



THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Altar flowers are given this week by the Elkins, in honor of Linda's Birthday.

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In Baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

GATHERING SONG

"Your Grace Is Enough"

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of, or as an invitation to, Holy Baptism.

P: ... in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

OPENING SONG

"Great Are You Lord"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

This prayer is prayed in Christian churches throughout the world today. We pray it as a sign of unity and hope, shared with all God's children.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

We offer the peace of Christ as a way of preparing to break bread together as family and friends. It's a sign that we live in community as believers.

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

C: And also with you.

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10-4:11 (p. 753)

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30 (p. 953)

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

“The Box”

Naomi Forehand

*“The Box” is our way of welcoming children – and the Spirit of God through children – in worship. Each week a child brings “The Box” with a surprise for us to share. We never know what is inside, but we trust God always has something to teach us through the gifts that children bring. **The child who brings The Box to worship, is also invited to help hold the basket for empty cups during communion, so please send them forward right after the Lord’s Prayer, with the other Communion Assistants.***

CHILDREN’S CHURCH

While children are welcome to stay in worship, they are also welcome to join other kids and adult leaders in the Fellowship Room for a time of learning and fun, just for them, so parents can focus on the sermon in a way most kids don’t care to. Kids return during the Congregational Song.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16 (p. 801)

SERMON

Pastor Mark

CONGREGATIONAL SONG

“This Is Amazing Grace”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (P: Lord, in your mercy... C: Hear our prayer.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

OFFERING

Sharing our gifts is a significant act of worship for Christians. At Cross of Grace our offering is a practice in gratitude, sacrifice and joy. If you are with us as a guest, we hope we’ve been able to offer something to you this morning. If you choose to share an offering in the name of Jesus Christ, we thank you for your generosity and trust you’ll be blessed by your giving. Use the QR code here if you’d like to give via our website.



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give thanks for the meal and hear the “Words of Institution” – the same words Jesus shared with his disciples when he prayed at the Last Supper.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING OF THE MEAL

The meal of Holy Communion – like God's abundant grace – is a gift to be shared with all who will receive it. If you're a guest with us, please accept an invitation to the meal we share. It's an invitation that comes from us because it comes first from the God we worship. Welcome to the table.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: Now may God bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Your Grace Is Enough"

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

If you're a guest with us this morning, thanks for being part of our worship. We're blessed by and better because of your presence. Please let Pastor Mark, Pastor Cogan, or one of our Partners in Mission know you are here and join us again, soon. Also, take a minute to fill out the Grace Notes insert so we'll know who was with us, even if we miss the chance to welcome you in person.



SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Greeter: Phil Galligan

Ushers: Dawn Becker & Sandy Havel

Acolyte: Charlotte Ostermyer

Lay Reader: Bettina Puckett

Comm. Assistants: Lisa Fox & Kevin Minnick

Children's Church: A. Terrell & P. Ostermyer

Altar Setup: Donna Kuffner

Altar Clean Up: Dale Reid

Bread Baker: Susan Oxley

Counters: Bill Goers & Dawn Becker

Cleaning Crew: R. Graham, J. Prickle, L. Stoeffler

Refreshments: Elkins & Compton

THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GRACE

Sunday, September 20

- Traditional Worship – 8:30 a.m.
- Christian Ed. Opportunities – 9:45 a.m.
- Contemporary Worship – 10:45 a.m.
- Fair Trade Coffee – 12:00 p.m.
- Bells of Grace – 5:30 p.m.
- High School Youth Group – 6:00 p.m.
- Alleluia Ringers – 7:00 p.m.
- Girl Scouts – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, September 21

- Men's Sermon Talk – 12:00 p.m.
- Agape Alliance – 6:00 p.m.
- Giving the Sense – 7:00 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anon. – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 22

- Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 23

- Groceries of Grace – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 24

- Women's Study – 10:00 a.m.
- Special Olympics – 6:00 p.m.
- Cycling Club – 6:30 p.m.
- Praise Band – 7:00 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anon. – 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 26

- Moms' Nite Out – 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 219

GENERAL FUND

Avg. Weekly Expenses:	\$10,645.91
Offering Last Week:	\$26,291.36
September Total:	\$38,977.67
Fiscal YTD Income (8/31/26)	\$93,006.58
Fiscal YTD Expense (8/31/26)	\$95,813.17

Our General Fund supports our everyday ministry. 10% of it goes to the ELCA and its mission to start new congregations, fund worldwide missionaries, disaster relief, & more.

(Our fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30.)

BUILDING AND OUTREACH FUND

Three Year Commitment:	\$1,379,966.39
Offering Last Week:	\$5,205.02
Given To Date:	\$779,946.29

Our Building and Outreach Fund commitments began anew in January. 10% of these offerings help Project Rouj build homes in Fondwa, Haiti, even as we grow our own home at Cross of Grace.

(Please be praying about the building project, and for our Sweat Equity Team, as things progress!)

Mark Havel, *Lead Pastor* • Cogan Blackmon, *Pastor*

Jeannie Ellenberger, *Music Minister* • Sheri Bradley, *Contemporary Music Minister*

Amanda Terrell, *Administrative Assistant*

www.crossofgrace.org • Find us on Facebook and Instagram • churchoffice@crossofgrace.org