

Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to **Glorify God** 

as we

#### Gather

around the Gospel to help people

Grow

in the **Gospel** and

Go

with the Gospel

**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

# September 18 & 21, 2025 15th Sunday after Pentecost



I'm a Church Member - Week 3
I Will Not Let Church Be About My Preferences and Desires

When people hear membership, they think about being part of a gym or a wholesale club. Membership is often thought of to come with privileges, perks, and benefits. Members are served. Is this what it means to be a member of a Christian church? Paul explains the metaphor of the church as being a body with many members with Christ as the head (1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12). At the heart of this is love (1 Corinthians 13). Forgiven by the love of God through the love Jesus has for us to win us forgiveness we can love God and others. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." He has place us all in the church with different gifts. In this series we look to build a strong healthy church by asking the question "What does it mean to be a church member?"

Week 3 – The body of Christ is blessed with diversity. Each of us have different gifts, talents, and preferences. When you get a group of 10 people together you may have 10 different opinions. What happens when you group 700 together? How can you have unity and peace among so many Christians? If each is only concerned about getting their way and having their preferences met, peace, harmony and working together will be impossible. Through Jesus and his humility, we can see how we can put others first.

# Church of God, Elect and Glorious CW 854

# **Gathering Rite**

- Church of God, elect and glorious, holy nation, chosen race, called as God's own special people, royal priests and heirs of grace; know the purpose of your calling, show to all his mighty deeds, tell of love that knows no limits, grace that meets all human needs.
- 2 God has called you out of darkness into his most marv'lous light, brought his truth to life within you, turned your blindness into sight. Let your light so shine around you that God's name is glorified and all find fresh hope and purpose in Christ Jesus crucified.

#### Stand

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

C: Amen.

M: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \$\\ \Property Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. (*Philippians 2*)

#### C: Amen.

M: Thanks be to Christ for his mercy and love! In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

#### Hymn

Church of God, Elect and Glorious CW 854:3-4

- Once you were an alien people, strangers to God's heart of love, but he brought you home in mercy, citizens of heav'n above.

  Let his love flow out to others, let them feel a Father's care, that they too may know his welcome and his countless blessings share.
- 4 Church of God, elect and holy,
  be the people he intends,
  strong in faith and swift to answer
  each command your master sends.
  Royal priests, fulfill your calling
  through your sacrifice and prayer;
  give your lives in joyful service,
  sing his praise, his love declare.

Sunday 8:00 am service continues with the Rite of Holy Baptism. Sunday 10:30 am and Thursday service continue on page 5.

# THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM (Pg. 262)

M: Christ's almighty Word gives Baptism its power to save. Jesus promises in the last chapter of Mark, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." The apostle Peter declares in 1 Peter 3, "Baptism now saves you." Scripture also teaches that the power and promise of Baptism are intended for young and old alike. On the day of Pentecost, the apostle testified, "The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." By water and the Spirit, we are born again and are united with Christ and his people as members of the Church.

In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought *Wynnie* to be baptized. In Mark 10, it is written: *Jesus said to them, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."* It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy and peace to little children. By the power of God's Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

We see the Holy Trinity at work in baptism. Paul writes in Galatians 3, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. For it is in baptism that a child receives the benefits of the death and resurrection of Christ. It is through baptism that a child receives the gift of the Holy Spirit which, plants the seed of the faith. It is in baptism that God the Father adopts us as his children.

Holding firmly to your command and promise, we ask that you would look with favor on *Wynnie*. Through this water of Baptism, cleanse *her* from all sin and deliver *her* from death and the devil. Set *her* apart from the unbelieving world and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep *her* in the true Christian faith all the days of *her* life. Guide, strengthen, and protect *her* so that *she* may honor your holy name and at last receive, together with all your people, the promised inheritance of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Wynnie Charlotte Kohlbeck, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and the heart  ${\tt T}$  to mark you as a redeemed child of Christ.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

#### **EXHORTATION**

Stand

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that *Wynnie* may remain a child of God until death. If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

C: Yes, as God gives me strength.

M: Let us pray: We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received *Wynnie* as your own child and made *her* a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to *her* and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sunday 10:30 am and Thursday service continue here.

# Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, your glory and power is without beginning or end. Yet, you set aside that glory in order to be the atoning sacrifice for the guilt of our sins.

C: Thank you, Savior, for your sacrifice.

M: Send your Spirit into our hearts through the Word and Sacrament today

C: so that we may be strengthened in our desire and ability to love and serve as you have loved and served us. Amen.

