

Trinitytide

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

The Sunday of the Man with Dropsy



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE ASCENSION

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN
Truth, Beauty, Goodness

ABOUT TODAY'S THEME – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Whoever Humbles Himself Will Be Exalted

“Do not put yourself forward in the king’s presence” (Prov. 25:6–14). Rather, take the lowest position at the table. Humble yourself before Him. For your place is not for you to take but for Him to give. Conduct yourself with all lowliness and gentleness, bearing with one another in love (Eph. 4:1–6), that the King may give you glory in the presence of those at the table with you. “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted” (Luke 14:1–11). Is this not the way of Christ? He is the one who took the lowest place, who humbled Himself even to the point of death for us. He is now exalted to the highest place at the right hand of the Father that penitent believers may be exalted together with Him in the resurrection. To the humble at His Supper He says, “Friend, move up higher,” giving you His very body and blood for your forgiveness that you may ascend to take part in the great wedding feast which has no end.

**Image on front cover: Illustration from French illuminated manuscript of “Christ Healing a Man with Dropsy; Pulling the Ox Out of the Pit on Sabbath” (1372) by Anonymous.*

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.
DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE
UAC XXIV: *Retinetur enim missa apud nos et summa reverentia celebratur.*



PRELUDE

Toccata Quinta

Girolamo Frescobaldi

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 807

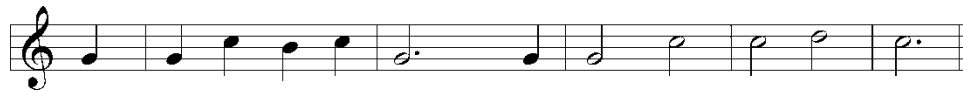
“When Morning Gilds the Skies”



1 When morn-ing gilds the skies, My heart, a - wak - ing, cries,
2 When mirth for mu - sic longs, This is my song of songs:
3 No love-lier an - ti - phon In all high heav'n is known
4 Ye na - tions of man - kind, In this your con - cord find:
5 Sing, suns and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,



“May Je - sus Christ be praised!” When eve - ning shad - ows fall,
“May Je - sus Christ be praised!” God’s ho - ly house of prayer
Than “Je - sus Christ be praised!” There to the e - ter - nal Word
“May Je - sus Christ be praised!” Let all the earth a - round
Sing, “Je - sus Christ be praised!” God’s whole cre - a - tion o’er,



This rings my cur-few call: “May Je - sus Christ be praised!”
Hath none that can com-pare With “Je - sus Christ be praised!”
The e - ter - nal psalm is heard: “May Je - sus Christ be praised!”
Ring joy - ous with the sound: “May Je - sus Christ be praised!”
Both now and ev - er - more Shall Je - sus Christ be praised!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

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.

[Hebrews 10:22]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

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

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

Kneeling or sitting forward

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

The Third Commandment

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Preparation for Confession and Absolution according to the Third Commandment:

- *Do I despise the Word by neglect or by paying little or no attention when it is read or preached?*
- *Am I faithful in the Divine Service, or do I attend sporadically, preferring to be elsewhere when the Church is at worship?*
- *Do I pray for my pastor and support his efforts to guard Christ's flock from error?*

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.

[John 20:19-23]

C Amen.

Standing

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 119:1-2, 5-6; antiphon: Psalm 119:137, 124



L Righteous are you, | O LORD,*
and right are your | just decrees.
Deal with your servant according to your | steadfast love,*
and teach me your | statutes.

L Blessèd are those who keep his testi- | monies,*
who seek him with their | whole heart.

C Oh that my ways may be | steadfast*
in keeping your | statutes!

L Then I shall not be | put to shame,*
having my eyes fixed on all your com- | mandments.



C 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.

L Righteous are you, | O LORD,*
and right are your | just decrees.
Deal with your servant according to your | steadfast love,*
and teach me your | statutes.

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47




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



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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



P Glory be to God on high: **G** 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

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Lord, we implore You, grant Your people grace to withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds to follow You, the only God; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sitting

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Proverbs 25:6-14

A The Old Testament Reading for the Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity is from Proverbs, chapter 25.

A ⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
⁷for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

What your eyes have seen

⁸ do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?

⁹ Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,

¹⁰ lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.

¹¹ A word fitly spoken
is like apples of gold in a setting of silver.

¹² Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold
is a wise reprovener to a listening ear.

¹³ Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest
is a faithful messenger to those who send him;
he refreshes the soul of his masters.

