St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

September 21, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

Lutheran Service Book, Divine Service, Setting Four



Prayer before Worship

As we come into your presence, O God, bless this time of worship. Unite our prayers and praises with your whole Church on earth and in heaven. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to worship you in spirit and in truth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ + +

Welcome

Pre-Service Music

"Praeludium" (Dietrich Buxtehude)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

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

C Amen. *Matthew 28:19b [18:20]*

- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **G** who made heaven and earth.

Psalm 124:8

- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** *Psalm 130:3-4*
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [Luke 18:13]

Please kneel or be seated for a time of silent prayer and confession, as able

- P Almighty God,
- **(a)** have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

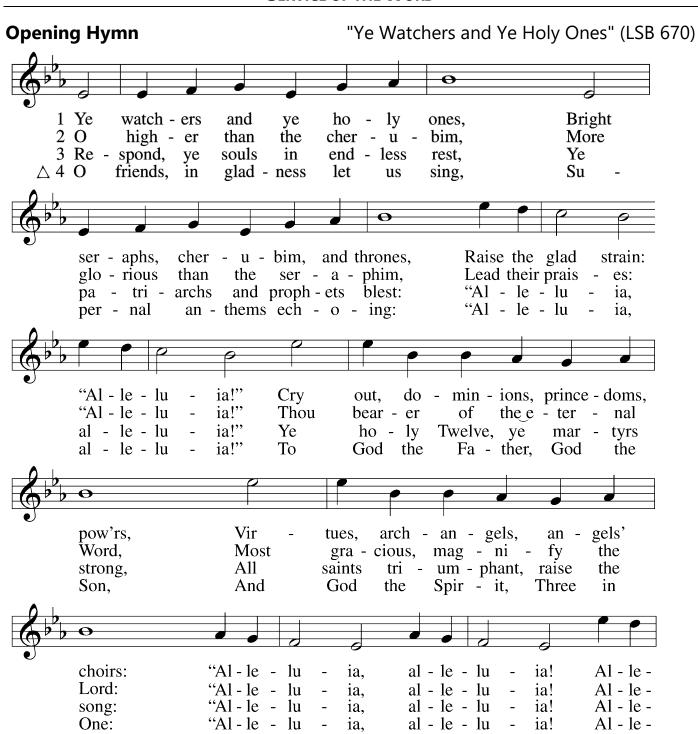
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the

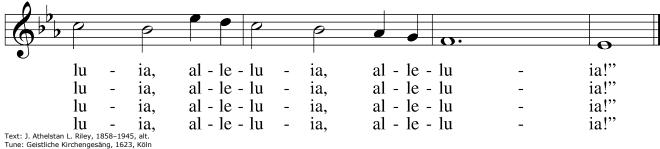
√ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD





Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1623, Köl Text and tune: Public domain

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.



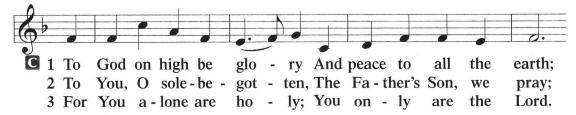
Kyrie Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14, John 1:29





Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!

O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.

For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry, You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

O Son of God, our blessed Savior Jesus Christ, You called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist. Through his faithful and inspired witness, grant that we also may follow You, leaving behind all covetous desires and love of riches; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 2:8-3:11

⁸"But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you." ⁹And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. ¹⁰And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

¹And he said to me, "Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel." ²So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it." Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

⁴And he said to me, "Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. ⁵For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— ⁶not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. ⁷But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. ⁸Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. ⁹Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house." ¹⁰Moreover, he said to me, "Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. ¹¹And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God,' whether they hear or refuse to hear."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

- **I** Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.
- **G** Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.
- L Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.
- Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!
- I Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways.
- Confirm to your servant your promise, that you may be feared.
- **I** Turn away the reproach that I dread, for your just decrees are good.
- Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life!

Epistle Ephesians 4:7-16

⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

⁹(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
 - Thanks be to God.





