

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 26, 2026

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service is printed for you in this worship folder. Or you can follow the projections on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

THEME: PENTECOST 9

A GENUINE FAITH FORSAKES ALL ELSE FOR THE TREASURES OF HEAVEN

Last month we focused on what a genuine ministry consists of. In the month of July we are focusing on the characteristics of a genuine faith. Today in particular we learn that a genuine faith forsakes all else for the treasures of heaven. Many wear themselves out pursuing earthly wealth which is only temporary and which God can easily give us. But God directs us to desire heavenly treasures like King Solomon who asked for wisdom. Timothy was to urge the wealthy in his congregation to desire such heavenly treasures as humility, compassion and generosity. The Gospel itself is the greatest treasure which we are willing to abandon all else to keep.

PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF “CLOSE COMMUNION”

Christ says the Sacrament is an expression of unity (1 Co 10:16-17). We WANT to be unified with you on the basis of Christ and His doctrine! Honesty compels us to ask you to WAIT before communing with us: 1) until you’ve had a chance to find out what we teach; 2) until you make your unity with us evident by membership at Peace. Regular classes are conducted for this purpose (837-5346). WELS & ELS guests please sign a Connection Card and give it to an usher before communing. Thank you.

SUNDAY NOTES

- 1) Slides of the people of Peace are being shown before/after the services as we are anticipating the celebration of our 125th anniversary on August 9!
- 2) Your 125th anniversary sweatshirts have arrived – if you ordered them. They are available in the school atrium.
- 3) Pastor Arndt is on a mini-vacation this weekend. Pastor Werre is assisting our sister congregation, Zion in Lodi, this morning.
- 4) “Jesus, Priceless Treasure” – This hymn was written in 1653 by Johann Franck, a lawyer who became mayor of the city of Guben, Germany. Many wonderful hymns were composed during this time period. After so much devastation brought on by 30 years of warfare, Christians became heavenly-minded. In the midst of a world of uncertainty, they sought solace and peace in the words and promises of Christ. They yearned for His coming to redeem His people. People composed hymns not for money as they do today in America, but merely out of devotion to Christ and His kingdom. In the 1700s Johann Sebastian Bach (a Lutheran composer) composed many pieces based on this hymn. The hymn has become a giant in Lutheran hymnody.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider Rev. Jordan Ertl
Accompanist Mrs. Sarah Bilitz
Instrumentalists..... Gus & Mina Matson
Projection Slides Amy Larson

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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THE COMMON SERVICE

OPENING HYMN

Jesus, Priceless Treasure | CW¹ 823:1-4

Please stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.²

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature³ sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY



¹ CW stands for "Christian Worship." That is the name of our hymnal.

² Our whole relationship with God began with these words when we were baptized.

³ "By nature" – that means I was born this way and I cannot escape it.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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 Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.⁴

Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY TO GOD⁵

The musical score is written on five staves, each with a treble clef. The notes are as follows: Staff 1: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. Staff 2: D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F#3, E3, D3. Staff 3: C3, B2, A2, G2, F#2, E2, D2, C2. Staff 4: B1, A1, G1, F#1, E1, D1, C1, B0. Staff 5: A0, G0, F#0, E0, D0, C0, B0, A0. The lyrics are: 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

⁴ Notice these words are repeated – in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit – the same words we started the service with - because this is the significance of what our baptism means. In that Sacrament God washed our sins away with His forgiveness. Because of our baptism, He continues to wash us with His forgiveness.

⁵ With this ancient song of praise, we are joyfully responding to the fact that we have just been forgiven of all our sins.

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.

