



July 26, 2026

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kenneth Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Be Still, My Soul”

- ♪ Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
Leave to your God to order and provide;
In ev’ry change He faithful will remain. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav’nly Friend
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; your God will undertake To guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
All now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; though dearest friends depart And all is darkened in this vale of tears;
Then you will better know His love, His heart,
Who comes to soothe your sorrows and your fears. Be still, my soul; your Jesus can repay
From His own fullness all He takes away.
- ♪ Be still, my soul; the hour is hast’ning on When we shall be forever with the Lord,
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
Sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 752—Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, 1697–1752;
tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.; Text: Public domain*

Holy Baptism *Please Be Seated*

Isla Pavelka

Confession and Absolution

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

Romans 11:33

The Lord set His love on you and chose you.

Know therefore that the Lord is God.

Deuteronomy 7:7, 9

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

To Him be glory forever. Amen.

Romans 11:36

You are a people holy to the Lord your God.

Deuteronomy 7:6

We confess our unholy thoughts, words, and actions.

A Time of Silence

Almighty God,

We have not lived up to our calling as Your treasured possession. Our desires are selfish and our love is shallow. We have turned aside from doing good and chosen to treasure things of creation rather than our Creator. In our sinful state we are vulnerable to the devil, death, and darkness. And so we seek Your mercy. We surrender to Your loving kindness in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?

Romans 8:31–32

Indeed, the mercy of almighty God is displayed in the giving of His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

“Shine, Jesus, Shine”

♪ Lord, the light of Your love is shining, In the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us, Set us free by the truth You now bring us;
~Shine on me, Shine on me. Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father’s glory.
Blaze, Spirit, blaze; set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.
Send forth Your Word, Lord, and let there be light.
♪ Lord, I come to Your awesome presence, From the shadows into Your radiance;
By the blood I may enter Your brightness; Search me, try me, consume all my darkness; ~Shine on me...
♪ As we gaze on Your kingly brightness So our faces display Your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory; Mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story;
~Shine on me....

*Shine, Jesus, Shine-Text & Tune: Graham Kendrick; ©1987 Make Way Music (ASCAP) admin. Music Services, Inc.;
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Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,
This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Romans 8:28–39

²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Jerusalem the Golden”

- ♪ Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest— The promise of salvation,
The place of peace and rest— We know not, oh, we know not What joys await us there:
The radiancy of glory, The bliss beyond compare!
- ♪ Within those walls of Zion Sounds forth the joyful song, As saints join with the angels
And all the martyr throng. The Prince is ever with them; The daylight is serene;
The city of the blessed Shines bright with glorious sheen.
- ♪ Around the throne of David, The saints, from care released, Raise loud their songs of triumph
To celebrate the feast. They sing to Christ their leader, Who conquered in the fight,
Who won for them forever Their gleaming robes of white.

Please Stand

- ♪ O sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect! O sweet and blessed country
That faithful hearts expect! In mercy, Jesus, bring us To that eternal rest
With You and God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 672—Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.;
tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.; Text: Public domain*

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:44–52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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.
- ♪ 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.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 611-Text: William McComb 1793-1873; Public domain.

Proclamation of the Word

“God's Great Treasure”

Matthew 13:44–52

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Benediction

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.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“When Peace Like a River”

- ♪ When peace, like a river, attendeth my way When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
~It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul), It is well, it is well with my soul.
- ♪ Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate And hath shed His own blood for my soul. ~It...
- ♪ He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! ~It...
- ♪ And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; Even so it is well with my soul. ~It....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 763-Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt.; Text: Public domain

Postlude