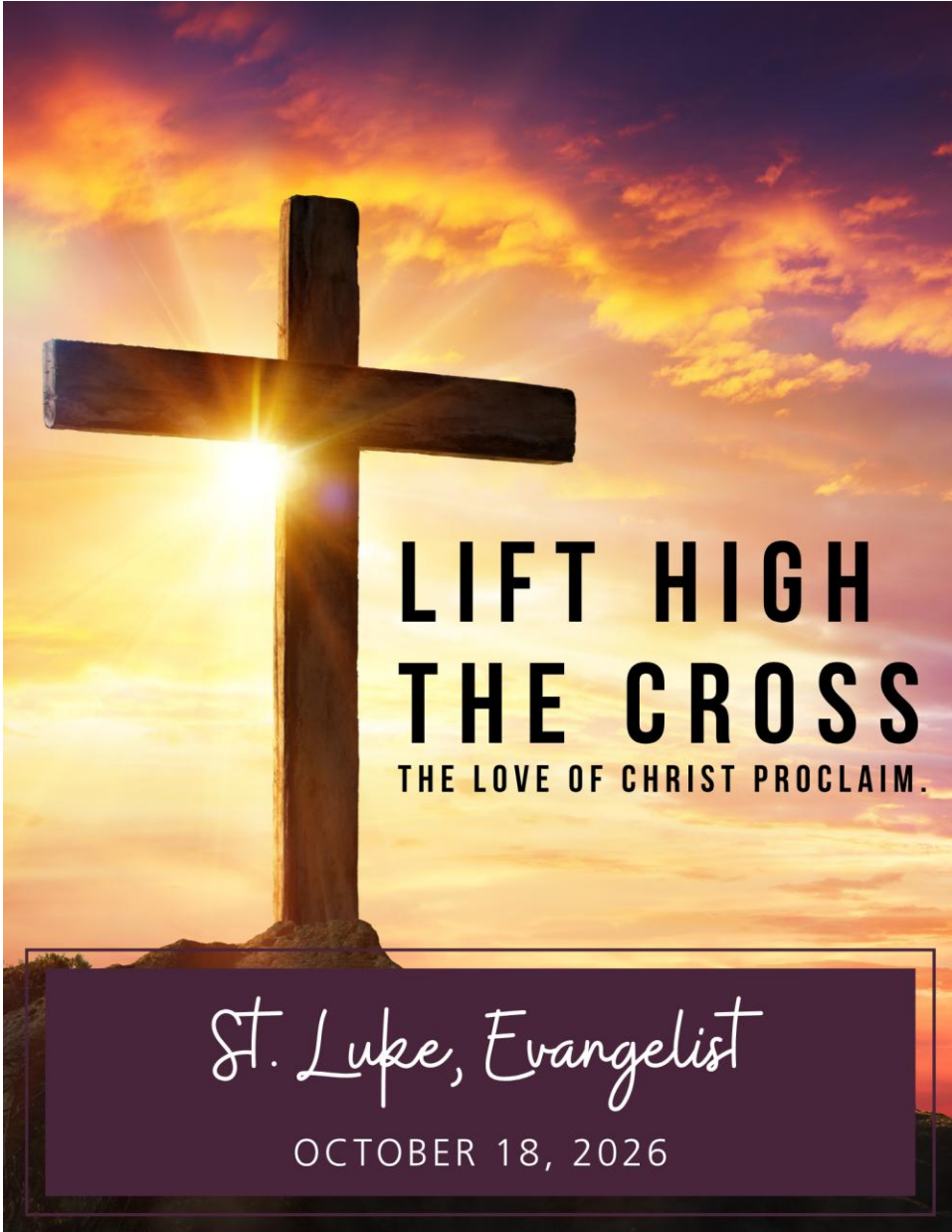




FIRST LUTHERAN
CHURCH AND SCHOOL



St. Luke, Evangelist

OCTOBER 18, 2026

Welcome



Worship Series: The Beginning of the End

October 18, 2026

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, “The End Is Near.” For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ’s first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It’s the beginning of the end.

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ’s finished work for us. Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God’s favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God’s ways of keeping us ready.

“The Beginning of the End” reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ’s return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

Today’s Focus: It’s Time To: Offer Forgiveness

When you know that the end is approaching, what’s the most important thing you can do? Some would say that the vital thing is to concentrate on your relationships.

The most important part of your personal relationship with God is the forgiveness of sins you have through faith in Jesus. The most important thing you can offer the most important people in your life is forgiveness. The beginning of the end is a good time to put the Lord’s Prayer into practice and forgive as you have been forgiven.

Opening Hymn

892 By All Your Saints Still Striving



1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
2 For Luke, be - lov'd phy - si - cian, all praise, whose Gos - pel shows
3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther and wor - ship God the Son



your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed.
the heal - er of the na - tions, the one who shares our woes.
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,



You rose, our King vic - to - rious, that they might wear the crown
Re - store our wound-ed spir - its when we have lost our way;
till all the ran-somed num - ber who stand be - fore the throne



and ev - er shine in splen - dor re - flect - ed from your throne.
af - firm our Fa - ther's mer - cy and bring us home to stay.
as - cribe all pow'r and glo - ry and praise to God a - lone.

