord. Make each household a place of prayer and devotion to Your Word. Bless parents of young children with patience. Give comfort to the childless. Abide with the fatherless, widows and orphans, the lonely, and those separated from their families. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- M: Almighty God, fill all governing authorities with fear of You, and let their service foster and preserve peace. Have mercy on our people and country. Let our youth be brought up in discipline and in right knowledge of You, that they may recognize both Your Law and the way of Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Merciful Lord, You are a fortress to Your people. In Your temple, we think on Your steadfast love in Christ. Hear us on behalf of all who need healing, strength and comfort [*especially* _____]. Defend them from the attacks of the evil one, and cause them to join in Your praise. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: O God, give us a great hunger and thirst for the life-giving food of Your blessed Sacrament. Keep unbelief and impenitence far from the hearts of those who come to Your table. Unite us in the fellowship of the pure teaching of the apostles and prophets, that we may give no offense and bring no division, but eat and drink in faith for the forgiveness of sins in the unity of a true confession. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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 -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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."

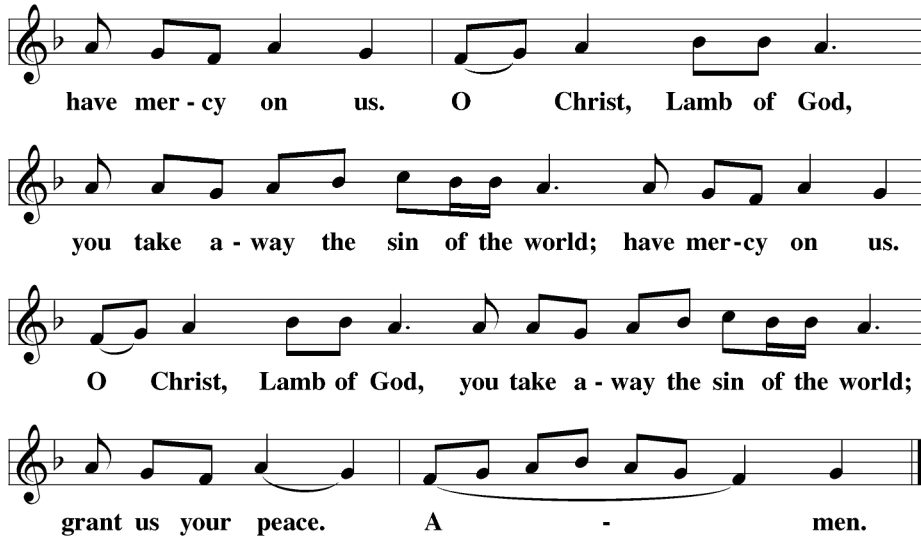
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



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 hymns:

Hymn ----- Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide

CW 541

1. Lord Jesus Christ, with us abide, For round us falls the eventide,
 Nor let your Word, that heav'nly light, For us be ever veiled in night.
2. O God, how sin's dread works abound!
 Throughout the earth no rest is found,
 And falsehood's spirit wide has spread, And error boldly rears its head.

3. In these last days of sore distress Grant us, dear Lord, true steadfastness
That pure we keep, till life is spent, Your holy Word and sacrament.
4. Lord Jesus, help, your Church uphold,
For we are sluggish, thoughtless, cold.
Oh, prosper well your Word of grace, And spread its truth in ev'ry place.
5. Oh, keep us in your Word, we pray; The guile and rage of Satan stay!
Oh, may your mercy never cease! Give concord, patience, courage, peace.
6. The cause is yours, the glory, too, So hear us, Lord, and keep us true.
Your Word alone is our defense, The Church's glorious confidence.
7. Oh, grant that in your holy Word We here may live and die, dear Lord,
And when our journey's ending here, Receive us into glory there.

Hymn ----- Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

CW 531

1. Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, Binding all the Church in one,
Holy Zion's help forever And our confidence alone.
2. To this temple, where we call you, Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all your loving-kindness, Hear your people as they pray,
And your fullest benediction Speak within these walls today.
3. Grant, we pray, to all your faithful All the gifts they ask to gain,
What they gain from you forever With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in your glory Evermore with you to reign.
4. Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit, Ever Three and ever One,
One in might and one in glory While unending ages run!

After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

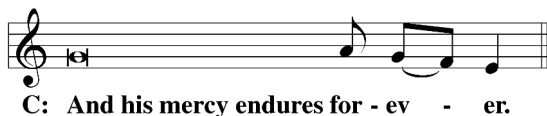
Song of Simeon

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-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

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



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

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.



C: A - men.

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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Be seated.

Hymn ----- Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us

CWS 753

1. Father, God of grace, you knew us, Chose us, named us as your own,
Through eternal ages planning To redeem us in your Son.
Praise the Father, God who loved us Ere creation was begun!
2. We, your creatures, sinned against you, And our guilt was crimson red.
Son of God, you came incarnate, Crushed the crafty serpent's head,
Died our death, now live triumphant: Praise the firstborn from the dead!
3. Counselor, you bring as promised From the Father and the Son
Righteousness fulfilled, accomplished, Free forgiveness, heaven won.
Praise the Spirit! He assures us Our salvation's work is done!
4. Lord, your changeless Word has fed us, Spanning time, transcending
space.
Water, bread, and wine sustained us When the darkness hid your face.
Keep us with you, faithful Shepherd, By your saving means of grace!
5. Forward lead us; Christ, we follow, Drawn by Word and promise true:
"To all nations preach the gospel; I am evermore with you."
Keep us faithful! Then, Lord Jesus, Quickly come! Make all things new!

6. Praise the Father, great Creator. Praise the Son, who took our place.
Praise the Spirit, Sanctifier, God of free and faithful grace!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