Be Seated

### THE WORD

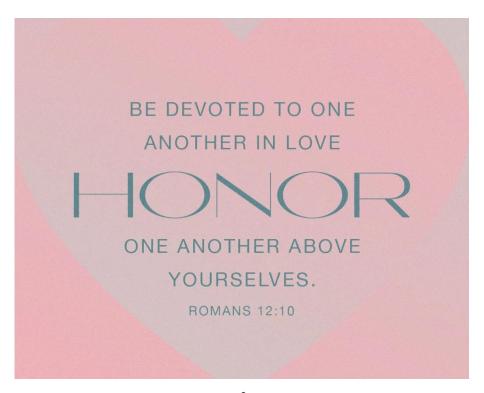
First Lesson Romans 12:6-19

<sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

<sup>9</sup>Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. <sup>11</sup> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

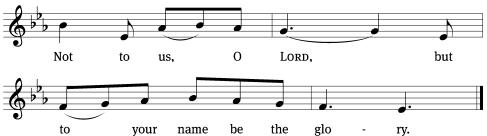
<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. (NIV)



### Not to Us, O Lord Psalm 115 CW21

# Psalm of the Day





#### Tone



Why do the nations say, "Where / is their God?"
Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.

The LORD remembers us and will / bless us:

He will bless his people / Israel,

he will bless those who / fear the LORD—small and / great alike. *Refrain* 

All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD—

he is their / help and shield.

House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD—

he is their / help and shield.

You who fear him, trust / in the LORD—

he is their / help and shield.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be-/ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Tune: Michael D. Schultz Setting: Michael D. Schultz Music: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297 Gospel Lesson Mark 9:30-35

<sup>30</sup> They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, <sup>31</sup> because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise." <sup>32</sup> But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

<sup>33</sup> They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

<sup>35</sup> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all." (NIV)

The Gospel concludes as follows:

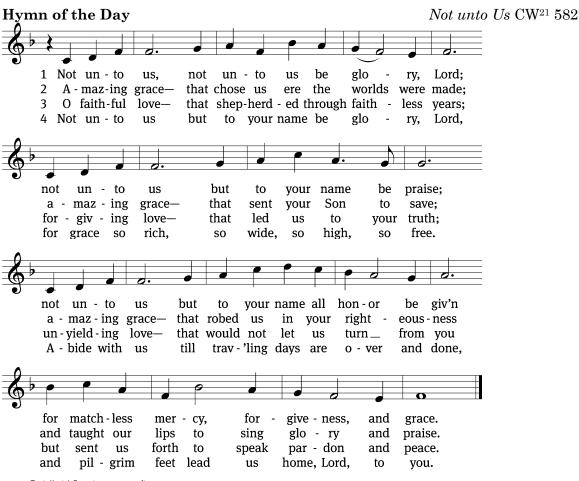
M: In Christ, we who are many form one body,

C: and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:5

Be Seated

# Children's Devotion

Children are invited to come forward for a short devotion.



Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993, alt. Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993

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#### Sermon

# Philippians 2:1-16a

<sup>1</sup> Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

 $^{14}$  Do everything without grumbling or arguing,  $^{15}$  so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation."  $^{\rm [Deut.~32:5]}$  Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky  $^{16}$  as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. (NIV)

# Junior Choir (Sunday 8am)

The Battle Belongs to the Lord

In heavenly armor we'll enter the land
 The Battle belongs to the Lord.
 No weapon that's fashioned against us will stand
 The Battle belongs to the Lord. Refrain

# Refrain:

And we sing glory, honor, power, and strength to the Lord We sing glory, honor, power and strength to the Lord.

2. When the power of darkness comes in like a flood, The Battle belongs to the Lord He's raised up a standard, the pow'r of his blood. The Battle belongs to the Lord. *Refrain* 

When your enemy presses in hard, do not fear,
 The Battle belongs to the Lord.
 Take courage my friend, your redemption is near.
 The Battle belongs to the Lord. *Refrain*

Stand

# **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

# Prayer of the Church

# 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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C: Amen

#### Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

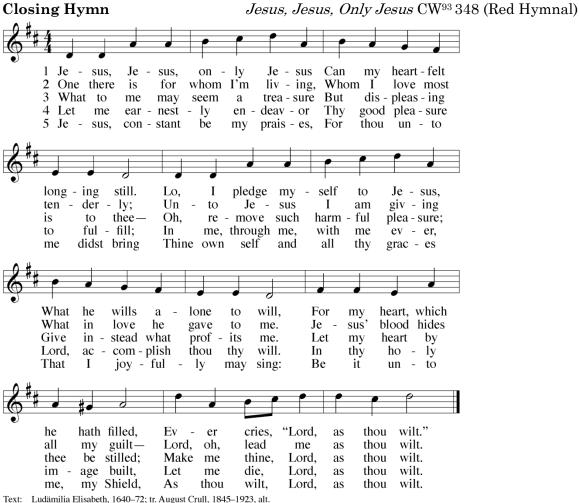
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

#### $\mathbf{C}$ : Amen.

Be Seated



JESUS, JESUS, NICHTS ALS JESUS (87 87 77) Das ... vollkommenes Musikalisches Choral-Buch, Hamburg, 1715, alt.