

**FIRST LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

**“YES, EVERYONE WHO  
EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE  
HUMBLED, AND WHOEVER  
HUMBLES HIMSELF WILL BE  
EXALTED.”**

LUKE 14:11

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

AUGUST 31, 2025

# WELCOME



## Worship Series: Wounds that Heal

August 31, 2025

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

“Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem” (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

### Today's Focus: Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled

Everyone knows that humility is a positive trait and pride is a negative one. So, why bother talking about what we already know? Because in spite of that knowledge, we still helplessly fall into the trap of pride.

We all desire acclaim, recognition, and praise. Jesus' sharp words this week teach us that seeking exaltation in futile and fleeing ways will only result in receiving the opposite. Those who attempt to exalt themselves will eventually be humbled by God. In contrast, Jesus promises that those who leave their exaltation to God will receive honor and glory far greater than any that can be awarded in this life. Our exaltation does not need to be our responsibility, because Jesus has already made it his.

#### SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Derek Bartelt | **Organist:** Ben Warmuth  
**Elder:** Jacob Pelas | **Altar Guild:** Gail Michnay | **Projectionist:** Helen Hacht

# Opening Hymn

# 737 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way



1 Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way wher -  
 2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, but  
 3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel you  
 4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride nor  
 5 Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way wher -



ev - er love may lead and, bend - ing low, for -  
 pow'r you laid a - side. You lived your years in  
 place with - in the hands of those who seek to  
 count our - selves a - bove the low - est place, the  
 ev - er love may lead and, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, each serve the oth - er's need.  
 ser - vant - hood, in low - li - ness you died.  
 fol - low you and live by your com - mands.  
 mean - est task that waits the gift of love.  
 get - ting self, each serve the oth - er's need.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007  
 Tune: The Whole Book of Psalms, London, 1562  
 Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282  
 Tune: Public domain

I rejoiced with those who said to me,  
**“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”**

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!  
**Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.**

The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
**to all who call on him in truth.**

## Time of the Church

Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,  
**that I may follow it to the end.**

Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
**a light on my path.**

Faith comes from hearing the message,  
**and the message is heard through the word about Christ.**

## 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**

**Hadley Grace Thurow**

*Exhortations may be spoken.*

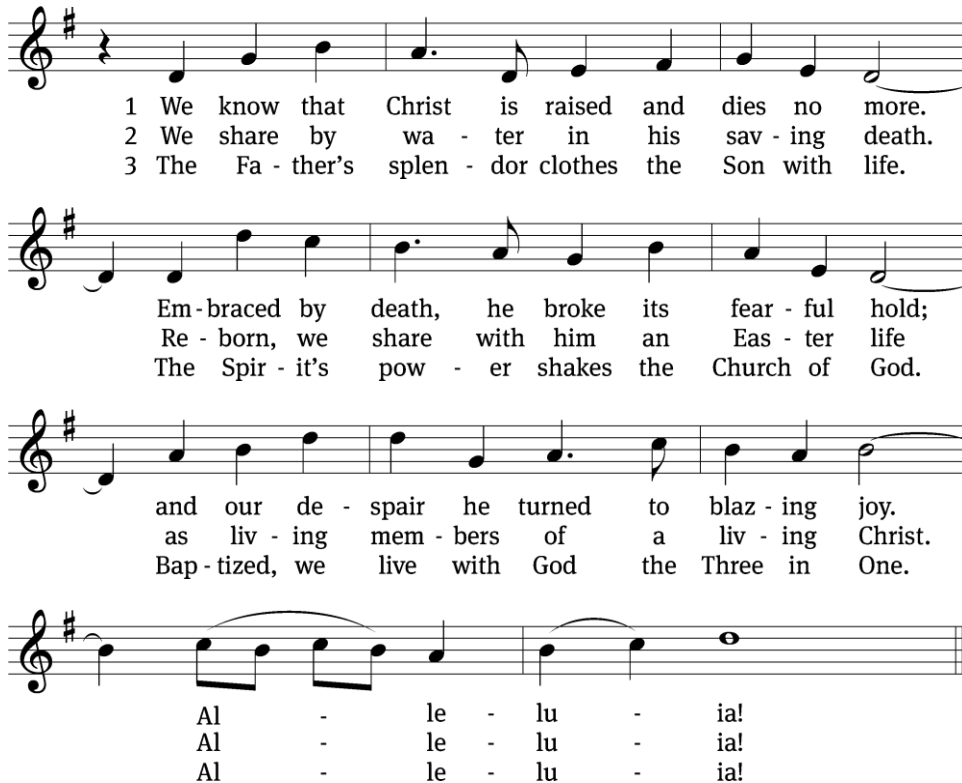
Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Hadley 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.**

## Hymn

## 683 We Know That Christ Is Raised



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
 2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
 3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.

Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold;  
 Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life  
 The Spir - it's pow - er shakes the Church of God.

and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
 as liv - ing mem - bers of a liv - ing Christ.  
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.

Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: John B. Geyer, 1932-2020, alt.  
 Tune: Charles V. Stanford, 1852-1924  
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## Reading

## Proverbs 25:6, 7a

*Solomon provides common sense about humility and pride.*

The Word of the Lord.  
 Thanks be to God.

## Psalm

## Psalm 112

*Pastor will begin by singing the refrain, which the congregation will then repeat.  
Pastor will sing the verses, and the congregation is invited to join if they wish.  
After each verse, the congregation will join in singing the refrain.*

### Refrain



Come, praise the LORD! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Sing out with joy! Hal - le - lu - jah!