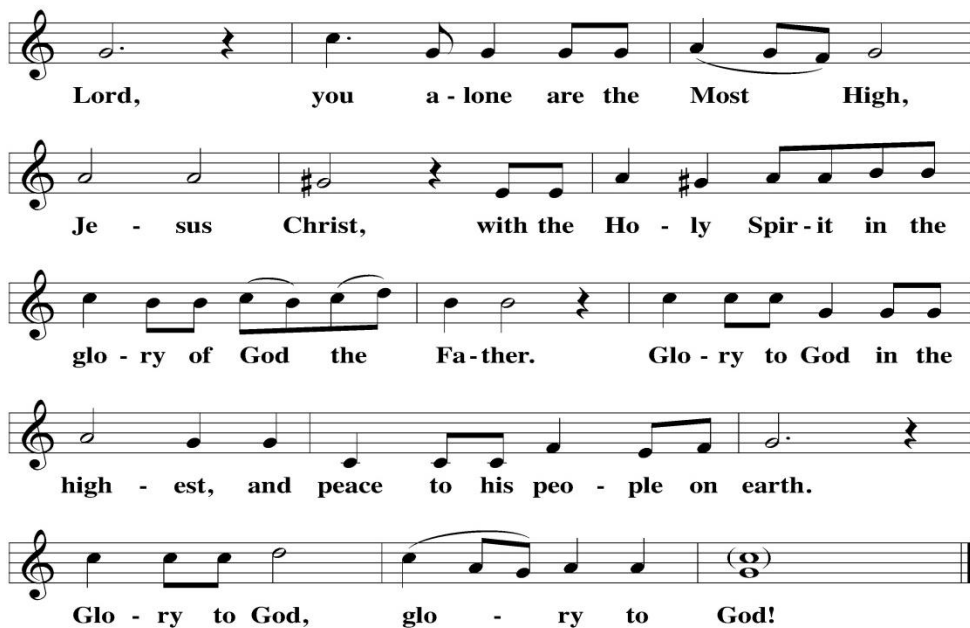
You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer, 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



PRAYER OF THE DAY⁶

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray... O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

⁶ Because our sins have been forgiven, God is with us and our prayers are acceptable to God.

THE WORD⁷

FIRST LESSON

1 Kings 3:5–12

⁵The LORD appeared to Solomon in Gibeon in a dream at night.

God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶Solomon said, “You have shown great mercy and faithfulness to your servant, my father David, just as he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward you. You have shown this great mercy and faithfulness to him and have given him a son who is seated on his throne to this very day. ⁷O LORD my God, now you have made your servant king in the place of my father David, but I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And I, your servant, am among your people whom you have chosen, a great people, who cannot be counted or numbered because they are so many. ⁹Now give to your servant a perceptive heart to judge your people, to distinguish between good and evil, for who is able to judge this great people of yours?”

¹⁰In the eyes of the LORD, Solomon's request was good. ¹¹So God said to him, “Because you have asked for this, and you have not asked for a long life, nor have you asked for riches, nor have you asked for the lives of your enemies, but you have asked for discernment to reach just verdicts, ¹²therefore I will act according to your words. Yes, I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you before you, nor will anyone like you rise up after you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

⁷ We have received God's forgiveness and praised Him for it. We have prayed for His blessing. Now He will answer our prayer by speaking to us through the Scripture readings.

Refrain*Tone*

As for me, my feet had / almost slipped;
 I had nearly lost my / foothold.
 For I envied the / arrogant
 when I saw the prosperity of the / wicked.
 It troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary / of God;
 then I understood their final / destiny. *Refrain*

You guide me with your / counsel,
 and afterward you will take me into / glory.
 Whom have I in / heav'n but you?
 And earth has nothing I desire be- / sides you.
 My flesh and my / heart may fail,
 but God is the strength of my heart and my portion for- / ever.
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*

Tune: Henry V. Gerike

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Setting: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 710622

⁸ Psalm 73 addresses the question, “Why do unbelievers seem to have it so good, but believers have to suffer?” The poignant answer is given... “It troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.” The entire psalm is well worth reading in its entirety from your Bible.

SECOND LESSON

1 Timothy 6:17–21

¹⁷Instruct those who are rich in this present age not to be arrogant or to put their hope in the uncertainty of riches, but rather in God, who richly supplies us with all things for our enjoyment. ¹⁸Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they are storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

²⁰O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, turning away from godless, empty talk and the contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge.” ²¹By professing it, some have veered away from the faith. Grace be with you. Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Whom have I in heaven but you.

And earth has nothing I desire besides you. Alleluia. (*Ps 73:25*)

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44–52

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again. In his joy, he goes away and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one very valuable pearl, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When the net was filled, they pulled it onto the shore. They sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but threw the bad ones away. ⁴⁹That is how it will be at the end of the world. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous

who are among them. ⁵⁰And they will throw the wicked into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ⁵¹Jesus said to them, “Did you understand all these things?”

They answered him, “Yes.”

