

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



Wounds that Heal:  
God's Word Divides  
*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

August 17, 2025



## Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome. We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we might continue to serve you.

It's encouraging to see parents bring their families to worship the Lord. If your child becomes restless, you can use the Family Room to calm them. Quiet bags and children's bulletins are also available to keep little ones busy. Restrooms are located in the hallways along either side of the worship space. For those with special needs, large print copies of the service folder and listening devices are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can help you find the restrooms or family room and answer any other questions.

## Service Notes For This Service



We often divide humanity into groupings that are not really significant: this ethnic group versus that one, men versus women, wealthy versus poor. Yet, every ethnic group is under God's law. That law equally convicts men and women of sin. Because of sin, both the wealthy and poor will die. Only through faith in Christ is sin forgiven and the sting of death removed. God's Word creates that saving faith, but not in everyone who hears it. Fallen mankind retains the awful power to reject the Word and God's gift of faith. Therefore, God's Word produces the only people distinction that matters—believers and unbelievers. We desire to live in peace with other people. But Jesus teaches, this side of heaven, that desire is a pipe dream. Those who embrace the gospel in faith will inevitably face hostility. Following Jesus will come at a price. Yet he promises that our perseverance will be rewarded.

Today's service includes a celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. For personal preparation, consider using the Questions for Examination on page 9 of this service folder or Christian Questions on page 295 of the blue hymnal.

## Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist, Sue Kulhanek; Soloist, Emma Schroeder

## Acknowledgements

Setting One from Christian Worship. Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) © 2017 Wartburg Project. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

# The Service

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## Welcome

## Hymn

826 From God Can Nothing Move Me (sts. 1-2,4)

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 154

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

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

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**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.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



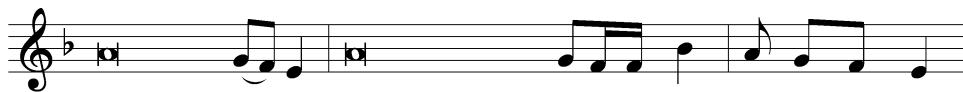
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;



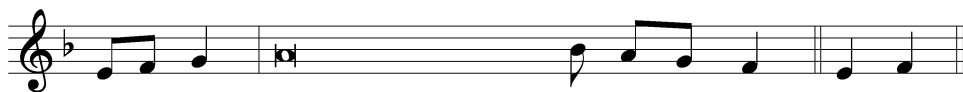
have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.



You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.



For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the



Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift of grace that we come into your presence and offer true and faithful service. Grant that our worship on earth may always be pleasing to you, and in the life to come give us the fulfillment of what you have promised; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Jeremiah 23:23–29*

*The Word of the Lord divides what is true from what is false.*

<sup>23</sup>Am I a God who is only nearby, declares the LORD,  
and not a God far away?

<sup>24</sup>Can anyone hide in secret places  
so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD.

Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.

<sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets who prophesy lies in my name have said. They say, “I have had a dream! I have had a dream!” <sup>26</sup>How long will this be in the hearts of these lying prophets? These prophets proclaim the fantasies of their own hearts. <sup>27</sup>They think they can make my people forget my name with the dreams each one tells his neighbor, the way their fathers forgot my name because of Baal. <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream. But let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully.

What has chaff to do with grain? declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like a fire? declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces? (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

4C O God, Be Gracious



1 O God, be gra - cious; hear my prayer, and  
2 How long, O God, will li - ars boast while  
an - swer when I cry. You give me hope in  
I am smeared with shame? Come, set your faith - ful  
my dis - tress; you will not pass me by.  
ser - vant free; I call up - on your name!

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## Second Reading

Hebrews 12:1–13

*The Hebrews who converted to Christianity were often divided from their friends and separated from their livelihood. How would they persevere? By fixing their eyes on Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us get rid of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us. <sup>2</sup>Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God's throne. <sup>3</sup>Carefully consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinful people, so that you do not grow weary and lose heart.

<sup>4</sup>You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood in your fight against sin.

<sup>5</sup>Have you also forgotten the encouragement that addresses you as sons?

My son, do not regard the Lord's discipline lightly,  
and do not become weary of his correction.

<sup>6</sup>For the Lord disciplines the one whom he loves,  
and he corrects every son he accepts.

<sup>7</sup>Endure suffering as discipline. God is dealing with you as sons. Is there a son whose father does not discipline him? <sup>8</sup>If you are not disciplined (and all of us have received it), then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup>In addition, we have earthly fathers who disciplined us, and we respected them. Should we not submit even more to the Father of the spirits and live?

<sup>10</sup>They disciplined us for a little while, according to what seemed best to them, but God disciplines us for our good, so that we may have a share in his holiness.

<sup>11</sup>No discipline seems pleasant when it is happening, but painful, yet later it yields a peaceful harvest of righteousness for those who have been trained by it.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore strengthen your weak hands and feeble knees, <sup>13</sup>and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be dislocated but rather healed. (EHV®)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

1 Corinthians 15:58

Alleluia. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,

**because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Alleluia.**

## **Gospel**

Luke 12:49–53

*Jesus was fully aware that his work would cause division that would often cut close to home.*

<sup>49</sup>“I came to throw fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already ignited. <sup>50</sup>But I have a baptism to undergo, and how distressed I am until it is finished! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I came to bring peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. <sup>52</sup>Yes, from now on there will be five divided in one household: three against two, and two against three. <sup>53</sup>They will be divided: father against son, and son against father; mother against daughter, and daughter against mother; mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law, and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” (EHV®)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## **Children’s Message**

### **Hymn of the Day**

590 O Holy Spirit, Enter In

### **Sermon**

*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.

