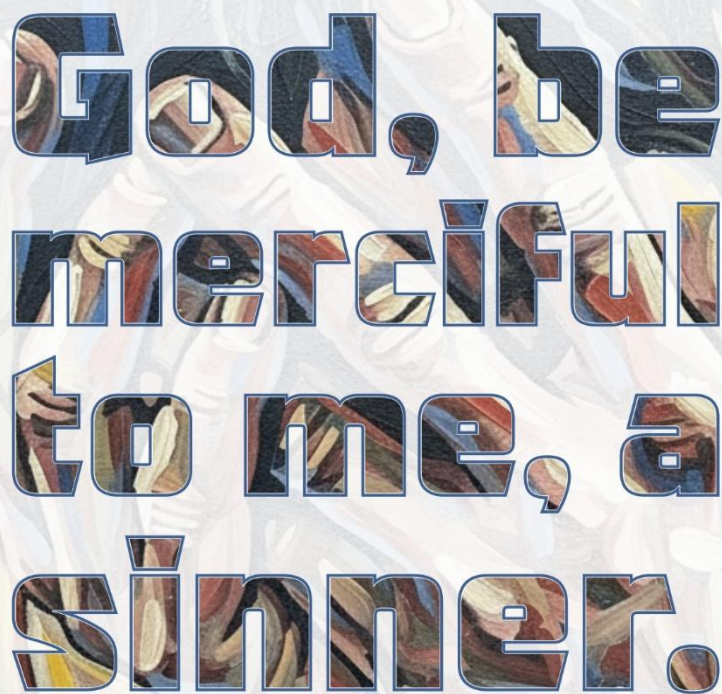


12th Sunday after Trinity

September 7th, 2025

Liturgy: WS p. 22

Organist: Lana Strike

An abstract painting with a religious theme, featuring figures in white robes, possibly angels or saints, set against a background of swirling, expressive brushstrokes in shades of blue, red, and gold. The painting is framed by a dark border.

God, be
merciful
to me, a
sinner.



ST. JOHN'S

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #27

"Oh Bless the Lord, My Soul"

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

C Amen.

P Pastor

Confession of Our Sins

C Congregation

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

C If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us pray.

C Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

Absolution from Our God

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

P Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

The Gloria Patri

TLH 377:10

C ♪ All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit, The God that saved us by His grace—All glory to His merit! O Triune God in heaven above, Who hast revealed Thy saving love, Thy blessed name be hallowed.

The Introit

Ps. 48:1, 3, 9-11, 14

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

P God is in his holy habitation; [he] settles the solitary in a home.

C **The God of Israel—he is the one who gives power and strength to his people.**

P God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him!

C **But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!**

P O God, when you went out before your people, in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

C **Blessèd be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.**

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

P Almighty and everlasting God, always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than we either desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Your mercy, forgiving those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things that we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



Genesis 4:1-15

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." ² And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. ³ In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, ⁴ and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, ⁵ but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you

not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is contrary to you, but you must rule over it." ⁸ Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." ¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. ¹⁴ Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.



Ephesians 2:1-10

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- ³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so

that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Confession of Faith

The 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.

Hymn: WS #778

"Grace Has a Thrilling Sound"



Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Christians Need Correct Posture

- I. Stand tall in self-righteousness—God will cast you down
- II. Bend low in repentance—God will lift you up in Christ!

The Offertory

WS p. 16

- C** ♪ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #323

"With Broken Heart and Contrite Sight"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠



Sunday School Teacher Installation



The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C Amen!

Hymn: TLH #384:1,4,5

"Oh, How Great Is Thy Compassion"



Bible Class resumed this morning. We picked back up near the end of Mark 6. If you haven't been to Bible Class before, or if you haven't been in quite some time, I'd encourage you to join us as we gather around the Word of God that was written for our learning, that we may grow together.

Ladies' Book Study – The ladies' book study will be starting back up on Monday, October 6th at 6:30 pm. The first book to be studied is "Joy: A Study of Philipppians" by Deb Burma. Eleven women have signed up so far, but there is room for more participants! Any woman of the congregation is invited to join either in person or on the phone. If interested, you can contact Jolene Albrecht.

Used Smartphones for Africa – Missionary Bruce Naumann is requesting donations of a certain kind of Android smartphone, for use by pastors and pastoral students in East Africa. If you have a used phone *in good condition and not too old* that was once on a Verizon plan and would like to donate it, please give it to Pastor Rodebaugh. Verizon is preferred because it will work with African cell carriers, but most others will not. Simcards are not required. These phones are much appreciated by students and pastors in our sister African churches - thank you!

Women's Retreat West Registration Open – Registration is now open for this year's Women's Retreat West, to be held in Sioux Falls from September 19-21. The theme this year is "Pieces of Jesus' Peace". To register, please head over to womensretreat.clclutheran.net, click on WEST, and fill out the form. If you would rather register over email or have any questions, reach out to womensretreatwest@gmail.com. A form can be sent to you from there.

CLC Call News – Pastor Andrew Schaller of Luther Memorial Church, Fond du Lac, WI, has **received and accepted** the vacancy call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI <> Pastor Drew Naumann of Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Spokane, WA has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Emeritus Jim Albrecht has **received** the vacancy call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, through December 31st.

Ushers	9/7	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R
	9/14	Kendall B, Larry B.
	9/21	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
Cleaning	This Week – The Voits (wk. 3)	
	Up Next – The Ruthenbecks	

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

September 8th – 13th, 2025

Mon John 5:37-47 The Father who sent Jesus has testified about Him, and His testimony is found in the Scriptures. "If you believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me" (v46).

Tues Acts 8:26-38 The Ethiopian was reading Isaiah 53:7-8, and starting with that very passage of Scripture, Philip told him the good news about Jesus (v35). The fruit of his testimony? Baptism! (V38)

Wed 2 Samuel 7:17-29 David's response to God's promises: a humble prayer, praising the greatness of God and imploring Him to fulfill His gracious words to His people. Amen. "Your words are truth" (v28).

Thurs Proverbs 9:1-6 True Wisdom is pictured as a lady building a house and preparing a banquet. It is complete and there for all who realize that they are simple or naive and need the road to understanding (v6).

Fri Proverbs 9:7-12 Those who think that they already have great wisdom in themselves may scoff or mock at Lady Wisdom's banquet, but a wise person will hear the Lord's word and become even wiser (v10).

Sat Proverbs 9:13-18 Lady Folly's banquet leads away from God's wisdom, and teaches that "Stolen waters are sweet" (v17). Her guests do not cling to the life which comes from God by His Word.

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