

**DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE**  
**THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**14 SEPTEMBER 2025**

**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

**RINGING OF THE BELLS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**OPENING HYMN: ♪“CHIEF OF SINNERS THOUGH I BE”**

**LSB 611**

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me,  
Died that I might live on high,  
Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His, and He is mine.**
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,  
Higher than the heav'ns above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea,  
Lasting as eternity!  
Love that found me—wondrous thought!  
Found me when I sought Him not.**
- 3 Only Jesus can impart  
Balm to heal the wounded heart,  
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,  
Faith and hope to walk with God  
In the way that Enoch trod.**
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be,  
Christ is all in all to me;  
All my wants to Him are known,  
All my sorrows are His own.  
He sustains the hidden life  
Safe with Him from earthly strife.**
- 5 O my Savior, help afford  
By Your Spirit and Your Word!  
When my wayward heart would stray,  
Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply  
While I live and when I die.**

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt. Text: Public domain

*Stand*



**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  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.**

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

**P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C Amen.**

## **INTROIT**

**PSALM 30:2-5**

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever! O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me. O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit. Sing praises to the LORD, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

## **GLORIA PATRI**

**C**  $\text{♪}$  Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

## **KYRIE**

**C**  $\text{♪}$  Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

## **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

**C**  $\text{♪}$  Glory be to God on high and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**G** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd, without whom nothing is secure. Rescue and preserve us that we may not be lost forever but follow You, rejoicing in the way that leads to eternal life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

*Sit*

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**EZEKIEL 34:11-24**

"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

"As for you, my flock, thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and male goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture, that you must tread down with your feet the rest of your pasture; and to drink of clear water, that you must muddy the rest of the water with your feet? And must my sheep eat what you have trodden with your feet, and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## **GRADUAL**

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**

**1 TIMOTHY 1:5-17**

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions.

Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the glorious gospel of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.



I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### **ALLELUIA**

**C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

### **HOLY GOSPEL**

**LUKE 15:1-10**

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

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

"Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 VERSE TO KNOW BY HEART**

#### **The Sacrament of the Altar**

*What is the Sacrament of the Altar?*

**C** It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.



*Where is this written?*

- ☞** The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: 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."

*Sit*

**SERMON HYMN: ♪"JESUS SINNERS DOTH RECEIVE"**

**LSB 609**

- 1 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
    Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live  
    And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 2 We deserve but grief and shame,  
    Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim;  
    Here our ills have perfect healing.  
Firmly in these words believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray  
    No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;  
Weary souls that lost their way  
    Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh  
In His arms that they may live:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 4 I, a sinner, come to Thee  
    With a penitent confession.  
Savior, mercy show to me;  
    Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.
- 5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
    Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
    By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
For these words I now believe:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.



**6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
From the Law I stand acquitted.  
Christ hath purchased my release  
And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

**7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
Also I have been forgiven;  
And when I this earth must leave,  
I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
Jesus sinners doth receive.**

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756 Text: Public domain

**SERMON: "LET ME DO IT!"**

**EZEKIEL 34:11-24**

By Pastor John Schmidt

*Stand*

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
**G Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**

**G** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

*Sit*

**OFFERING**

*As offerings are brought forward the congregation stands and sings.*

**OFFERING HYMN: ♪"WE GIVE THEE BUT THINE OWN**

**LSB 781 V. 1-2**

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!**

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 Text: Public domain

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*Sit*



**HYMN: ♪"THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS"**

**LSB 709**

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,  
Whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am His  
And He is mine forever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow,  
My ransomed soul He leadeth  
And, where the verdant pastures grow,  
With food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,  
But yet in love He sought me  
And on His shoulder gently laid  
And home rejoicing brought me.
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill  
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me,  
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,  
Thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
And, oh, what transport of delight  
From Thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days  
Thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
Within Thy house forever!


Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77 Text: Public domain


*Stand*

 Collect

 Amen

**BENEDICTION**

-  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 peace.

 Amen, amen, amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: ♪"I AM JESUS' LITTLE LAMB"**

**LSB 740**

- 1 I am Jesus' little lamb,  
Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me,  
Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me ev'ry day the same,  
Even calls me by my name.



**2 Day by day, at home, away,  
Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me,  
Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go  
Where the quiet waters flow.**

**3 Who so happy as I am,  
Even now the Shepherd's lamb?  
And when my short life is ended,  
By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast,  
There within His arms to rest.**

Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn, 1724–82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941 Text: Public domain

## ***SILENT PRAYER***

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

### **Acknowledgments**

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