

WE ARE TRANSFORMED IN CHRIST
to Share the Hope of Eternal Life!

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27th, 2026, A.D.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

200 Market Street, Ste. Genevieve, MO.63670

Office Phone (573-883-5361)

holycrossstegen@gmail.com

Website: holycrossstegen.org

Facebook: facebook.com/holycrossstegen

The flowers on the altar are placed by Vickie Eisenbeis in celebration for the 70 years of marriage of Wallace and Lois Eisenbeis!

Upcoming available dates for flowers for the altar: November 8 and 29, 2026.

Please clearly print your name and occasion on the flower chart on the wall by the narthex above the water fountain. Please put \$25 in an envelope; mark it “Flower Fund” and place it in the offering plate. A friendly reminder, if you take a flower vase home, please return it the following week so it can be used again.

- **Holy Cross upholds and adheres to the Biblical practice of Closed Communion.**
- ***Doors Open on Sunday at 8:00 AM. Divine Service Begins at 9:00 AM, followed by a Bible Study after today’s service with coffee and treats.***
- ***Responsive Prayer II is offered at 10:00 AM on Tuesday.***
- ***Tuesdays Bible Study begins at 10:30 AM and lasts until 11:30 AM***
- ***Individual Confession and Absolution by appointment***
- ***The ringing of the bells starts at 9:00 AM***
- ***Words written in Bold and marked with  signify congregation response.***

Needs for pastoral care in our area, call our Pastor:

Rev. Peyton Holland

(918-332-1997)

or one of our Elders: Rick Hutson (573-780-9390),

Randy Ruzicka (314-210-4279) or Wayne Schremp (573-883-6060)

The Holy Baptism of Riley Joe Campbell

When candidates are unable to speak for themselves, the sponsors answer the questions on their behalf.

Stand

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

C Amen.

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “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.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The pastor addresses each candidate:

P How are you named?

R [Name]

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:

P [Name], receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your

great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold [name(s)] according to Your boundless mercy and bless [him/her/them] with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in [him/her/them], which has been inherited from Adam and which [he himself / she herself / they themselves] [has/have] committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that [he/she/they] be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, [he/she/they] would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.” And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The pastor places his hands on the head(s) of the candidate(s), and the congregation joins in praying:

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Sit

The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:

P [Name(s)], do you renounce the devil?

R Yes, I renounce him.

P Do you renounce all his works?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R Yes, I renounce them.

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

R Yes, I believe.

P Do you 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?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P [Name], do you desire to be baptized?

R *Yes, I do.*

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

P [Name], I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life ✠ everlasting.

C **Amen.**

The pastor may place a white garment on the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

The newly baptized may be welcomed with the following:

- A** In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you [a member / members] of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and [an heir / heirs] with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our [brother(s)/sister(s)] in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.
- C** Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.

Stand

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted [name(s)] the new birth in Holy Baptism and made [him/her/them] [a member / members] of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and [an heir / heirs] of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as [he/she/they] [has/have] now become Your [child/children], You would keep [him/her/them] in [his/her/their] baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure [he/she/they] may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

One or more of the following collects may also be prayed.

- P** Heavenly Father, You sent Your own Son into this world as the child of the virgin Mary. We thank You for the life of this child entrusted to our care. Help us remember that we are all Your children and so love and nurture [him/her] that [he/she] may attain to the full stature intended for [him/her] in Your eternal kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.
- P** Lord and Giver of life, look with kindness upon the father(s) and mother(s) of [this child / these children] and upon all our parents. Let them ever rejoice in the gift You have given them. Enable them to be teachers and examples of righteousness for their children. Strengthen them in their own Baptism that they may share eternally with their children the salvation You have given them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Peace ☩ be with you.

C Amen.

All return to their places.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

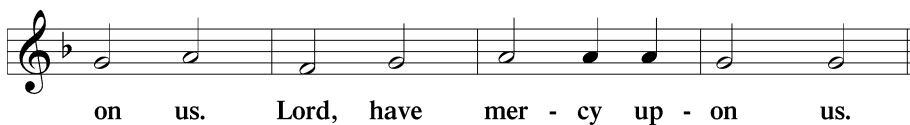
The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.
Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises | to our God;*
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is | fitting.
The LORD builds up Je- | rusalem;*
he gathers the outcasts of | Israel.
He heals the broken- | hearted*
and binds | up their wounds.
He determines the number | of the stars;*
he gives to all of | them their names.
Great is our Lord, and abun- | dant in power;*
his understanding is beyond | measure.
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.
The LORD lifts up the | humble;*
he casts the wicked | to the ground.