¹⁴ Like clouds and wind without rain
is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalm 33:12, 6



- L** Blessed is the nation whose God | is the LORD,*
the people whom he has chosen as his | heritage!
- C** By the word of the LORD the heav- | ens were made,*
and by the breath of his mouth | all their host.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 4:1-6

- A** The Epistle is from Ephesians, chapter four.
- A** ¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to walk in a manner worthy
of the calling to which you have been
called, ²with all humility and
gentleness, with patience, bearing with
one another in love, ³eager to maintain
the unity of the Spirit in the bond of
peace. ⁴There is one body and one
Spirit—just as you were called to the
one hope that belongs to your call—
⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one
God and Father of all, who is over all
and through all and in all.
- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Standing

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Psalm 116:1



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

- L** I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.



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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourteenth chapter.



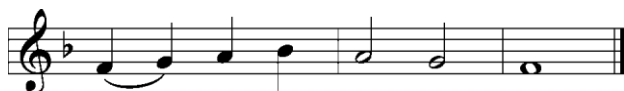
G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P ¹One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ²And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" ⁴But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" ⁶And they could not reply to these things.

⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how

they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

"Humility is the foundation of all the virtues; therefore, in a soul where it does not exist there can be no true virtue, but the mere appearance only. In like manner, it is the most proper disposition for all celestial gifts. And, finally, it is so necessary to perfection, that of all the ways to reach it, the first is humility; the second, humility; the third, humility. And if the question were repeated a hundred times, I should always give the same answer."

St. Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430 AD)

APOSTLES' CREED

[Matthew 10:32]

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

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.

CATECHETICAL RECITATION

The Second Commandment

P What is the Second Commandment?

C You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

P What does this mean?

C We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

Sitting

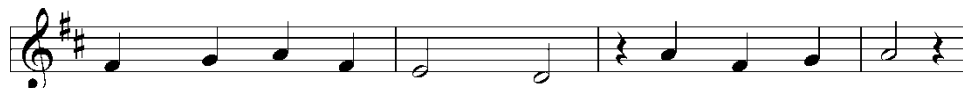
HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 557

"Seek Where You May to Find a Way"



1 Seek where you may To find a way That
2 Seek whom you may To be your stay, None
3 Seek Him a - lone Who did a - tone, Who
4 My heart's de - light, My crown most bright, O



leads to your sal - va - tion. My heart is stilled,
can re - deem his broth - er. All help - ers failed;
did your souls de - liv - er. O seek Him first,
Christ, my joy for - ev - er. Not wealth nor pride



On Christ I build, He is the one foun - da - tion.
This man pre - vailed, The God-man and none oth - er,
All you who thirst For grace that fails you nev - er.
Nor fortune's tide Our bonds of love shall sev - er.



His Word is sure, His works en - dure; He o - ver - throws
Our Ser-vant-King Of whom we sing. We're jus - ti - fied
In ev - 'ry need Seek Him in - deed; To ev - 'ry heart
You are my Lord; Your pre - cious Word Shall guide my way



All e - vil foes; Through Him I more than con - quer.
Be - cause He died, The guilt - y be - ing guilt - less.
He will im - part His bless - ings with - out mea - sure.
And help me stay For - ev - er in Your pres - ence.

SERMON

A young monk said to an old one: "Father, my heart tells me that I am good." But the old man answered: "Whoever does not see his sins, always thinks himself good; but when one sees them, his heart cannot persuade him of any such thing. It is necessary, then, to strive to know ourselves."

Lives of the Fathers

Standing

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10–12



■ 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.

Sitting

OFFERING

MUSIC

Concerto #2 Adagio

Bach/Vivaldi

MEDITATION

Luke 14:5 – “And he said to them, ‘Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?’” The time is always ripe to do right. God is always calling us to faithfulness and love, which is the fulfillment of the Law. The Pharisees wanted an easier law – something less than love – that was easier to keep. Why? Because they thought they had to in order to be saved. But since we know that Jesus saves by His sacrifice, we are free to see the real Law of love and to strive to fulfill it not out of fear but out of thanksgiving.

“We ought to submit to the will of God, and be content in whatever state it may please Him to put us; nor should we ever desire to change it for another, until we know that such is His pleasure. This is the most excellent and the most useful practice that can be adopted upon earth.”

St. Vincent de Paul (1581 – 1660)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

P Almighty Father, unite Your Church in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace. Lead Christians who are at odds with one another to seek reconciliation in Christ and, as brothers, to bear with each other in love. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Preserve and give success to the preaching of Your Holy Word. Through pastors, missionaries, church workers and the priesthood of all believers, send forth Your Son's gracious invitation to repent and believe and cause it to be received with joyful faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Holy Lord, You have given Your gift of holy marriage, and You preserve this estate against the forces of sin and Satan. Bless all married couples. Keep them faithful to each other in their vows and ready to welcome Your gift of children in their union, according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Blessed Father, strengthen fathers to devote their households to Your Word and prayer, to bring their children faithfully to Christ's font, and faithfully to instruct their children in regular attendance at the Divine Service. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, uphold Joseph, our president; Brian, our governor; and all our leaders. Direct their work toward the common good of all people, which is found in God's Law written on our hearts and in Your righteous decrees — especially for the protection of the unborn and those who cannot speak for themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Father, spare those who are ill, suffering or in sorrow [*especially* _____]. Comfort them with Your promise of constant care and mercy. Show compassion also to the bereaved. Comfort them with Your promise of a joyful reunion with Christ and their loved ones who have died in the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Bless all who will receive the Lord's Supper today to eat and drink in repentance and faith. Strengthen all believers through the forgiveness of sins promised in the Holy Scriptures, until at last we are welcomed together at Your eternal marriage feast. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



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 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



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

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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

Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25



P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,



and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the



dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My [†] bod - y, which is giv-en for you.



This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so



He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it



to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in



My [†] blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.



This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19



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



A - men.

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29



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.

Sitting

About participation in the Lord's Supper:

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. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 623

"Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray That we may
2 Give us, who share this won - drous food, Your bod - y
3 By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the
4 One bread, one cup, one bod - y, we, Re - joic - ing
5 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray: O keep us



feast on You to - day; Be - neath these forms of
bro - ken and Your blood, The grate - ful peace of
gift of love re - told; All that You are we
in our u - ni - ty, Pro - claim Your love un -
stead - fast till that day When each will be Your




bread and wine En - rich us with Your grace di - vine.
sins for - giv'n, The cer - tain joys of heirs of heav'n.
here re - ceive, And all we are to You we give.
til You come To bring Your scat - tered loved ones home.
wel - comed guest In heav - en's high and ho - ly feast.

"Christians are not distinguished from others as to their lands, their language or their uses. They do not live in cities that are only theirs, nor do they speak a strange tongue, nor is their style of life separate from others. . . . Rather, while living in Greek or barbarian cities, according to their lot, and joining others as to dress, food and way of life, they give signs of a particular behavior that is admirable, and that all find surprising. They live in their own lands; but as pilgrims. They partake in all as citizens, and yet suffer all as aliens. Every land is their motherland; and no land is their homeland. They marry and beget children as others do; but do not abandon the newly born. They have a common table; but not a common bed. They are in the flesh, but do not live according to the flesh. They dwell on earth, but their citizenship is in heaven. They obey the laws, and with their lives surpass them. They love all, and all persecute them. They are unknown and yet condemned. They are killed and they give life. They are poor, and yet enrich many. They lack all, and yet have all."

Anonymous (second century)

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ Song of Simeon

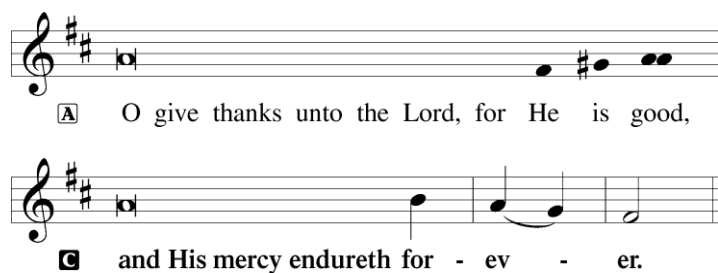
Luke 2:29-32



C 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 without end. A-men.

THANKSGIVING

Psalms 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** 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** Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1



P The Lord be with you.

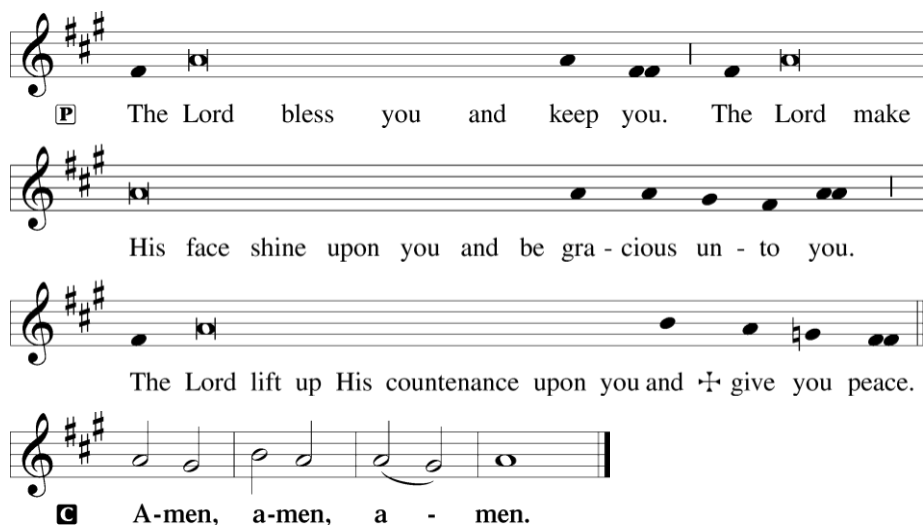
C And with thy spir - it.

A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26



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.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 924

"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 Your Gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling

joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,

Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
Glad Your 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 You in end - less day.

POSTLUDE

Postlude in B Flat

Johann Kindermann

SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

Grayson Beckman, *Elder*

Penny Durden, *Acolyte*

Organist

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Adrian Popescu

Altar Guild

Lucie Woolery/Jill Drachenberg

Usher(s)

Justin Ledford/Brian Beckman

Greeter(s)

TBD

Fellowship Host(s)

The Schoellen family

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Presiding Minister

The Rev. Al Oren, *Guest Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Head Elder*

Edie Durden, *Acolyte*

Organist

Debbie Dickensheets, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Adrian Popescu

Altar Guild

Jeni Miller/Caitlin East

Usher(s)

Greg Ison/Richard Drachenberg

Greeter(s)

Nancy Grossberg

Fellowship Host(s)

TBD

Making Christ Known

CALENDAR		
Sunday 9/26	Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The Case for Faith</i> Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following worship
Monday 9/27	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Tuesday 9/28	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 9/29	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:00 AM
Thursday 9/30	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 10/1	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 10/2	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 10/3	Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study Divine Service with Holy Communion Fellowship Hour	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following worship



✦ **Adult Bible Study: *The Case for Faith***

Theme: From the back cover: *"Doubt is familiar territory for Lee Strobel, the former atheist and New York Times bestselling author of books for skeptics and Christians. But he believes that faith and reason go hand in hand, and that Christianity is a defensible religion."*

"In this six-session revised small group Bible study, Strobel explores the most common emotional obstacles to faith in Christ. These include the natural inclination to wrestle with faith and doubt, the troubling presence of evil and suffering in the world, and the exclusivity of the Christian gospel. They also include this compelling question: Can I doubt and be a Christian?"

"Through compelling personal stories and expert testimony combined with reflection and interaction, you will learn how to overcome these obstacles, deepen your spiritual convictions, and find new confidence that Christianity is a reasonable faith."

Day & Time: Sundays at 9:00 A.M., from September 12 through October 24

Location: Church fellowship hall

✦ **Book Club: *Uncle Tom's Cabin***

Theme: From the back cover: *"Harriet Beecher Stowe was appalled by slavery, and she took one of the few options open to nineteenth century women who wanted to affect public opinion: she wrote a novel, a huge, enthralling narrative that claimed the heart, soul, and politics of millions of her contemporaries. Uncle Tom's Cabin paints pictures of three plantations, each worse than the other, where even the best plantation leaves a slave at the mercy of fate or debt. Her questions remain penetrating even today: "Can man ever be trusted with wholly irresponsible power?"*

"First published more than 150 years ago, this monumental work is today being reexamined by critics, scholars, and students. Though "Uncle Tom" has become a synonym for a fawning black yes-man, Stowe's Tom is actually American literature's first black hero, a man who suffers for refusing to obey his oppressors. Uncle Tom's Cabin is a living, relevant story, passionate in its vivid depiction of the cruelest forms of injustice and inhumanity-and the courage it takes to fight against them."

Day & Time: Sunday, November 7 at 3:30 PM

Location: Church fellowship hall

Pathos ~ BEAUTY

✝ Divine Service

Theme: A feast for the senses! Experience the gracious presence of the Lord in Word and Sacrament through liturgy and song. Dazzling to the eye, enticing to the ear, tantalizing to the taste, gentle to the touch, fragrant to the nose, the Church engages you in every way. Prepare to have an encounter with the divine.

Day & Time: Sundays at 10:00 A.M.

