



Lakes Region Lutheran Church

(A Satellite Campus of Grace Lutheran Church, Nashua)

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

1070 Whittier Hwy., Unit #1

Moultonborough, NH 03254

Rev. Robert F. Fischer

September 13, 2026

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome!

We pray that your spirit would be uplifted and your faith strengthened as we gather together to receive God's divine service to us through Word and Sacrament.

A Word about Communion

We're glad you're worshiping with us today. In the Lord's Supper, we believe we receive Christ's true body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26–28). Because of this, Scripture also warns that receiving the Supper without a right understanding of it, or apart from the unity in the faith it proclaims, can bring harm rather than blessing (1 Corinthians 11:27–29). Out of love for you—not judgment—we practice what's called “close communion.” We ask that those who commune with us share this same confession of faith, typically shown by membership in this congregation or a sister congregation in fellowship with us. This protects you from receiving the Supper in a way that could do spiritual harm. This practice is meant as a kindness, not a wall. If you'd like to come forward for a blessing instead, you're warmly welcome to do so. We'd love to talk more about this. Please speak to the pastor after the service.

GREETING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

Opening Hymn: #851, “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8–9

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.

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

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

Psalms 143:1–2; antiphon: v. 9

P Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge!

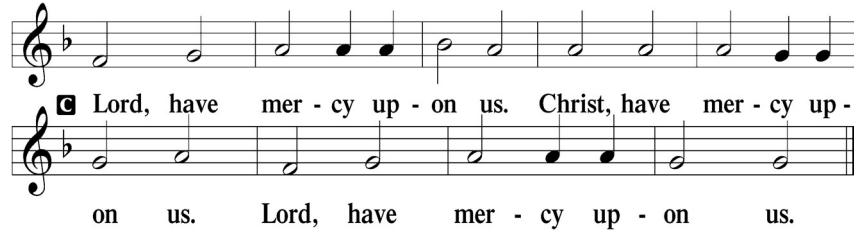
C Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

P Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

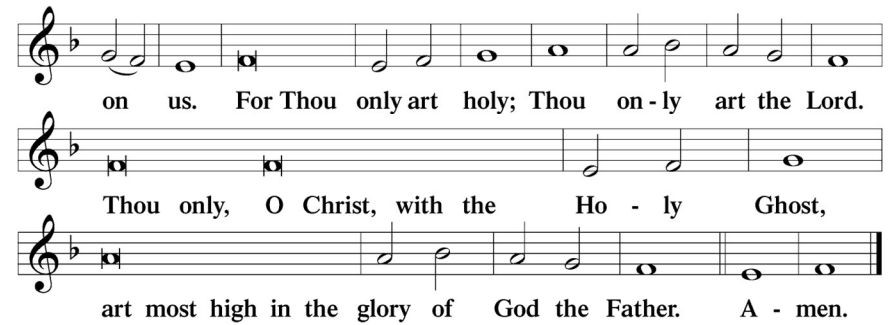
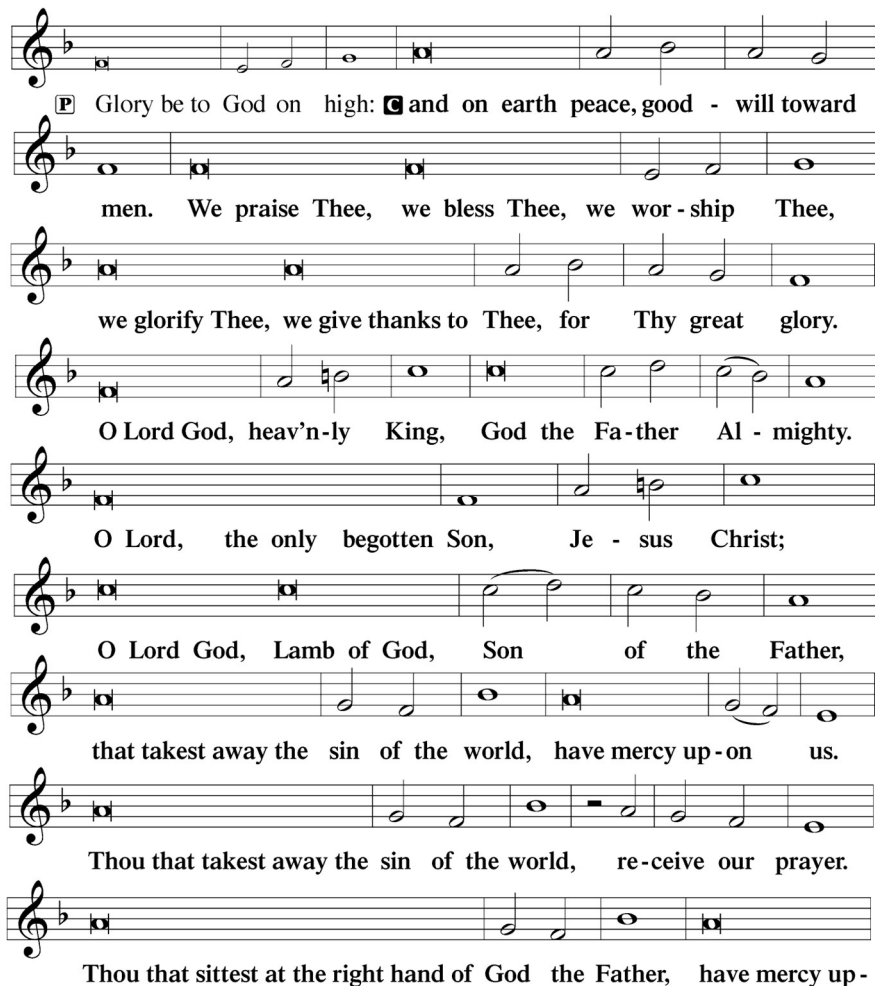
A Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for
refuge!