Holy Gospel Matthew 9:9-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

Please join in reading aloud the **highlighted portion** of Scripture and consider committing this passage to memory in the week ahead.

⁹As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him.

¹⁰And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" ¹²But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
 - Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon



Profession of FaithThe Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, ⅓ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Seeking the renewal of the Holy Spirit in our communities and in our world, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Special prayer requests are announced followed by a brief silence for private prayer.

During the season after Pentecost each petition ends with the phrase:

"Lord, in your mercy."

Please respond by saying "Hear our prayer."

The prayers end with the words:

P Into your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

Following the prayers, the people may stand and greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying,

"Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace

(Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

- **L** Merciful God,
- We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- **©** We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

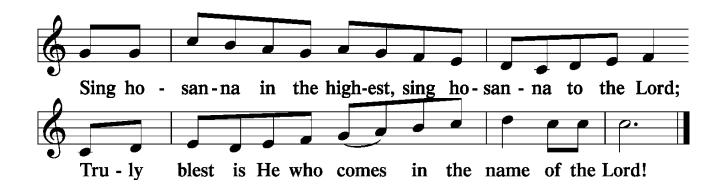
It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:







Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer Matthew 6:9-13

© 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,

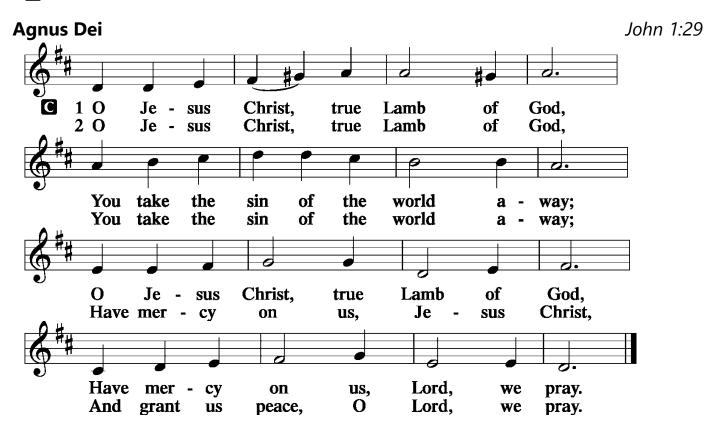
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- 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 ⅓ 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 John 20:19

