



**FIRST LUTHERAN**  
CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Strive to enter through  
the narrow door,  
because many, I tell you,  
will try to enter and will  
not be able.

LUKE 13:24

*Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost*

AUGUST 24, 2025

# WELCOME



## Worship Series: Wounds that Heal

August 24, 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: The Door Is Very Narrow

When it comes to the uncomfortable topic of who goes to heaven and who goes to hell, it is natural to want to avoid the issue. One way we do that is to direct our attention to more theoretical questions.

“What is heaven like?” “How old will we be there?” Today someone asks, “Lord, are only a few going to be saved?” Jesus brushes all such questions aside. Instead, he answers the question we should be asking. “How might I be saved?” Jesus explains there is only one way—entering through a very narrow door. Jesus’ words cut deep! For he teaches that it is very easy to develop a false sense of security about our standing before God based on some superficial familiarity we have with him. Jesus warns that many who think they are on the path to heaven will end up shut out. These wounding words of Jesus provide healing, pushing us toward that narrow door: faith in him.

## Opening Hymn

## 916 Today Your Mercy Calls Us



- 1 To - day your mer - cy calls us to wash a - way our sin.  
2 To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in  
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us, his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;  
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, what - ev - er we have been,  
shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.  
his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.  
what should we do with - out you when heart and eye run o'er?



how - ev - er long from mer - cy our hearts have turned a - way,  
The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,  
No ques - tion will be asked us how of - ten we have come;  
When all things seem a - gainst us, to drive us to de - spair,



your pre - cious blood can wash us and make us clean to - day.  
a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.  
al - though we oft have wan - dered, it is our Fa - ther's home.  
we know one gate is o - pen, one ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–1878, alt.  
Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857  
Text and tune: Public domain

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

## Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.  
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**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*

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

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

For the peace from above and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**



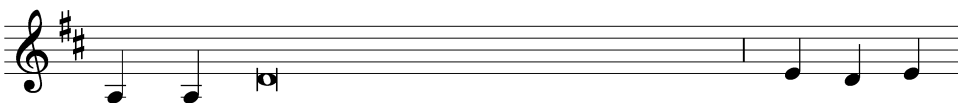
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the un - it - y of all, let us pray to the Lord.



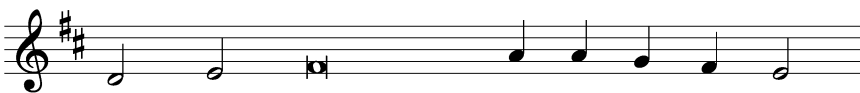
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



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



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



**A - men. A - men.**

Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman  
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## Glory to God in the Highest

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score consists of nine lines of music. The first line is an instrumental introduction. The subsequent lines contain the lyrics: 'Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth, 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. 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'. The score ends with a double bar line.

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

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to

God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,

and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman  
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# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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 66:18–24**

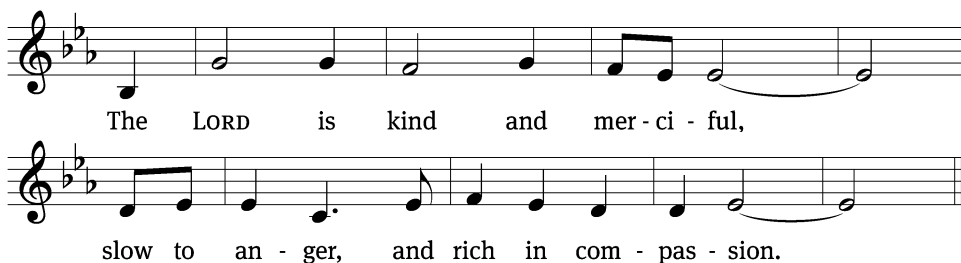
*Many of those closest to God's saving acts will reject them and perish.  
Meanwhile, many who seemed to be far from the kingdom will hear of God's  
grace, believe, and be saved.*

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

## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 103

### Refrain



### Tone



Praise the LORD, / my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his / holy name—  
who forgives / all your sins  
and heals all your dis- / eases,  
who redeems your life / from the pit  
and crowns you with love and com- / passion,  
who satisfies your desires / with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the / eagle's. *Refrain*

The LORD is compassionate and / gracious,  
slow to anger, abound- / ing in love.  
He does not treat us as our / sins deserve  
or repay us according to our in- / iquities.  
For as high as the heavens are a- / bove the earth,  
so great is his love for those who / fear him;  
as far as the east is / from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions / from us.

**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***

## Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18–24

*Entering the narrow door into eternal life has nothing to do with keeping the Law of Moses. It has everything to do with Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, who paid for our sin with his blood.*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

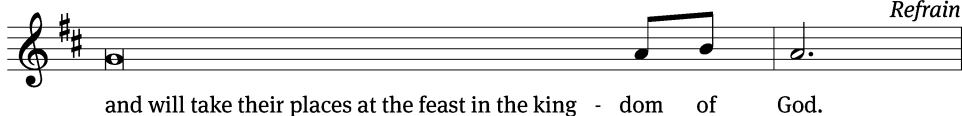
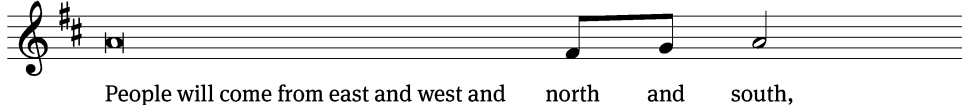
Luke 13:29



