



CONNECT CARDS

Guests and members, please:

- ◆ fill out a Connect card, or
 - ◆ scan the QR code to connect with us online
- Cards are in the racks in front of you.

These methods also include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors. We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with you!

A **CRY ROOM** is located off the Welcome Center
ACTIVITY BAGS for children to borrow are in the Welcome Center.

DEVOTIONS: *Portals of Prayer* booklets are on the credenza in the Welcome Center for you, and for sharing!

SERVING TODAY...

Message:

Pastor Ben Oesch

Liturgist:

8:00 Pastor Stoltenow

Lector:

10:45 David Renner

Organist:

Gail Black



18th Sunday after Pentecost | September 27, 2026 | 8 & 10:45 AM

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

RINGING OF THE BELL ~ CALL TO WORSHIP *Please quiet voices and prepare to worship.*

PRELUDE

P = Pastor C = Congregation L = Liturgist/Lector

INVOCATION

Divine Service, Setting 4 ~ LSB p. 203; Matthew 28:19b

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized:
In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS *Psalm 124:8; 25:1-2; 130:3; 25:6-7; Luke 18:13; John 20:19-23*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

C: Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions.

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. 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.

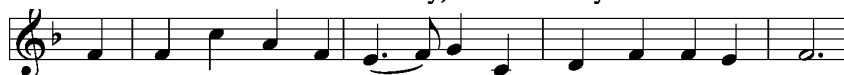
C: Amen!

HYMN OF PRAISE TO GOD: GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

The Season of Pentecost is a Season of growing, called the Time of the Church. We focus on the teachings of Jesus and how they apply in the life of the Church and in our lives as witnesses for Christ. This growing is reflected in the color **green**, the color of life and growth. Bless us, Lord, with courage and with Your Spirit's gift of joy, as we learn, grow, and tell!

¹Offering—Mites Sunday (4th Sundays of the month): A mite was a small coin of little value. Tiny amounts of money gathered together and given in faith and trust back to the Lord will do "mite-y" acts in His kingdom!

For a history and explanation of mite boxes, and to deposit your change for this vital mission, look for the Mite Box in the sanctuary Welcome Center. You may add your coins to this mission box at any time of the month!

SALUTATION (GREETING) AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

P: We pray: Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

Please be seated.

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

Let's get to know each other better! Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code.

You may add prayer requests to your information. Cards may be put in the offering plate. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S CHAT *Pastor Ben*

Children's Bulletins are available on the Usher Stands.

OFFERING¹ AND PRAYER *For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give*

OLD TESTAMENT 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 fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine: the soul who sins shall die....

"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is My way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are My ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make 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, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

RESPONSE

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING Philippians 2:1-18

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

RESPONSE

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Please stand for the Alleluia and reading of the Gospel.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

John 20:31

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

ACCLAMATION

L: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them,

"Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before 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 when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

RESPONSE

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY # 704 "Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

Renew me, O eternal Light, and let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace that issues from Your holy face.

Remove the pow'r of sin from me and cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will temptations of the flesh to still.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
~Matthew 5:14-16



One of the two criminals who were hanged with Jesus said to the other, "We are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

~Luke 23:41-43

The **Nicene Creed** is historically connected with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, because it stresses more fully the Biblical teaching that Jesus Christ is true God, which is intimately connected with Christ's true body and blood being present in Holy Communion. It dates back to the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. This creed has been in use for 1700 years!

Create in me a new heart, Lord, that gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire, and with new life my soul inspire.

Grant that I only You may love and seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face, O Light eternal, through Your grace.

MESSAGE "It's Never Too Late" text: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Please stand as together we confess our faith and encourage one another in this declaration.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE NICENE CREED

ALL: 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!

You may be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

✠ ✠ ✠

Preparation for Holy Communion

One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1Corinthians 11:2-29 Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and wish to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

✠ ✠ ✠

Please stand.

HOLY COMMUNION ~ PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

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 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS ~ HOLY [IS THE LORD]

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Revelation 4:8

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Sanctus is Latin and means "holy is." The Sanctus is a hymn of praise to the Trinity; very often we see words repeated three times to emphasize this. The Sanctus is one of the highest points and has some of the grandest music in the Divine Service, because we are joining our voices with our own church family, with all Christians all over the world, with the saints in heaven, and with all the angel hosts.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

ALL: 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 OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19,20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI ~ PEACE OF THE LORD

John 20:19

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

C: And also with you!

AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God.
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Agnus Dei means "Lamb of God." Ancient believers ate the sacrificial lamb at the Passover. We partake of Christ, who was sacrificed for us to make full atonement for all our sins. Christ is our Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God, and the Priest who offers the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. Truly, Jesus is Our All!

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION *You will be ushered forward for Communion.*

- ❖ When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.
- ❖ If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.
- ❖ Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; you may also request a gluten-free wafer.

Come, Lord Jesus,
be our Guest,
and let these gifts of
forgiveness, renewed life,
and salvation
to us be blessed.
Amen!

We may not touch
 Christ's hands and side,
 nor follow where He trod;
 but in His promise
 we rejoice and cry
 "My Lord and God!"
 For You,
 O resurrected Lord,
 are found
 in means divine:
 beneath the water
 and the Word,
 beneath
 the bread and wine.

~Henry Alford, LSB # 720

Benedicamus: Latin for "let us bless" or "let us say a good word." One of the Hebrew ideas of blessing is "to praise a person's ability for success as from a lesser person to a greater." God blesses us with His gifts of forgiveness and new life through the saving work of Christ on the cross. We, in turn, praise Him for His goodness to us!

~Rev. G. Zillinger

In this Divine Service, by faith the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share the love of Jesus and **HISTory!**

Lord,
 lay some soul
 upon my heart
 and love that soul
 through me;
 and may I gladly
 do my part
 to win that soul
 for Thee.
 Amen!

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DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

620 "Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

Hymn for meditation: # 635 "O Gracious Lord, I Firmly Am Believing"

*O gracious Lord, I firmly am believing Your boundless love will bless each faithful soul,
 As from this altar we are here receiving Your body and Your blood to make us whole.*

*Lord, I have sinned, a thousand times offending;
 My thankless thoughts and words and deed erase,
 To me Your hand of mercy now extending,
 O God, my Savior, I implore Your grace.*

*You see my sin yet seat me at Your table;
 Lord, as a guest, I surely am the least: unclean, unfit, of worthy deeds unable—
 My heart prepare for this most holy feast.*

*O Lamb of God, my faithful, loving Savior,
 You I embrace in faith and holy love;
 Grant me the strength to show by my behavior a life now hidden in Your reign above.*

*Heavenly Bread, my life and benediction, this cup You give can take away each ill.
 Come and relieve my soul from all affliction;
 Calm every sigh until my heart is still.*

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: God the Father, fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament.

ALL: We ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

BENEDICAMUS

Psalms 103:1

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING

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!

HYMN # 686 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

**Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
 Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
 While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
 Teach me ever to adore Thee; may I still Thy goodness prove.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I've come;
 And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
 Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
 He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
 Let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
 Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.**

**Oh, that day when freed from sinning, I shall see Thy lovely face;
 Clothed then in the blood-washed linen, how I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
 Come, my Lord, no longer tarry; take my ransom'd soul away;
 Send Thine angels soon to carry me to realms of endless day.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠

