

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 14, 2025

10:30 am Contemporary

AS WE GATHER

The charge against Jesus was always the same—He keeps the wrong company. But Jesus has come for sinners, and if you are not a sinner, He does not have anything for you. To emphasize why He has come, our Lord tells the stories of ninety-nine sheep left behind to find one who is lost and a woman who rejoices over finding one lost coin. You are that lost sheep and lost coin for whom Christ has come and in whom heaven rejoices. Jesus has come for you and for you He has offered Himself upon the cross and been laid in the tomb. This is the heavenly joy of the angels above, and it is our earthly joy as well. Christ came for us!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

God With Us

Who are we  
That You would be mindful of us  
What do You see  
That's worth looking our way

We are free  
In ways that we never should be  
Sweet release  
From the grip of these chains

Like hinges straining from the weight  
My heart no longer can keep from singing

All that is within me cries  
For You alone be glorified  
Emmanuel  
God with us  
My heart sings a brand new song  
The debt is paid these chains are gone  
Emmanuel  
God with us

Lord You know  
Our hearts don't deserve Your glory  
Still You show  
A love we cannot afford

Like hinges straining from the weight  
My heart no longer can keep from singing

All that is within me cries  
For You alone be glorified  
Emmanuel  
God with us  
My heart sings a brand new song  
The debt is paid these chains are gone  
Emmanuel  
God with us

Such a tiny offering compared to Calvary  
Nevertheless we lay it at Your feet

Such a tiny offering compared to Calvary  
Nevertheless we lay it at Your feet

All that is within me cries  
For You alone be glorified  
Emmanuel  
God with us  
My heart sings a brand new song  
The debt is paid these chains are gone  
Emmanuel  
God with us

CCLI Song # 5152735

## INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

## SONG

### Cornerstone

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

Christ alone cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love  
Through the storm He is Lord  
Lord of all

My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name

When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless stand before the throne

Christ alone cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love  
Through the storm He is Lord  
Lord of all

Christ alone cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love  
Through the storm He is Lord  
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Savior's love  
Through the storm He is Lord  
Lord of all

CCLI Song # 6158927

## SALUTATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray.  
O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all.  
Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and  
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

## READINGS

### FIRST 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."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

### SECOND READING

1 Timothy 1:12–17

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.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-10

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."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: 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.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON SONG

#### How Deep The Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure  
How great the pain of searing loss

The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything  
No gifts no pow'r no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection  
Why should I gain from His reward  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom

CCLI Song # 1558110

SERMON

"The Chase"  
Luke 15:1-10

Pastor Eric Clausen

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Leader: 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."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

O Come To The Altar

Are you hurting and broken within  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes  
Come today there's no reason to wait  
Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for  
joy  
From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Oh what a Savior  
Isn't he wonderful  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before him

For he is Lord of all  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Bear your cross as you wait for the  
crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you've  
found

CCLI Song # 7051511

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Leader: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks that we have again received the Body and blood of Christ, the bread from heaven. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage, that we speak the truth in love and build up the Body of Christ until that day we see You face-to-face; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

## BENEDICTION

Leader: 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.

People: Amen

## CLOSING SONG

God so Loved

Come all you weary  
Come all you thirsty  
Come to the well  
That never runs dry  
Drink of the water  
Come and thirst no more

Come all you sinners  
Come find His mercy  
Come to the table  
He will satisfy  
Taste of His goodness  
Find what you're looking for

For God so loved  
The world that He gave us  
His one and only  
Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him  
Will live forever

Bring all your failures  
Bring your addictions  
Come lay them down  
At the foot of the cross  
Jesus is waiting there  
With open arms  
See His open arms

For God so loved  
The world that He gave us  
His one and only  
Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him  
Will live forever

The power of hell  
Forever defeated  
Now it is well  
I'm walking in freedom  
For God so loved  
God so loved the world

Praise God  
Praise God  
From whom all blessings flow

Praise Him  
Praise Him  
For the wonders of His love

Praise God  
Praise God  
From whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him  
Praise Him  
For the wonders of His love

For God so loved  
The world that He gave us  
His one and only  
Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him  
Will live forever

The power of hell  
Forever defeated  
Now it is well  
I'm walking in freedom  
For God so loved  
God so loved the world

Bring all your failures  
Bring your addictions  
Come lay them down  
At the foot of the cross  
Jesus is waiting  
God so loved the world

CCLI Song # 7138599

## DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

## POSTLUDE

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.  
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**"There will be more  
JOY IN HEAVEN  
over one sinner who repents  
than over ninety-nine righteous persons  
who need no repentance."**

**LUKE 15:7, ESV**