*Refrain*



*Tone*



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*Jesus urges, "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door."*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

## Hymn of the Day

## 698 Seek Where You May to Find a Way



1 Seek where you may to find a way that leads to  
 2 Seek whom you may to be your stay, none can re -  
 3 Seek him a - lone who did a - tone, who did your  
 4 My heart's de - light, my crown most bright, O Christ, you



your sal - va - tion. My heart is stilled, on Christ I build,  
 deem an - oth - er. All help - ers failed; this man pre - vailed,  
 souls de - liv - er. O seek him first, all you who thirst  
 are for - ev - er. Not wealth or pride or for - tune's tide



he is the one foun - da - tion. His Word is  
 the God - man, Christ our broth - er. This Ser - vant -  
 for grace that fails you nev - er. In ev - 'ry  
 our bond of love shall sev - er. You are my



sure, his works en - dure; he o - ver - throws all  
 Lord our life re - stored; we're jus - ti - fied, for  
 need seek him in - deed; to ev - 'ry heart he  
 Lord; your pre - cious Word shall light my way each



e - vil foes; through him I more than con - quer.  
 he has died, the guilt - less for the guilt - y.  
 will im - part his bless - ings with - out mea - sure.  
 daunt - ing day. O teach me, Lord, to trust you!

## **Sermon**

### **Nicene Creed**

**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 truly 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.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

### **Offering**

# The Sacrament

## Preface



The Lord be with you.



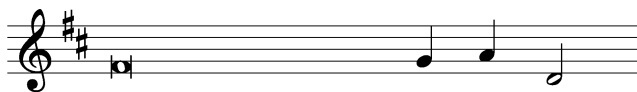
And al - so with you.



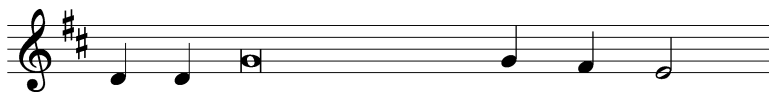
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them up to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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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 until 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts,  
heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to 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.**

## **Words of Institution**

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.

**Amen.**

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us, grant us peace.

Tune: William Gokelman; David Kauffman  
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# Distribution Hymn

# 798 I Lay My Sins on Jesus



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, the spot-less Lamb of God;  
 2 I lay my wants on Je - sus, all full-ness dwells in him;  
 3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, this wea - ry soul of mine;  
 4 I long to be like Je - sus, meek, lov - ing, low - ly, mild;



he bears them all and frees us from the ac - curs - ed load.  
 he heals all my dis - eas - es, my soul he does re - deem.  
 his right hand me em - brac - es, I in his arms re - cline.  
 I long to be like Je - sus, the Fa - ther's ho - ly child.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus to wash my crim - son stains  
 I lay my griefs on Je - sus, my bur - dens and my cares;  
 I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;  
 I long to be with Je - sus a - mid the heav'n - ly throng,



white in his blood most pre - cious till not a spot re - mains.  
 he from them all re - leas - es, he all my sor - rows shares.  
 like fra-grance on the breez - es his name a - broad is poured.  
 to sing with saints his prais - es, to learn the an - gels' song.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889, alt.  
 Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876  
 Text and tune: Public domain

# Distribution Hymn

# 659 Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior, turned a - way God's  
 2 As his pledge of love un - dy - ing, he, this pre - cious  
 3 Je - sus here him - self is shar - ing; take heed how you  
 4 Use - less would be Je - sus' pas - sion if sal - va - tion



wrath for - ev - er; by his bit - ter grief and woe  
 food sup - ply - ing, gives his bod - y with the bread  
 are pre - par - ing, for if you do not be - lieve,  
 you could fash - ion. Do not come if you sup - pose



he saved us from the e - vil foe.  
 and with the wine the blood he shed.  
 judg - ment in - stead you shall re - ceive.  
 you need not him who died and rose.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>5 Christ says, "Come, all you that labor,<br/>             and receive my grace and favor;<br/>             those who feel no pain or ill<br/>             need no physician's help or skill."</p> | <p>8 If your heart this truth professes<br/>             and your mouth your sin confesses,<br/>             surely you will be his guest<br/>             and at his banquet ever blest.</p> |
| <p>6 Then hold fast with faith unshaken<br/>             that this food is to be taken<br/>             by the souls who are distressed,<br/>             by hearts that long for peace and rest.</p> |   |
| <p>7 Praise the Father, who from heaven<br/>             unto us such food has given<br/>             and, to mend what we have done,<br/>             gave into death his only Son.</p>              |   |

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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

## 927 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for the gos - pel's  
3 So when - e'er the sig - nal's giv - en us from earth to  
joy and peace. Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
call a - way, borne on an - gels' wings to heav - en,  
tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,  
in our hearts and lives a - bound! Ev - er faith - ful,  
glad the sum - mons to o - bey, may we ev - er,  
O re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er reign with Christ in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.  
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879  
Text and tune: Public domain

### SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Derek Bartelt | **Accompanist:** Robert Joseph

**Elder:** David Bachman | **Altar Guild:** Helen Hacht & Jan Lazzaroni | **Projectionist:** Helen Hacht

#### Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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