

Service of the Word

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 24, 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

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

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

Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

(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.

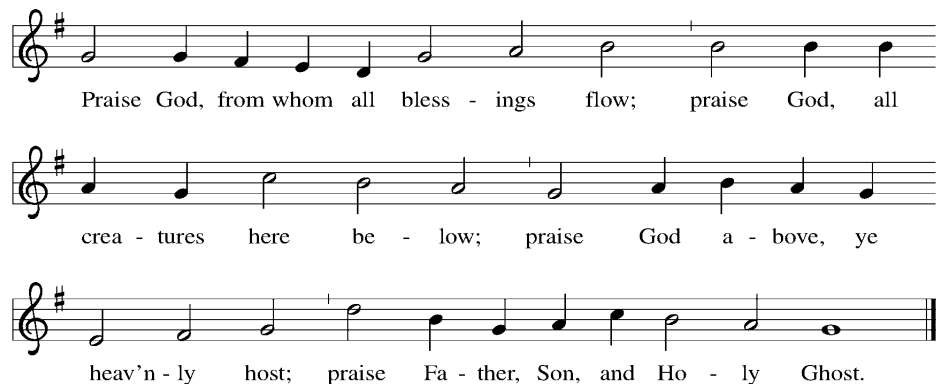
A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

- ^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places
and make your bones strong,
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water
whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
- ¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
if you honor it, not going your own ways,
serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD,
and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 103:1-8 (*read responsively*)

- ¹ Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- ² **Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;
- ⁴ **who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- ⁶ **O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- ⁷ You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
- ⁸ **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29

¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.") ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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 13:10-17

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

¹⁰ Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

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

Congregation is seated

SERMON REFLECTION

Steve Baumann

Congregation stands as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

(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. You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness .We pray especially for....those we now say aloud.....and those we hold in our hearts....Manifest your healing presence in their midst. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

L. Confident in God’s presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.
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

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via Venmo



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
via Tithely



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.

Congregation stands as you are able

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

Praise to God

(printed in the back of the bulletin)

DISMISSAL

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

Announcements for August 24th, 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.

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***Altar flowers are in honor of Ben & Ron Dupont***

***Thank you, Kathy & Steve Baumann, for this morning’s refreshments***

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Volunteers for today’s Worship

Lay Asst.	Debbie Lennon
Ushers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Tech	Mark Rossi
Tellers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Refreshments	Steve & Kathy Baumann
Outdoor Setup	Diane & Mark Rossi

Volunteers for next Sunday, August 31st

Lay Asst.	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Ushers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Comm. Asst	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Tech	Fred Schoenagel
Tellers	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Refreshments	<i>Volunteer needed</i>
Outdoor Setup	Diane & Mark Rossi

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

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, July 24: Outside Worship, Service of the Word, 9:30am

Sunday, August 31: Holy Humor Worship Outside with Communion, 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.](#)

Welcome Back: We're excited to welcome Pastor Peggy back from maternity leave on Wednesday, August 27th. It will be great to have her back leading the congregation again.

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: Next Sunday, August 31st is our last outside worship service. 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, canned green beans, pasta, pasta sauce, canned soup, canned baked beans, macaroni & cheese, boxed rice, 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,

Morning Has Broken



1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing;
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing,



black - bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry morn - ing,

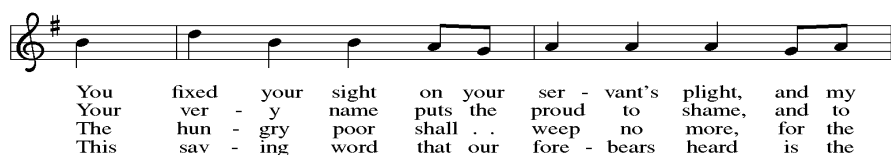
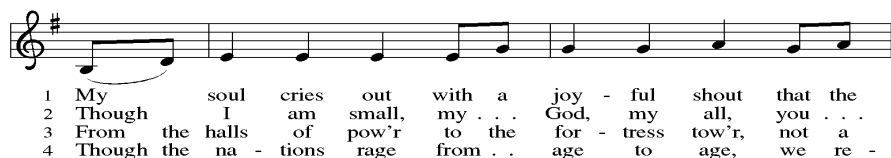


Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates

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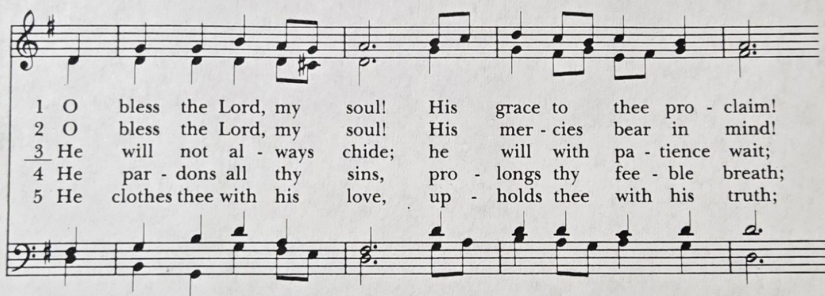
Canticle of the Turning



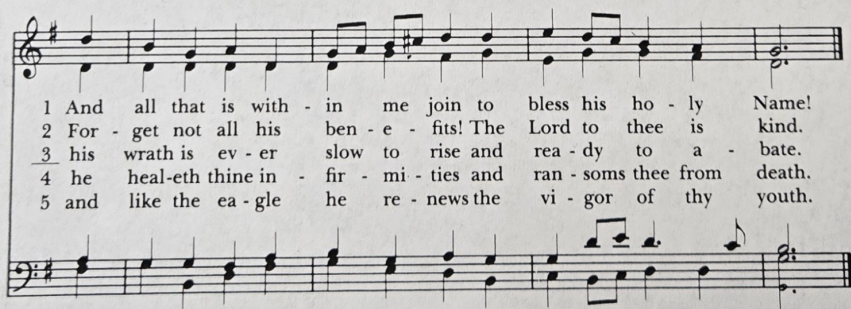
SENDING HYMN

Praise to God

411



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! His grace to thee pro - claim!
 2 O bless the Lord, my soul! His mer - cies bear in mind!
 3 He will not al - ways chide; he will with pa - tience wait;
 4 He par - dons all thy sins, pro - longs thy fee - ble breath;
 5 He clothes thee with his love, up - holds thee with his truth;



1 And all that is with - in me join to bless his ho - ly Name!
 2 For - get not all his ben - e - fits! The Lord to thee is kind.
 3 his wrath is ev - er slow to rise and rea - dy to a - bate.
 4 he heal-eth thine in - fir - mi - ties and ran - soms thee from death.
 5 and like the ea - gle he re - news the vi - gor of thy youth.

6 Then bless his holy Name,
 whose grace hath made thee whole,
 whose loving-kindness crowns thy days:
 O bless the Lord, my soul!

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 103:1-5

Music: *St. Thomas (Williams)*, melody Aaron Williams (1731-1776); harm. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

SM



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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.

