



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

SO THEN, YOU ARE NO LONGER
FOREIGNERS AND STRANGERS, BUT
YOU ARE FELLOW CITIZENS WITH
THE SAINTS AND MEMBERS OF
GOD'S HOUSEHOLD.

EPHESIANS 2:19

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

AUGUST 16, 2026

Welcome



Worship Series: Unexpected Truths

August 16, 2026

The opening lines of the United States Declaration of Independence boldly assert that certain truths are “self-evident”—truths accessible to human reason and widely recognized by observation of the world. Among these are that all people are created equal and possess unalienable rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The founders appealed to principles they believed reasonable people could recognize simply by reflecting on human nature and justice. These truths were meant to be obvious, clear to the mind, and persuasive in the public square.

Lutherans, however, note that the most important truths revealed in the Bible are not self-evident at all. In fact, they frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectations. Scripture teaches that humanity is not naturally good but deeply sinful. It declares that salvation cannot be achieved through human effort but comes entirely by God’s grace. Most unexpected of all is the message that God brings forgiveness and eternal life through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious to human judgment, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected.

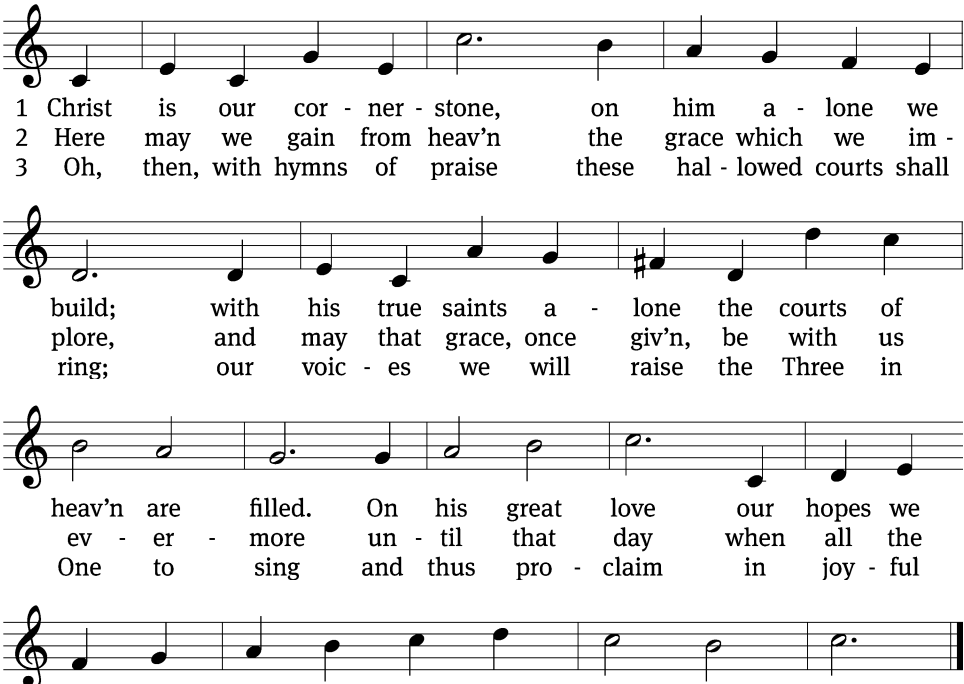
Today’s Focus: The Church is for All People

“All are welcome!” Is that true at our church? Or is church meant only for people of the right heritage who behave the right way, “good church folk”? Is it conceivable that a stranger could walk into church unexpectedly and for some reason you would ask yourself, “What is someone like that doing here?” Or perhaps you ask that question about yourself. “There seem to be godly people here. I’m not like them. Do I really belong?”

Today Jesus shows us that the Church is for all people. All of us—regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, or social status—have the same problem of sin. And we all have the same Savior. Anyone who comes to Christ’s Church and cries out “Lord, have mercy!” is welcome.

Opening Hymn

914 Christ Is Our Cornerstone



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, on him a - lone we
2 Here may we gain from heav'n the grace which we im -
3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise these hal - lowed courts shall
build; with his true saints a - lone the courts of
plore, and may that grace, once giv'n, be with us
ring; our voic - es we will raise the Three in
heav'n are filled. On his great love our hopes we
ev - er - more un - til that day when all the
One to sing and thus pro - claim in joy - ful
place of pres - ent grace and joys a - bove.
blest to end - less rest are called a - way.
song, both loud and long, that glo - rious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent., abr.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.
Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789
Text and tune: Public domain

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

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

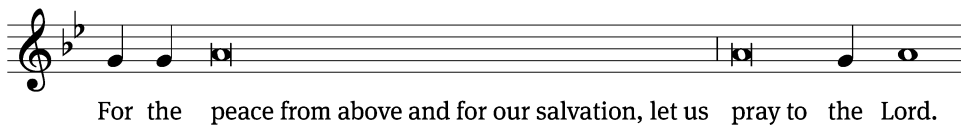
Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

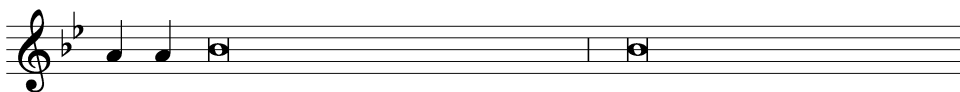
Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 $\dagger$ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy





For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of



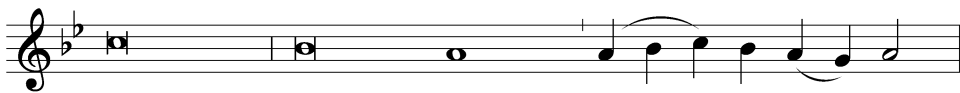
God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Tune: Marty Haugen
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Glory to God in the Highest

The musical score is written for a single voice part on a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases extending across bar lines. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the corresponding notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
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. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth.
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.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. For you a -



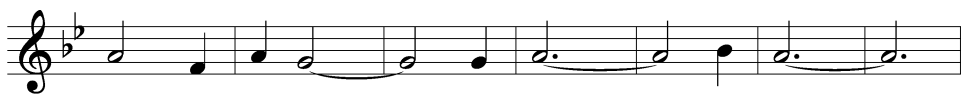
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen
Tune: © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, in Christ you bring people from near and far into the fellowship of your church. Open our eyes to your saving plan, and move us to embrace all who seek your salvation so that we may rejoice together at the banquet of your love; 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

Isaiah 56:1,6–8

The Lord told the world that all God-fearing people would have a place in the house of his Church.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 67

Refrain



Let the peo - ple praise you, O God, let all the peo - ple praise you.

Tone



May God be gracious to us and / bless us
and make his face / shine on us—
so that your ways may be / known on earth,
your salvation among all / nations.
May the peoples / praise you, God;
may all the peoples / praise you.
May the nations be glad and / sing for joy,
for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations / of the earth.

Refrain

The land yields its / harvest;
God, our God, / blesses us.
May God / bless us still,
so that all the ends of the earth will / fear him.
Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be - / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Text: Massey H. Shepherd, Jr.

Tune: Dale Wood

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Second Reading

Ephesians 2:13–22

Christ takes foreigners and strangers and builds them into a holy temple, his Church.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 2:13

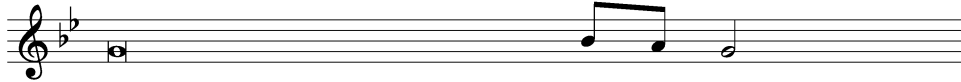


Refrain



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

Tone



But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far a - way



Refrain

have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

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Gospel

Matthew 15:21–28

In the face of a test from Jesus, a Canaanite woman demonstrates great faith in God's promise for all people.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

855 The Church's One Foundation



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
 3 The Church shall nev - er per - ish. Her dear Lord, to de - fend,
 4 Tho' with a scorn - ful won - der the world sees her op - pressed,
 5 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end.
 by schisms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Tho' there be those that hate her and strive to see her fail,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 a - gainst both foe and trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, abr., alt.
 Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876
 Text and tune: Public domain

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

854 Church of God, Elect and Glorious



1 Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, ho - ly
2 God has called you out of dark - ness in - to
3 Once you were an al - ien peo - ple, stran - gers
4 Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, be the



na - tion, cho - sen race, called as God's own
his most mar - v'lous light, brought his truth to
to God's heart of love, but he brought you
peo - ple he in - tends, strong in faith and



spe - cial peo - ple, roy - al priests and heirs of grace;
life with - in you, turned your blind - ness in - to sight.
home in mer - cy, cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
swift to an - swer each com - mand your mas - ter sends.



know the pur - pose of your call - ing, show to
Let your light so shine a - round you that God's
Let his love flow out to oth - ers, let them
Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing through your



all his might - y deeds, tell of love that
name is glo - ri - fied and all find fresh
feel a Fa - ther's care, that they too may
sac - ri - fice and prayer; give your lives in



knows no lim - its, grace that meets all hu - man needs.
hope and pur - pose in Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.
know his wel - come and his count - less bless - ings share.
joy - ful ser - vice, sing his praise, his love de - clare.

Text: James E. Seddon, 1915–1983
Tune: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1992
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Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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

746 I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 The Sav - ior of all peo - ple has brought his peace to you;
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
now go and tell the sto - ry, for oth - ers need it too.
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry be - cause I know it's true;
To ev - 'ry land and na - tion ring out the gos - pel call;
And when in scenes of glo - ry I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long-ings as noth - ing else can do.
pro - claim that Christ is ris - en and grants his peace to all.
'twill be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.



Refrain
I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text (sts. 1-3): Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911, verses, abr., alt.; (Ref): William G. Fischer, 1835-1912, refrain
Tune: William G. Fischer, 1835-1912
Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor Derek Bartelt

Accompanist: Robert Joseph | **Elder:** Drew Sherman

Altar Guild: Connie Frey | **Projectionist:** Brett Biwer

Acknowledgments

Setting Two from Christian Worship

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JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS

Worship | 9:00am

1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

Worship with Lord's Supper | 6:30pm

OUR STAFF

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OUR MISSION

As a family of believers, the mission of First Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God by growing in the faith of our Savior Jesus Christ and by sharing the good news of His Word with others.

OUR INVITATION

It is a privilege for us to share with you the assurance Jesus offers about how imperfect people like us can enjoy a right relationship with our holy Creator.

Our church services are designed to be Christ-centered worship and include three main elements: God speaks to us in His Word, we respond with praises and prayers, and we encourage each other.

We are eager to have you learn more about the Triune God and about our church. If you are looking for a spiritual family in which you can be at home, please speak with our pastor.