Text: Horatio Bolton Nelson, 1823-1913, alt.
Tune: Finnish
Text and tune: Public domain

Holy Baptism

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan’s power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

The Rite of Baptism continues at the font.

Sacrament of Baptism

Exhortations may be spoken.

Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Phoenix as your own child and made her a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to her and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician to reveal in his gospel the love and healing power of your Son. Grant that, by hearing and believing your Word, we may be healed of all sin and serve you with willing hearts; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 1:1–3

The evangelist Luke explains why he wrote his gospel.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 139



1 O God, you search me and you know me.
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.
3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, LORD,
4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,
5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,



All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.
You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,
you have known its mean - ing through and through.
still I search for shel - ter from your light.
gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.



When I walk or lie down, you are be - fore me:
and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:
You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:
There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:
For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:



ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.
in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.
God of my pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.
E - ven the dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
Safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:5–11

The evangelist Luke accompanied the apostle Paul on his missionary journeys.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:31

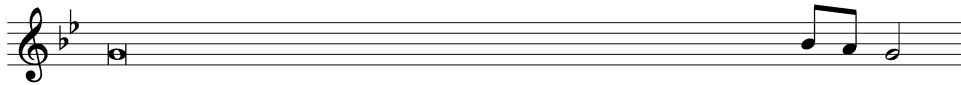


Refrain

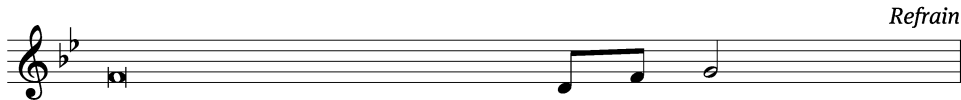


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,



Refrain

and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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Gospel

Luke 1:1–4; 24:44–53

The evangelist Luke summarizes the message of the Christian faith as “repentance and forgiveness of sins.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

747 Christ High-Ascended



1 Christ high - as - cend - ed, now in glo - ry seat - ed, throned
2 Christ, from the Fa - ther ev - 'ry pow'r pos - sess - ing, who
3 Christ, who in dy - ing won for us sal - va - tion, lives
4 Christ in his splen - dor, all do - min - ion gain - ing, Christ
5 As at his part - ing, joy shall ban - ish griev - ing, faith



and ex - alt - ed, vic - to - ry com - plet - ed, death's dread do -
on his cho - sen lift - ed hands in bless - ing, sends forth his
now the first - born of the new cre - a - tion; to win dis -
with his peo - ple ev - er - more re - main - ing, Christ to all
in his pres - ence strength - en our be - liev - ing; filled with his



min - ion fi - nal - ly de - feat - ed, we are his wit - ness - es.
ser - vants, still in faith con - fess - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.
ci - ples out of ev - 'ry na - tion, we are his wit - ness - es.
a - ges, glo - ri - ous - ly reign - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.
Spir - it, love and pow'r re - ceiv - ing, we are his wit - ness - es.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
Tune: Antiphoner, Paris, 1681
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Sermon

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Hymn

732 In Unity and Peace

Refrain



How good it is and how pleas-ant to live in u-ni-ty and peace.



How good it is and how pleas-ant to live to-geth-er in one Lord.

(Last time only)



to live to - geth - er in one Lord.



1 In the name of our Lord — Je - sus Christ, a -
2 Live a life that is wor - thy of your call, be
3 Share the love that has joined — us as one, u -



gree in ev - 'ry-thing you say. — May there — be no di-
hum - ble, gen - tle, and pa-tient. Bear with each oth - er in
nite in spir - it and i - deals. — Nev - er be ri - vals, do



vi - sions a-mong you, but be u - nit-ed in one mind.
ways that are lov - ing, pre - serve the u - ni - ty of faith.
not be con-ceit - ed, but look to oth-ers in their need.

Refrain



For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.
For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.
For there is one Lord, one faith, one God of us all.

Text: James J. Chepponis, b. 1956
Tune: James J. Chepponis, b. 1956
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Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

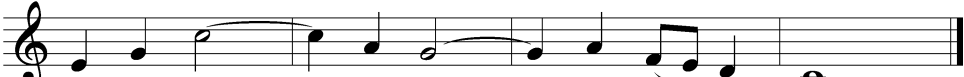
Closing Hymn

900 Lift High the Cross

Refrain



Lift high the cross; the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
3 Let ev - 'ry race and ev - 'ry lan - guage tell
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
of him who saves our souls from death and hell.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.
Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947
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SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt
Accompanist: Robert Joseph | **Elder:** Dave Schwartz
Altar Guild: Kris Hills | **Projectionist:** Brett Biwer

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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