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Please be seated

Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the

Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

Music at Distribution

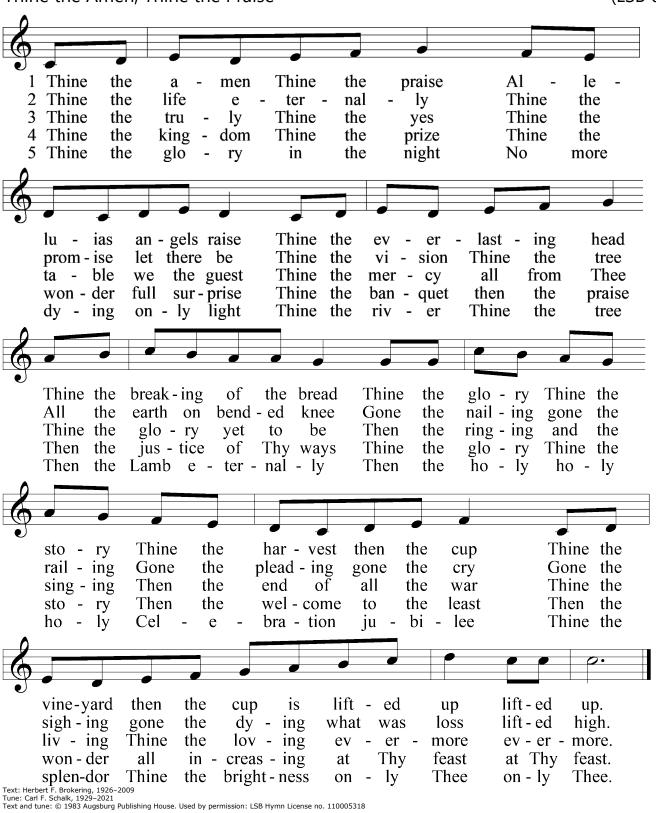
Choir Anthem

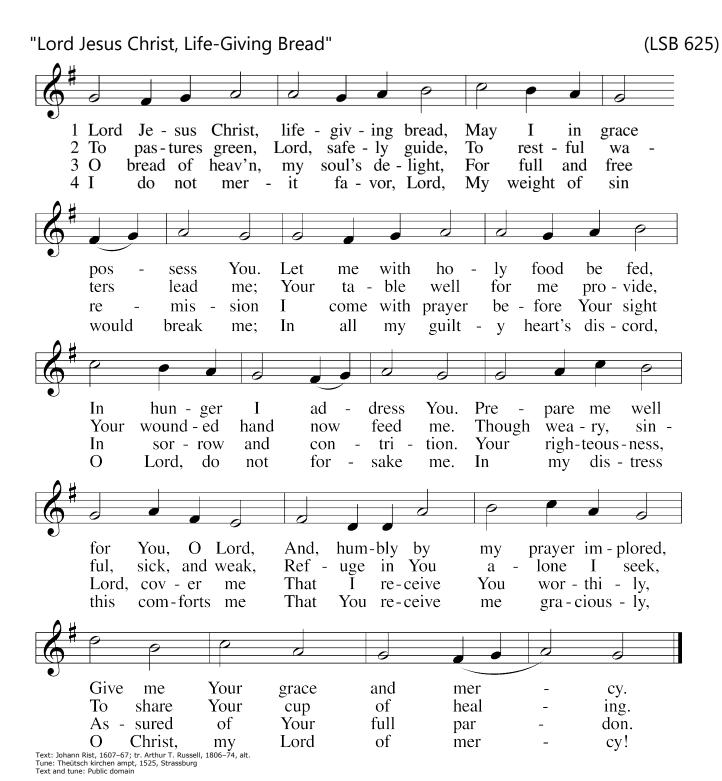
"Simple Gifts – Trad. 'SHAKER TUNE'" (Mark Schweizer)
(St. John's Choir)

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free 'Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be And when we find ourselves in a place just right 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

'Tis a gift to be loving, 'tis a gift to be kind,
'tis a gift to leave our bitterness behind,
And when we find ourselves in a place just right
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
When true simplicity is gained
to bow and to bend, we shan't be ashamed
to turn, turn, will be our delight,
'till by turning, turning, we come round right.

'Tis a gift to be thankful, 'tis a gift to forgive,
'Tis a gift to find out how we ought to live,
And when we find ourselves in a place just right|
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.





Dismissal

Nunc Dimittis Luke 2: 29-32



Post-Communion Collect

L Let us pray:

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

L Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

[Psalm 103:1]

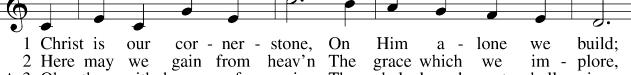
P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone" (LSB 912)



 \triangle 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres-ent grace And joys a - bove. that day When all the blest To end-less rest Are called a - way. pro-claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo-rious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

"Fanfare on 'St. Gertrude'" (Gordon Young)

+ + +

Our Ministry Of Worship

Guest Officiant/Preacher Rev. Dr. Mitiku Zeleke

Lay Assistant Steve Tracy

Communion Lay Assistant Barbara Pate

Organist/Pianist David Leahey, Director of Music

Acolyte Caleb Rempe
Crucifer Samuel Rempe

Usher Andrew Ehlers

Cynthia Chen

Altar Care Cathy Long

AV Operator Denise Canter

Mark Gilbertson

Welcome Host Jan Swicord

Nursery Emily Seaton

+ + +

SCAN HERE TO



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Register or attend events/classes
Request for prayers
Connect on social media
...AND MORE!

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A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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