Be seated

### **Special Prayers This Week**

- † Tom Kulhanek is having the surgery to have the shunt put in his brain on Tuesday.
- † Barb Manz' 5-month-old great-grandson needs surgery to replace a mesh in his abdomen.
- † Safe travels for students going back to college.
- †
- †

### **Prayer of the Church**

*Today, the prayer will be offered by individual petitions. Each petition will end this way:*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*The final petition will end this way:*

...who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Connect Card and Offering**

Please take a moment to fill out a Connect Card. After a few moments, the ushers will come forward to collect the offering. You may place your Connect Card and any offering you brought in the plate as it is passed. Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



### Questions for Examination

- † Do I believe that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness?
- † Do I believe that Jesus died on the cross to win forgiveness for me?
- † Do I believe that Jesus offers his true body and blood with the bread and wine in this sacrament?
- † Do I believe this sacrament strengthens my faith and strengthens me to live a God-pleasing life?
- † Am I a member of a church that belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS)?
- † If you answered “no” to any of these questions, please hold off on communing with us today. Following worship, the pastor would be happy to explain why we ask you to do this.

## The Sacrament

Stand

### Preface

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en-ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -  
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,  
bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my  $\text{T}$  body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my  $\text{T}$  blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

# O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



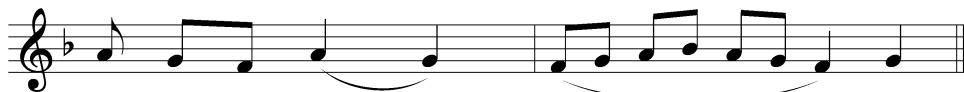
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - men.



grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be seated*

## Distribution

## Distribution Hymns

630 Thy Strong Word  
668 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

*Stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

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.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

### **Hymn**

*876 Fight the Good Fight (sts. 1-2)*



# Take Home Questions

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## Jeremiah 23:23-29

1. How is God's nearness and farness a warning to all those who speak contrary to God's Word?
2. What did the false prophets substitute for God's Word? In what ways is that still a danger today?
3. How do Jeremiah's words in vv. 28-29 help us better understand Jesus' words in Luke 12 and vice versa?

## Hebrews 12:1-13

4. Define Christian perseverance based on vv. 1-3 and their context.
5. Many in the world today take issue with a loving God allowing suffering to take place. How would you respond based on these verses?
6. How has the Lord increased your righteousness and peace through the persecution he has sent into your life?

## Luke 12:49-53

7. What surprises you about Jesus' words here?
8. In what ways does Jesus' word bring about division? How have you seen this division transpire in your life or the lives of those you know?
9. How can we view this division as a blessing?

# News & Announcements

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## What Is the Apocrypha?

Aug. 17 | 10:30 am

And why isn't it in the Bible translation we use? Don't some churches consider the Apocrypha to be scripture? During today's Bible study hour, you can learn where the apocryphal books came from and why the protestant church rejects them. Join us in the cafeteria at 10:30 am.



## Virtual Bible Study - Biblical Interpretation

Aug. 17 | 4:00 pm

Dive deeper into the topic of biblical interpretation with Pastor Andrew Schroer during a live online Bible study based on his recent series in Forward in Christ magazine. Participate by yourself or with family members. Learn more at [forwardinchrist.net/online-study/](http://forwardinchrist.net/online-study/).

## Want to Learn More about the Christian Faith?

Sept. 4 | 6:30 pm

Pastor Plagenz is holding a 12-week course that will take you through the basics of Christianity as taught in the Holy Bible. Whether you are just exploring Christianity or are a long-time church member, this course promises to share new insights into what we believe and teach at St. Paul's. Classes are on Thursdays at 6:30 pm beginning Sept. 4. Please contact Pastor Plagenz if interested.

## Parking Lot Closed this Week

We are having maintenance work done on our main parking lot this week. This involves crack sealing, seal coating, and striping. The parking lot will be closed most of the week. (It will be open for the School's Back-to-school Night on Wednesday.) So if you will be here this week for bible study, a meeting, or service work, please park on the street or in parking lot across the street.



## Help Us Get Ready for School

School starts in just over a week, and some of our public areas still need to be readied. You can help out by pulling a weed, sweeping a cobweb, vacuuming a carpet, or scrubbing a wall. No special skills required. There is someone here to let you into the building, Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, and they can show you where the cleaning supplies are kept. Or, contact Larry Wesenberg at 715-204-7685 to schedule another time to serve.

Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	10:30 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
Monday	1:30 PM	Spiritual Health Group at the chapel of WR Health Services
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	6:30 PM	Leadership Council in the Resource Center
Wednesday	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Back-to-School Kickoff Night</b>
	6:00 PM	Bible & Brews at B's Tap House
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group in the Resource Center
	1:00 PM	Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom
Sunday	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	10:30 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria

## Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 213

## Next Sunday

Theme: Wounds That Heal:

The Door Is Very Narrow

Readings: Isaiah 66:18-24;

Hebrews 12:18-24; Luke 13:22-30

## Upcoming Events

Aug. 26	First Day of School
Sept. 1	Labor Day
Sept. 3	Catechism Classes Begin
Sept. 3	Compline Service
Sept. 4	Foundations of the Christian Faith Begins
Sept. 7	Sunday School Begins





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