

Service of the Word

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2025



This Service of the Word derives its pattern from the service of Holy Communion. Although a weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper is the norm, a service of the word of God is also celebrated regularly or occasionally in many places.

INTRODUCTION

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Congregation stands as you are able

L. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated. Silence is kept for reflection.

L. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

L. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Congregation stands

GATHERING HYMN

Lead On, O King Eternal!

ELW 805

(printed in the back of the bulletin)

GREETING

L. 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

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

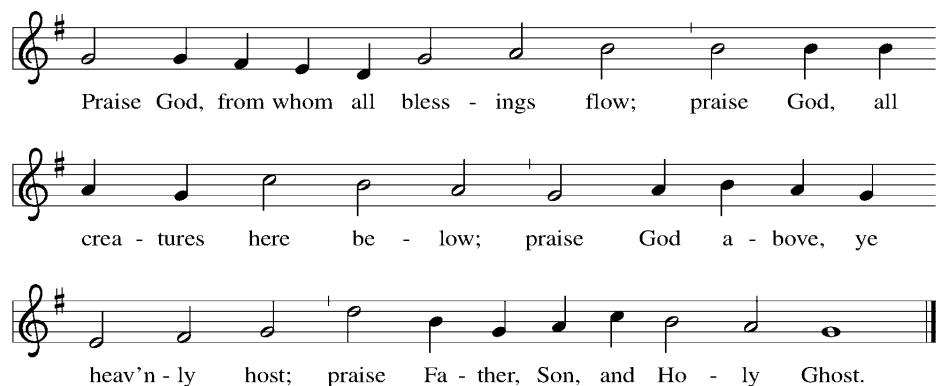
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C. Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Congregation is seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³ Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

A. Word of God, word of life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 82 (read responsively)

¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

² **"How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?**

³ Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

⁶ **Now I say to you, 'You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**

⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.'"

⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

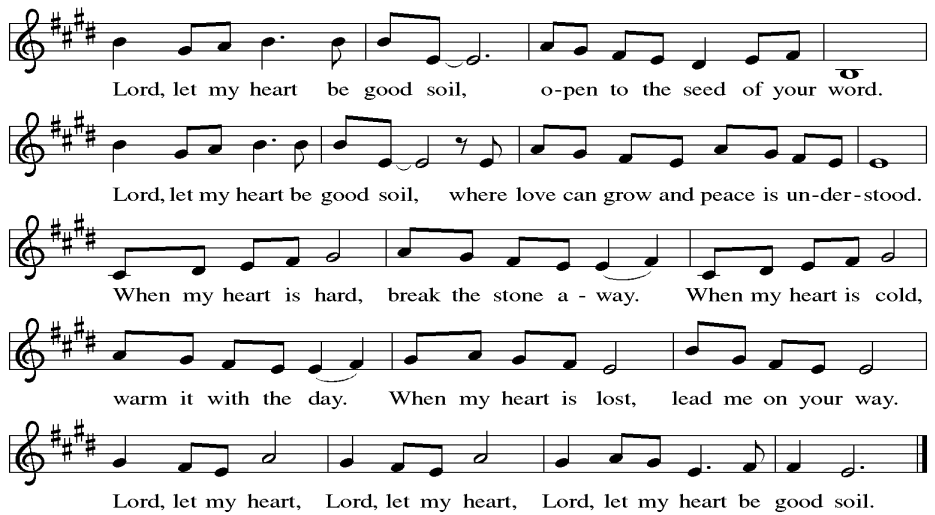
^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

L. The holy gospel according to Luke. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

L. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation is seated

SERMON REFLECTION

Kathy Heeren

Congregation stands as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

ELW 414

(printed in the back of the bulletin)

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A. Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near. *A brief silence.*

A. Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound. We pray especially for....those we now say aloud.....and those we hold in our hearts.... Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

L. Trusting in your loving kindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

L. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Congregation is seated

OFFERTORY INVITATION

*Scan to
give*



Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.

Thank you for your generous gifts!

*Scan to
give*



Congregation stands as you are able

OFFERTORY SONG

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
 gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
 all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
 1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with - in our midst,
Refrain
 may we share the pres - ence of your love.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

A. Let us pray... O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

L. The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

(printed in the back of the bulletin)

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Announcements for August 17, 2025

Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God’s presence in our worship!

If today is your first time worshipping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the “Guest Book” on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.

Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. Large print bulletins are available.