⁵²He said to them, “Therefore every expert in the law who has been trained as a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his treasure both new things and old things.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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.**

Please be seated

⁹ What is the deal with these sung responses before/after the Gospel Lesson? It is like the way we cheer for veterans as they are marching in a parade. We applaud them as we see them approaching and after they pass by us. We are applauding Christ who comes to us in the Gospel Lesson.

SERMON

Matthew 13:44-52

Treasure the Treasure

Please stand when presider indicates

CREATE IN ME

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Please be seated

MUSICAL OFFERING

A musical offering follows—for meditating on the sermon and signing Connection Cards.

Flute Duet – Gus & Mina Matson

“Tell Me the Story of Jesus” composed by John R. Sweney, arranged by B. C. Dockery.

Offering plates are by the doors. You may use the QR code to give an electronic offering.



Please stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Father in heaven, we thank you for sending your Son to live and die as our perfect substitute. We thank you for your forgiveness and the riches of heaven. We thank you for adopting each of us in Holy Baptism and feeding our faith with your Word. We thank you for setting us apart as people who belong to you.

We thank you for giving us a higher purpose of living our lives to your honor.

Father of Grace, sanctify us by your Spirit so as not to accommodate ourselves to the standards of this world. Rather, prompt us to devote our time, our talents, our energy and whatever you have placed into our hands to pursuits that have eternal value. Help us to love you and others and to use things as you desire, instead of loving things and trying to use you and others for our own selfish desires.

May our hearts belong to you completely and so give us true wisdom from above.

Crush the selfishness that comes to us naturally, and fill us with joyful generosity. Grant that our offerings to your Church may be given in humble faith and genuine gratitude. Make us ready to let go of this world whenever you call us to the Life that is really life.

Prayer of Intercession.

We ask these things with confidence because Jesus has commanded us to pray and has promised to hear us.

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.

THE SACRAMENT¹⁰

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and right so to do.

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 till 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:

¹⁰ What's with these back and forth statements leading up to the Sacrament? They serve to lead us into the Sacrament and mark it as a significant happening. Picture the words & songs of the Sacramental liturgy as the gold filigree setting of a diamond ring. The Sacrament itself is the diamond.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.' The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -
ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

The musical score is written on seven staves, each with a treble clef. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the syllables. The score is divided into two systems of four staves each, with a final single staff at the bottom. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men. A - men." The final measure of the last staff ends with a double bar line.

O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION ¹¹

Please respect our practice of “Close Communion,” meaning we commune members of Peace and churches affiliated with Peace. For further explanation, please see inside the front cover of this worship folder. Thank you.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

My Faith Looks Up to Thee | **CW 811**

O Lord, We Praise You | **CW 673**

Please stand when presider indicates

COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in the true faith into life everlasting. Your sins are forgiven. The peace of God is with you.

Amen.

¹¹ Christ is meeting us from heaven – body and blood – in this Sacrament! It is fitting to bow respectfully when the pastor dismisses us with the words, “Go in peace.”

THANKSGIVING

SONG OF SIMEON¹²



The musical score is written on five staves in G-clef (treble clef). The first staff begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with a final half note. The lyrics are: "In peace, Lord, you let your". The second staff continues the melody with eighth and quarter notes, ending with a quarter rest. The lyrics are: "ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my". The third staff begins with a key signature change to two sharps (F# and C#) and continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for". The fourth staff continues with eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are: "ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the". The fifth staff concludes the piece with eighth and quarter notes, ending with a final double bar line. The lyrics are: "glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el."

In peace, Lord, you let your

ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my

eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for

ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the

glo - ry, the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

PRAYER

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

¹² These words come from Luke 2:29-32. They were sung by an elderly man named Simeon as he held the baby Jesus in his arms in the temple of Jerusalem. He could now die in peace knowing that the Savior had arrived to save His people. Like Simeon, we are able to leave this place in peace since we have received Christ – body and blood – in the Sacrament for our salvation.

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

Jesus, Priceless Treasure | CW 823:5



5 Hence, all fear and sad - ness! For the Lord of glad - ness,
Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love the Fa - ther,
though the storms may gath - er, still have peace with - in.
Yea, what - e'er I here must bear, thou art still my
pur - est plea - sure, Je - sus, price - less trea - sure!

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain