

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

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20th, 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 Bill and Vicky Surman in celebration of Mia Surman's 1st Birthday!

Upcoming available dates for flowers for the altar: November 8, 22, 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 Monday and 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)

Divine Service III

Confession and Absolution

747 No Saint on Earth Lives Life to Self Alone

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*

and call on the name | of the LORD.

What shall I render | to the LORD*

for all his bene- | fits to me?

I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*

and call on the name | of the LORD.

Precious in the sight | of the LORD*

is the death | of his saints.

O LORD, I am your | servant;*

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have | loosed my bonds.



☐ Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Kyrie

LSB 186



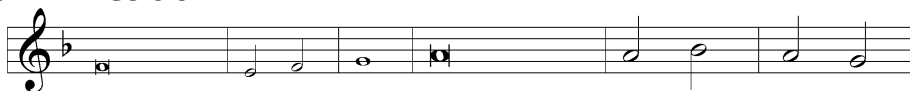
☐ Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187



☐ Glory be to God on high: ☐ and on earth peace, good - will toward

men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor-ship Thee,

we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al-mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-

on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.

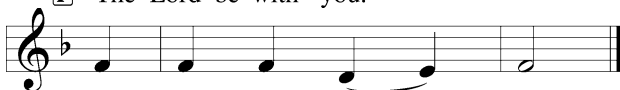
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,

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 Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; 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.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

Epistle

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

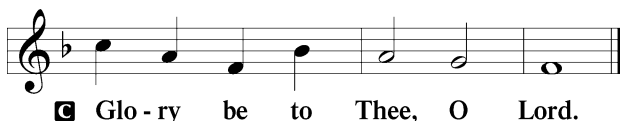
LSB 190



Holy Gospel

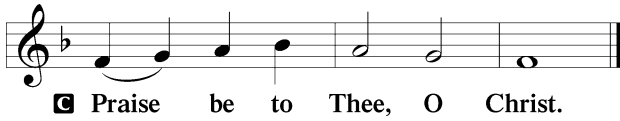
Matthew 20:1–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.



¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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.

555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

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 wisdom from the Word of God, that we may lead fruitful lives in the midst of a foolish world, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That we would learn to become like our divine Master, who puts the last first, pardons sinners and works death into great gain for His servants, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who serve in the Lord’s kingdom, that we would be ever mindful that it is only by grace we are privileged to serve in it, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That Christ would be honored in our bodies, whether by life as we serve Him without fear, or by departing this life to be with Him, which is far better, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For this nation, that the Lord would bless all people in their callings and in service to their neighbors; and for all authorities, that they would serve on behalf of the defenseless, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are sick, depressed, lonely, ignored, shut in or in hospice care, [*especially* _____], that God would keep them in the certainty that to live is Christ and to die is gain, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who commune this day, that they may receive our Savior's body and blood in faith for the forgiveness of their sins, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For pastors who serve us these sacred mysteries, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those still being instructed, that they may be nourished in hope and come soon to the Lord's table, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

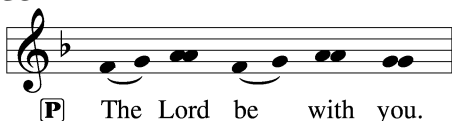
Service of the Sacrament

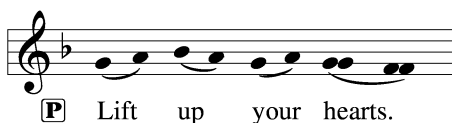
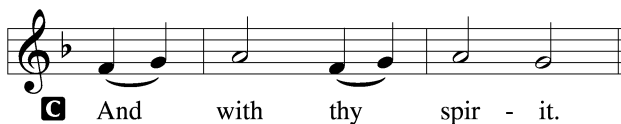
Statement on Holy Communion

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

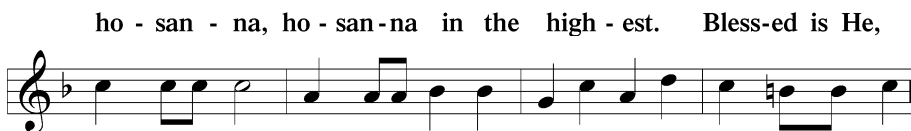
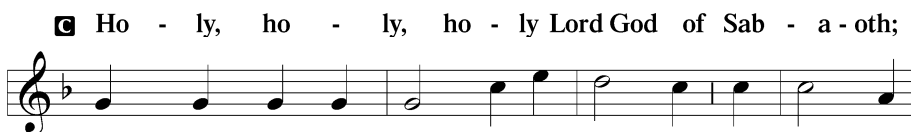




P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195





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.



C 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

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

630 Now, My Tongue, the Mystery Telling

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,
G 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.



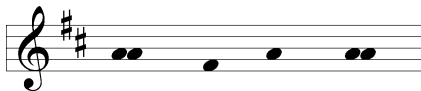
P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202



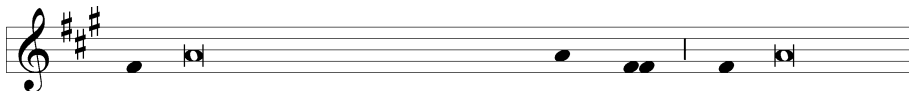
A Bless we the Lord.



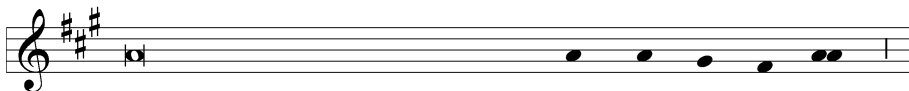
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

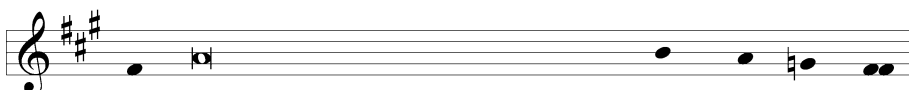
LSB 202



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.

769 Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

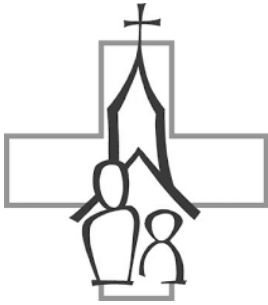
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A Special Note for the Saints at Holy Cross:

Thank you all so much for your kind words, cards, prayers, visits, and thoughtful gestures during Mom's stay in the hospital and after she passed away. She really enjoyed the fellowship and friends she found at Holy Cross, and your words of comfort and support are still helping us through our grief.

— Linda Trimmer



SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Peyton Holland

Ushers: Wayne Schremp & Rick Hutson

Communion Servicer: Randy Ruzicka

Organist: SOS

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

Your Financial Support of Your Church	9/20/26	Year-to-Date
Weekly Budget Requirement	\$2,902.00	\$107,374.00
Actual Offerings, including online offerings (Budget)	\$2,050.00	\$92,346.74
Ahead/Behind Budget Requirement	-\$852.00	-\$15,027.26
% Ahead/Behind	-29.4%	-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.