Location: Church sanctuary

✝ Private Confession

Theme: Know the peace of a clear conscience and the renewed joy of a soul that has been set free from sin. This gift can be yours through Private Confession. It is a unique opportunity to help you in your spiritual battle, and grow you into Christian maturity. The Lord wants to apply His grace to you in a personal and intimate way.

Day & Time: Call Pastor Miller or email him at pastor@ascension-lcms.com to schedule an appointment.

Location: Church sanctuary

Ethos ~ GOODNESS

✝ 1-1-1 Mission Campaign

Theme: 1-1-1 is a campaign of the English District to raise \$1/per person/per week. That means that by giving \$4 each month, just \$52 a year, everyone can give toward the district's mission efforts. Just think what could happen if every person in the English District did this! Right now, those missions are focusing on district ministries on college campuses. Please consider playing a part in this special mission! Dollars may be contributed in the designated 1-1-1 Mission box located in the narthex.

✝ LCA Stewardship: Focus On Time

Theme: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod defines Christian stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God’s family, the Church in managing all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes.”

Hopefully, during the months of July and August, the Treasures Allocation Spreadsheets helped your family determine how to allocate your “Treasures.”

Now, for the months of September and October, the focus will be on God’s gift of “Time.” To assist with the management of your time in balancing the 5 aspects of life (Faith, Relationships, Physical Health, Finances, and Self) you will be receiving via email worksheets on planning and recording your time. These can be used by all the members of your family.

Hopefully, these tools will be helpful to you and your family to become better stewards of God’s gift of time, which He has bestowed on you all. Please contact Clara Smith, the Chair of Stewardship, for more information. Email: clara.smith@mindspring.com. Cell: (678) 438-1756.

✝ Open Arms Fall Festival

Theme: Help support your congregation and reach out to the families of Open Arms by attending the Ascension hospitality table. There, we will greet, distribute literature, and share the joy of balloons. Please see signup sheet in the Narthex. On behalf of your church, thank you!

Day: Saturday, October 16 from 10 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Location: Church grounds

✝ Reformation Party

Theme: Celebrate over 500 years of the Reformation and our evangelical faith! Not only will we observe Reformation Day in Divine Service, but you’re invited to partake of a special luncheon afterwards with brats and beer. Families A-L please bring a dessert. Families M-Z please bring a side. Happy Reformation!

Day & Time: Sunday, October 31 after Divine Service

Location: Church fellowship hall

✝ Chili Cook-Off

Theme: Everyone's favorite event is returning for 2021. Enter your best chili for a chance to win a prize for Tastiest Chili, Most Original Chili, or Spiciest Chili. Even if you're not entering, join the fun and cast your votes!

Day & Time: Sunday, November 21 after Divine Service

Location: Church fellowship hall

LIFTING UP ONE ANOTHER IN PRAYER

Birthdays

- ✝ Henry Ledford, 9/28
- ✝ Tom Russell, 9/28

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries)

- ✝ Josh Mech, 9/29

Wedding Anniversaries

- ✝ None this week

Membership Anniversaries

- ✝ Justin & Julie Ledford, 9/27

In Need

Recent Requests

For persecuted Christians:

- ✝ Eritrea

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- ✝ Unborn child of Isaac & Bekah Beckman
- ✝ Melanie Beauchamp (sister of Jason Schoellen)
- ✝ Anne Bigelow
- ✝ Danielle Darnell (cousin of Kati Durden)
- ✝ Sandra Foster (aunt of Michelle Noel)
- ✝ Ruth Henry
- ✝ Ezra Hoffman (baby of Lauren Morr's friend)
- ✝ Mary Huntoon (sister of Anne Bigelow)
- ✝ James McFerrin (grandfather of Open Arms family)
- ✝ Betty McMurray (aunt of Michelle Noel)
- ✝ Michelle Noel

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- ✝ Debbie Dickensheets
- ✝ Hannibal (Hank) Durden
- ✝ Mary Greene (neighbor of Ruth Henry)
- ✝ Jimmy Murray (friend of Adrian Popescu)
- ✝ Michael Ocepek (brother-in-law of Eileen Buehl)
- ✝ Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)
- ✝ Bill Vester

For the leaders of Church and state:

- ✝ Director Barbara Collins-Hopkins & Open Arms Board
- ✝ English District Bishop Jamison Hardy & all district officials
- ✝ LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials
- ✝ Pastor David Miller & Church Board of Lutheran Church of the Ascension
- ✝ Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to Dominican Republic
- ✝ President Joseph Biden & all U.S. government officials



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ASCENSION

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