KYRIE



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "'What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?'" ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

P Fear the Lord, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing!

C Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Epistle Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

ALLELUIA

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

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. ²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³²Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

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.

(Please be seated)

CATECHISM REVIEW

The First Commandment

P What is the First Commandment?

C You shall have no other gods.

P What does this mean?

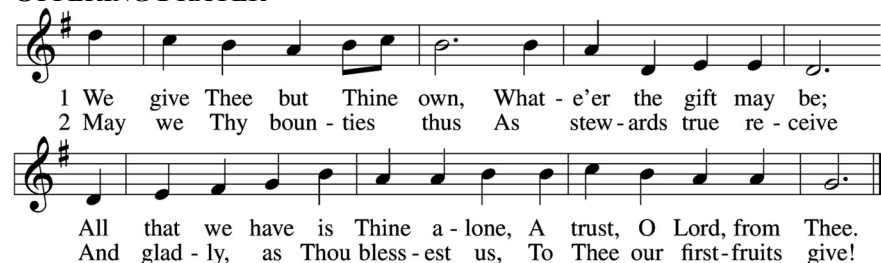
C We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

HYMN OF THE DAY: #852, “O God of Mercy, God of Might”

SERMON: “Freely Forgiving” based on the Old Testament reading.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition: **P** Lord, in Your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P ...who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

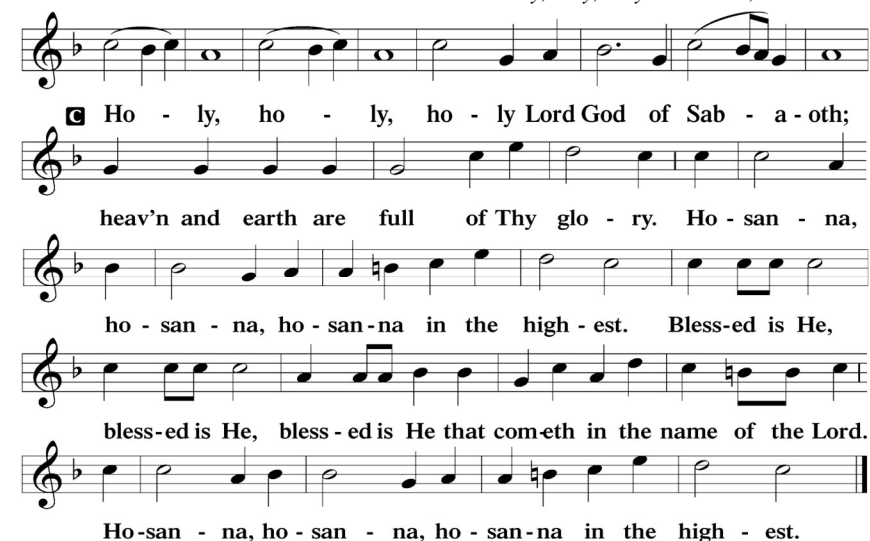
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, 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, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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

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 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20, I Corinthians 11:23–25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI

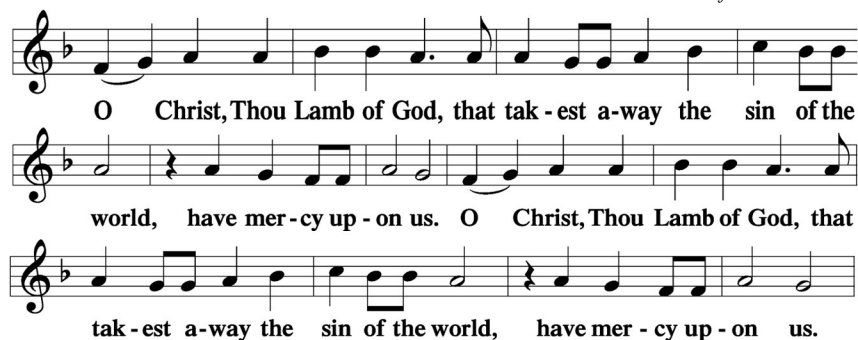
“The peace of the Lord” John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

“Lamb of God” John 1:29



DISTRIBUTION

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

“Song of Simeon” Luke 2:29-32



THANKSGIVING

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

C and His mercy endures forever.

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 rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #924, “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

You are invited to stay for refreshments and fellowship following the service.

Happy Birthday! Happy birthday to Mary Milne whose birthday is this Thursday.

Welcome! We welcome representatives from the Lutheran Witness this morning: Erik Lunsford and Rachel Bomberger. We also welcome Rev. Dr. Quintin Cundiff, the head of LCMS Church Planting. We’re looking forward to sharing the story of Lakes Region Lutheran Church with them.

Worldwide Bible Study: Join us for a farm-to-table breakfast and Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller’s Worldwide Bible Study this Wednesday, Sept. 16th. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 AM and the Bible Study stream starts at 10:00 AM.

Chapter and Verse: The next book club meeting will be this Thursday, Sept. 17th, 4:00 PM. We’d love to have all readers join us for reading, discussion, and treats.

Your Lifeline to the Lutheran Worldview...

Issues, Etc. is a podcast and radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. Recent subjects include: Social Emotional Learning, The False Masculinity of the Tate Brothers, Gloria Steinem’s Legacy, The Gay Rights Movement’s Anthropological Problem, and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app or a podcast provider.

A Life Thought in the Church Year for the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

Joseph was a man wronged, repeatedly. However, as we find him in Genesis 50, those wrongs against him did not lead him to live with bitterness or a desire for revenge. Instead, we find that God provided him with patience and compassion even against those who had so terribly sinned against him. We are often quick to anger and slow to forgive. May He work patience and wisdom in our hearts when we hear about the numerous ways God’s gifts are twisted. Thanks be to God that He is “slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love” (Psalm 103:8).

Visit Lutherans for Life at www.lutheransforlife.org

The Scripture Readings and Hymns for September 20th:

Isaiah 55:6-9

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

Matthew 20:1-16

#535, “How Wide the Love of Christ”

#738, “Lord of All Hopefulness”

#827, “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”

Acknowledgments

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