Worship is live streamed to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.

~~~~~  
***Thank you, Nancy Knecht, for this morning’s refreshments***  
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Volunteers for today’s Worship

- Lay Asst.** Debbie Lennon
- Ushers** Diane Rossi
- Tech** John Heeren
- Tellers** *Volunteer needed*
- Refreshments** Nancy Knecht
- Outdoor Setup** Diane Rossi

Volunteers for next Sunday, August 24th

- Lay Asst.** Debbie Lennon
- Ushers** *Volunteer needed*
- Tech** *Mark Rossi*
- Tellers** *Volunteer needed*
- Refreshments** *Steve & Kathy Baumann*
- Outdoor Setup** Diane & Mark Rossi

******* Join us for refreshments after worship*******

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

- Sunday, August 17:** Outside Worship, Service of the Word, 9:30am
- Sunday, August 24:** Outside Worship, Service of the Word, 9:30am

Lutheran Disaster Response: There are ongoing efforts for care near and far and Lutheran Disaster Response helps with all of them. For more information on response support [visit their website here.](#)

Adult Ed: We will resume Adult Ed on Wednesday, September 10th with Isaiah Study. Please reach out to Pam Kucks by August 22nd if you plan to attend.

Sisters in Prayer: We will resume on Saturday, September 6th at 8:30am

Vernon Day: Mark your calendars for September 6th (rain date is Sept. 7th) for the church booth.

Choir: Rehearsals resume on Sunday, September 7th after worship. Talk to June if you are interested in joining the choir!

Blessing of the Backpacks and Technology: All students, teachers, and school staff are invited to bring their backpacks and/or technology to worship on Sunday, September 7th for a special blessing during worship. May you learn and grow in this new school year!

Church Picnic: Come celebrate at our Church Picnic on Sunday, September 14th following worship! Everyone is invited—bring a friend!

Sunday School & Confirmation: Sunday School resumes Sunday, September 14th! Sunday School is from 8:45-9:15am Sunday mornings before worship for ages 3yrs old-6th grade. Register for the new program year [via this link.](#) Confirmation is for 7th and 8th graders held on Sunday evenings, approximately twice a month, beginning in October. Please talk to Diane Rossi or Pastor Peggy with questions about either program.

Outside Worship: Our Sunday morning worship services are held outside at 9:30am, weather permitting through August 31st. Please dress appropriately for the temperature. If you are available to help set up the equipment (electric piano, amplifier, speakers, canopy tents, etc.) please talk to Diane Rossi.

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is low on canned chili, pasta, pasta sauce, canned soup, canned baked beans, mayonnaise, tuna helper, cereal, instant pudding & jello, snacks and juice packs for kids, deodorant, body wash, toothpaste, and 4-pack toilet paper. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be placed in the blue bin by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!

Lead On, O King Eternal!

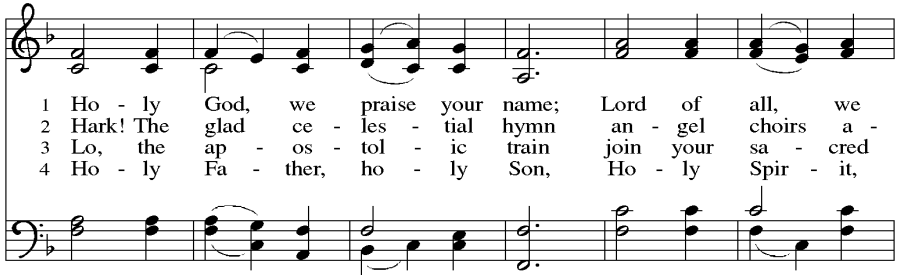
1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease;
 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
 and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
 for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.

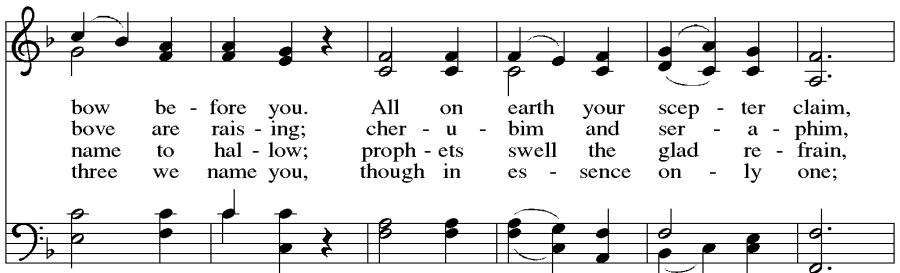
Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
 for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,
 Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
 but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
 the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Holy God, We Praise Your Name



1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
 3 Lo, the ap - os - tol - ic train join your sa - cred
 4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore you. All on earth your scep - ter claim,
 above are rais - ing; cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
 name to hal - low; proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
 three we name you, though in es - sence on - ly one;



all in heav'n a - bove a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
 in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, fill the heav'ns with
 and the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low; and from morn to
 un - di - vid - ed God we claim you and, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
 sweet ac - cord: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!"
 set of sun through the church the song goes on.
 bend the knee while we own the mys - ter - y.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low at Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.



Church Office (973) 827-5251
www.hc-lutheranchurch.org

The Reverend Peggy Ludlow: pastorpeggy@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Director of Music: June Tarantino: music@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Office Administrator: Cathy Nemecek: office@hc-lutheranchurch.org
Bookkeeper: Wynn White: accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org

MISSION STATEMENT

*As Children of God,
we are called to share and serve
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Rev. Peggy Ludlow
President Nancy Knecht
Vice President Frank Urbaniak
Treasurer Claire Speroni
Recording Secretary Dawn McCormick
Financial Secretary John Heeren
Outreach Coordinator Francine Vince
Nurture Coordinator Fred Schoenagel
Administration Coordinator Diane Rossi
Youth Representative Kevin Drache

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Kristina Heeren
Pam Kucks
Matt Moller
Aileen Donovan

Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