Kyrie

LSB 186

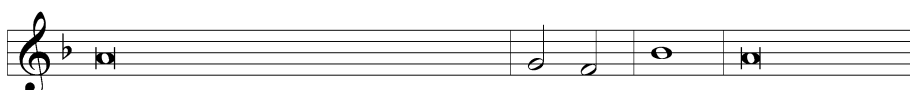
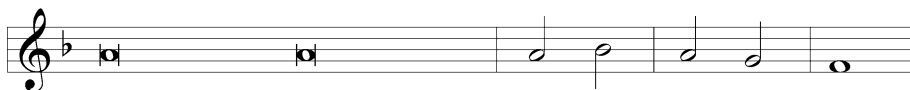
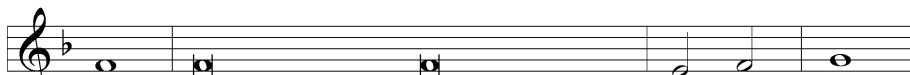


C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
 Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
 art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
P Let us pray.

P Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb

shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalms 91:11; 103:1

He will command his angels con- | cerning you*
to guard you in | all your ways.
Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast

to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For

John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

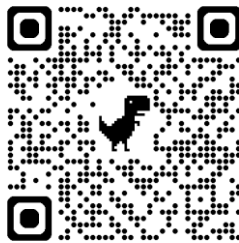
Sit

Offering

For today's prayer requests, please write them on the attendance card provided during the service. Once completed, fold the card and either hand it to an usher or place it in the offertory plate. The Pastor will include these requests during the Prayers of the Church.

Three ways to give:

- 1) offering plate—cash or check.**
- 2) online at holycrossstegen.org • Click the “Give” icon.**
- 3) by mail.**
- 4) scan the QR code below and enter information on Rebel Give.**



Stand

Prayer of the Church

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the proclamation of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, that by the pure tongues of Christ's servants the tongues of the wicked may be silenced, their evil ways cast aside and their sins washed away, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, that she may hold fast to the Word of life in the midst of a crooked and twisted world, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Against all grumbling, rivalry and conceit in the Church of God; and for humble and devout faith lasting until the day of Christ Jesus, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church, that she may proclaim the true justice of God to this world; and that the wicked may turn and follow in the way of forgiveness and life, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all useful scientific research, that those who apply their knowledge for the betterment of their neighbors might be blessed with wisdom and skill, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our leaders and those who serve in our armed forces, that having been appointed by Him before whom the might of man is nothing, they might serve honorably and well, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who face sickness, surgery and pain, [*especially _____*], that they may not be afraid, and that they might be healed according to the abundance of God's steadfast love, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who receive Holy Communion this day, that we may have one mind and one will in doctrine, witness and service, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

O God, in You there is no shadow due to change. Enkindle Your divine light in us, that we may stand united as Christ's own body, holding fast to the Word of life and shining brightly in the midst of this world's darkness; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Statement on Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and

loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

Preface

LSB 194



P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

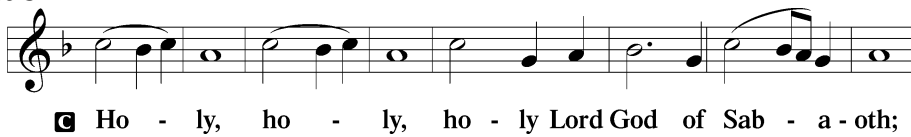
P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

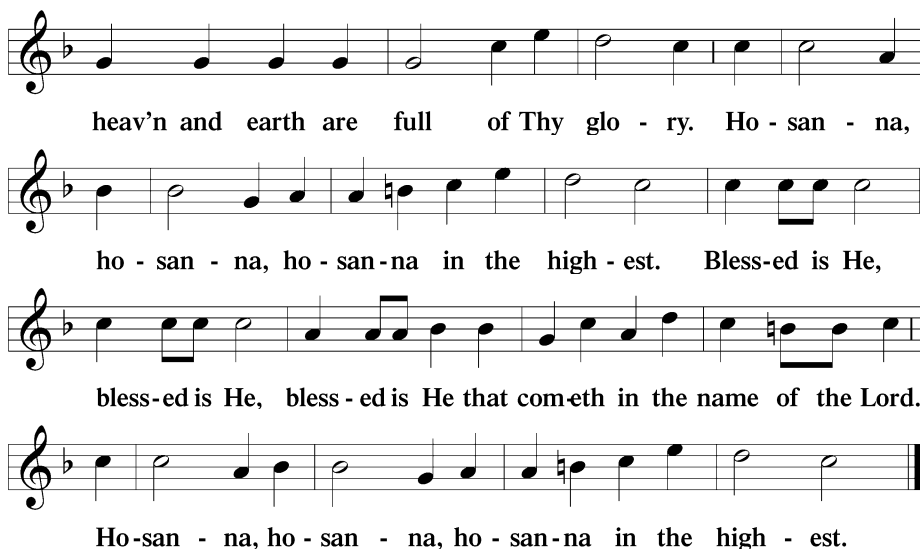
P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

C Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

Pax Domini

LSB 197



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



G A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

639 Wide Open Stand the Gates

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -

cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy

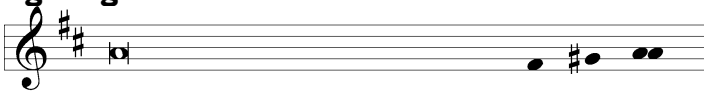
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,

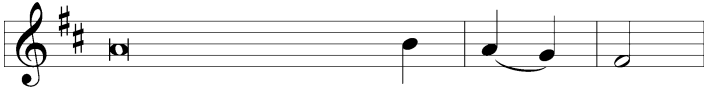
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



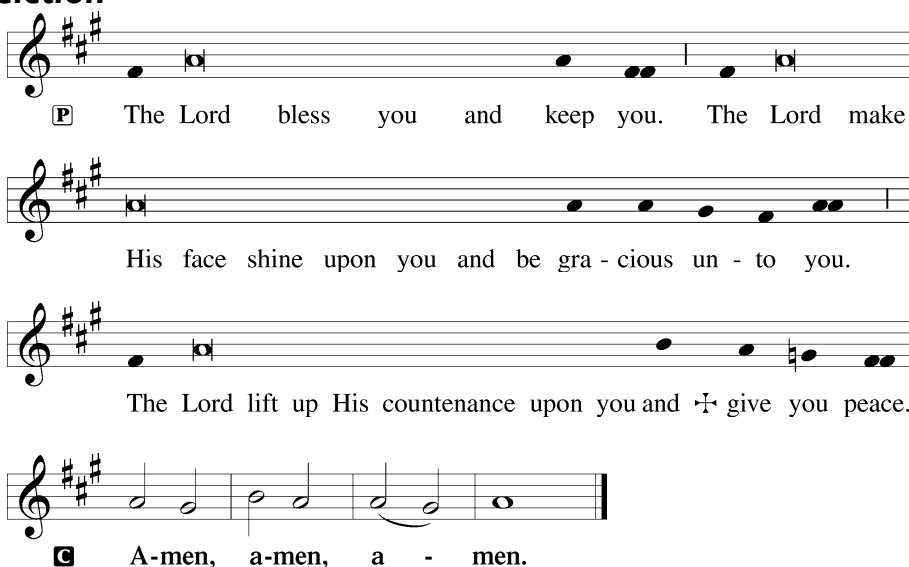
A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
C A-men, a-men, a - men.

554 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Peyton Holland

Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson

Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka

Organist: Todd Brueckner

Sunday Church Attendance	Attendance
First Week	38
Second Week	55
Third Week	48
Fourth Week	
Fifth Week	

Your Financial Support of Your Church	9/20/26	Year-to-Date
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$2,902.00	\$110,276.00
Actual Offerings, including online offerings (Budget)	\$2,469.00	\$94,815.74
Ahead/Behind Budget Requirement	-\$433.00	-\$15,460.26
% Ahead/Behind	-14.9%	-14.0%

In Our Prayers This Week and Celebrations

Throughout the week, please keep these people in your daily prayers. As a model for prayer, consider going through the A.C.T.S. of prayer. *Adoration*: praising God for who He is. *Confession*: confessing your sins to God, especially those that weigh on your heart. *Thanksgiving*: thanking God for specific blessings. *Supplication*: asking God for help.

For those who are homebound **Barb Jones, Sharon Estes, Doug Arnold, Nick Krege, Pansy Meyer, Val Rakey.**

For healing and continued recovery **Bill Staffen** (Bonnie Keir's brother, cancer), **Dustin Hutson** (recovering from a brain bleed), **Carol Steiger-Rudoff** (Connie Schwent's Sister In-law, cancer), **Laura Pruneau Fallert** (Cancer treatment), **Maia Rottler** (granddaughter of LaJune Rottler, Leukemia treatment), **Bonnie Kier** (healing from shoulder surgery), **Steve Ringwald** (Cancer treatment and pain management), **Connie Schwent.**

For those celebrating birthdays in September - **Bonnie Keir** (Sept.01), **Wayne Phillips** (Sept. 02), **Pat Wibbenmeyer** (Sept. 04), **Connie Skaggs** (Sept. 15), **Dan Sullivan** (Sept.23), **Terry Bollinger** (Sept.30).

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries in September - **Frank and Annette Rolfe's** (September 15), **Randy and Linda Ruzicka's** (September 28).

For local, state, and national elected officials that they uphold goodness and work humbly for those they serve.

For our community that more people are made to cease their sinful faithlessness and believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For our church family We are transformed in Christ to share the hope of eternal life.

To submit a prayer request for inclusion in the bulletin, please call the church office at 573-883-5361 or email holycrossstegen@gmail.com. Prayer requests will continue to be listed until removal is requested.