### Verses



1 How blessed are you who fear the LORD, your joy is  
2 How blessed are you who fear the LORD, your faith re -



found in his com - mands, your chil - dren shall be  
mains se - cure and strong; when trou - ble threat - ens



known a - broad, their fame shall spread a - cross the lands;  
all a - round, your stead - fast heart to God be - longs.



pros - per - i - ty shall they re - ceive, their good - ness last be -  
A - gainst the foe, you find re - lief, you lav - ish gifts on



yond their deeds, God's light e - ter - nal casts its  
those in need, as way - ward hearts ob - serve your



beam on acts of gen - er - os - i - ty. Refrain  
ways, but leave dis - mayed, with noth - ing gained. Refrain

## Reading

James 2:1–13

*James teaches that showing favoritism to those we think can provide us with upward mobility shows a lack of mercy and puts us at risk of God's judgment.*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

Luke 14:1, 7–14

*Jesus teaches some ways to demonstrate humility and promises that those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

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

## Hymn of the Day

729 Son of God, Eternal Savior

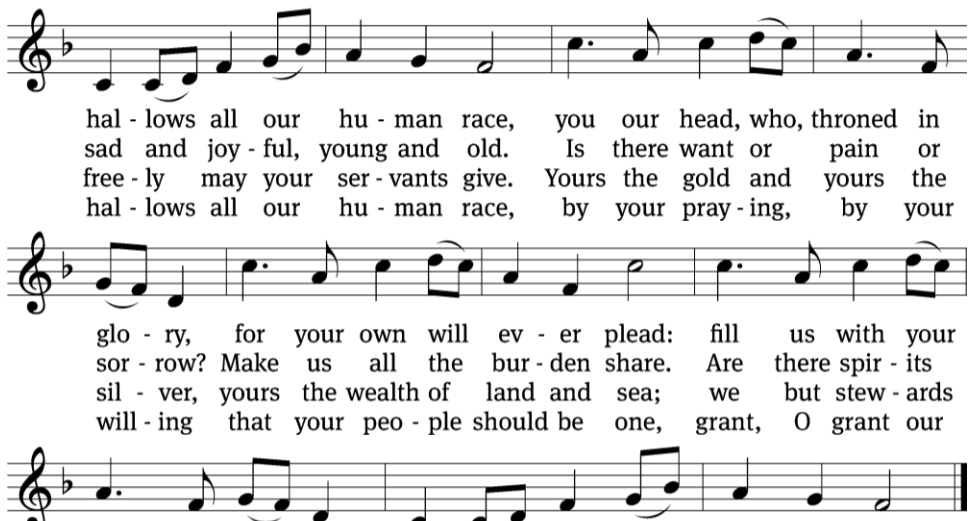


1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and  
2 Bind us all as one to - geth - er in your Church's  
3 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for  
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us,  
sa - cred fold, weak and health - y, poor and wealth - y,  
oth - ers live. Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed;  
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us





hal - lows all our hu - man race, you our head, who, throned in  
sad and joy - ful, young and old. Is there want or pain or  
free - ly may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and yours the  
hal - lows all our hu - man race, by your pray - ing, by your

glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead: fill us with your  
sor - row? Make us all the bur - den share. Are there spir - its  
sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea; we but stew - ards  
will - ing that your peo - ple should be one, grant, O grant our

love and pit - y, heal our wrongs and help our need.  
crushed and bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.  
of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.  
hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855-1933, abr., alt. Tune: The Revivalist, Troy, 1868, ed. Joseph HillmanText 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.**

## Offering

### Hymn

### 684 Father Welcomes

Fa - ther wel - comes all his chil - dren to his fam - 'ly through his Son.

Fa - ther giv - ing his sal - va - tion, life for - ev - er has been won.

1 Lit - tle chil - dren, come to me, for my king - dom is of these.  
2 In the wa - ter, in the Word, in his prom - ise, be as - sured:  
3 Let us dai - ly die to sin; let us dai - ly rise with him,

*Refrain*  
Life and — love I have to give, mer - cy — for your sin.  
those who are bap - tized and be - lieve shall be — born a - gain.  
walk in the love of Christ our Lord, live in the peace of God.

Text: Robin Mann, b. 1949 Tune: Robin Mann, b. 1949 Text and tune: © 1986 Kevin Mayhew Ltd. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712282

### Prayer

Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy;  
**in your faithfulness and righteousness, come to my relief.**

Spare us, Lord, from the lies of the devil and the attacks of our conscience.  
Comfort and save us in your patient compassion.

**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

Guide us, Lord, to the wisdom of your Word and the power of your promises.  
Take away our confusion and doubt.

**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

Hear us, Lord, when we come to you in prayer. Make us confident to take you at your word and to follow you in faith.

**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

Empower us, Lord, to walk in your ways and live in your truth. Fill us with your love, that we may love you and one another.

**Have mercy on us, Jesus.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by your Holy Spirit to follow the example of your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Time of the Church**

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified. Receive our prayers for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocations and ministries they may truly serve and honor you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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 almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit—  
bless us and keep us.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

## 766 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of  
2 Still your chil - dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry  
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re -  
4 Sent from wor - ship as your ser - vants, forth in your dear



hu - man need, who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,  
cry for bread; still the cap - tives long for free - dom;  
veal - ing light in its height and depth and great - ness,  
name we go, to the child, the youth, the a - ged,



of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, we, your ser - vants,  
still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your  
dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, mak - ing known the  
love in liv - ing deeds to show; hope and health, good -



bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart, con - se -  
deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the  
needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear, stir - ring  
will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, that your



crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift that you im - part.  
love your Spir - it kin - dles still to save and make us whole.  
us to tire-less striv - ing, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.