



August 9, 2026

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kenneth Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

- ♪ What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—
All because we do not carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!
- ♪ Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
- ♪ Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 770—Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86; Text: Public domain

Invocation

I will go to the altar of God,

To God my exceeding joy.

Psalm 43:4

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Our needs are known by the God of mercy, chief of which is deliverance from sin and fear. Aware of our great need for forgiveness and faith, we cry out to our Creator and Redeemer.

Lord, save me from my little faith, my doubt, my fears, my sin. I come to You now because You have promised to come to me here with Your saving grasp of power and mercy. Forgive me of my sin and give me help and deliverance from all my fears, that I may worship You with a pure heart and say, “Truly You are the Son of God” and my Savior. Amen.

A Time of Silence

The Lord your God has brought you out from the slavery of sin with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm of mercy by the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. By His own command I announce to you as a called and ordained servant of the Word: I forgive you all your sins. Peace be with you, 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 most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what You want done; 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 *Please Stand*

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

- ♪ Children of the heav’nly Father Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven Such a refuge e’er was given.
- ♪ God His own doth tend and nourish; In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them; In His mighty arms he bears them.
- ♪ Neither life nor death shall ever From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth, And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- ♪ Though He giveth or He taketh, God His children ne’er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely To preserve them pure and holy.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 725—Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903;
tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958; Text: Public domain*

Old Testament Reading

Job 38:4–18

- ⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.
⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?
⁶On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone,
⁷when the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy?
⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb,
⁹when I made clouds its garment and thick darkness its swaddling band,
¹⁰and prescribed limits for it and set bars and doors,
¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stayed’?
¹²“Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,
¹³that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?
¹⁴It is changed like clay under the seal, and its features stand out like a garment.
¹⁵From the wicked their light is withheld, and their uplifted arm is broken.
¹⁶“Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep?
¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?
¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth? Declare, if you know all this.
- This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Romans 10:5–17

- ⁵For Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them. ⁶But the righteousness based on faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. ¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
- ¹⁴How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has

believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

- ♪ My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!
- ♪ May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!
- ♪ While life’s dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow’s tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.
- ♪ When ends life’s transient dream, When death’s cold, sullen stream Shall o’er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 702—Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87; Text: Public domain

The Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 14:22–33

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, “It is a ghost!” and they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.”

²⁸And Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. ³⁰But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, “Lord, save me.” ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

- ♪ Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading, Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father’s bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.

- ♪ Let us suffer here with Jesus And with patience bear our cross.
 Joy will follow all our sadness; Where He is, there is no loss.
 Though today we sow no laughter, We shall reap celestial joy;
 All discomforts that annoy Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
 Jesus, here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
- ♪ Let us gladly die with Jesus. Since by death He conquered death,
 He will free us from destruction, Give to us immortal breath.
 Let us mortify all passion That would lead us into sin;
 And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
 Jesus, here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
- ♪ Let us also live with Jesus. He has risen from the dead
 That to life we may awaken. Jesus, You are now our head.
 We are Your own living members; Where You live, there we shall be
 In Your presence constantly, Living there with You forever.
 Jesus, let me faithful be, Life eternal grant to me.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 685—Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.;
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Proclamation of the Word

“The Answer is Still – No!”

Job 38:4–18

Offering and Musical Offering

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

Let us pray to the Lord,

Lord have mercy.

Lord's 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*

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

- ♪ Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
 Let us each Your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
 O refresh us; O refresh us, Trav'ling through this wilderness.
- ♪ Thanks we give and adoration For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
 May the fruits of Your salvation In our hearts and lives abound.
 Ever faithful, ever faithful To Your truth may we be found.
- ♪ Savior, when Your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way,
 Let not fear of death appall us, Glad Your summons to obey.
 May we ever, may we ever Reign with You in endless day.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 924—Text: John Fawcett 1740–1817 vv.1–2, Godfrey Thring 1823–1903 v.3;
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Postlude