



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.

PRELUDE

"Prelude in C Minor"

JS Bach

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of – or as invitation to – their baptism.

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we will live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

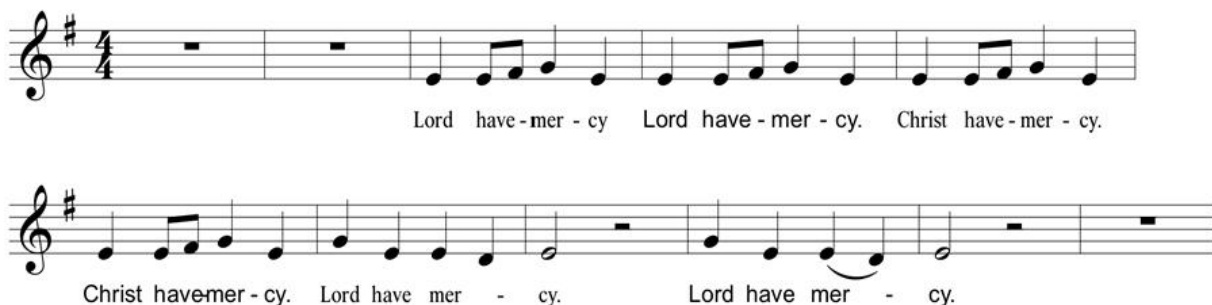
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"Lord of Light"

#688

KYRIE (“Kyrie” means “Lord.” This prayer calls for God’s divine presence during worship.)



GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

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.

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

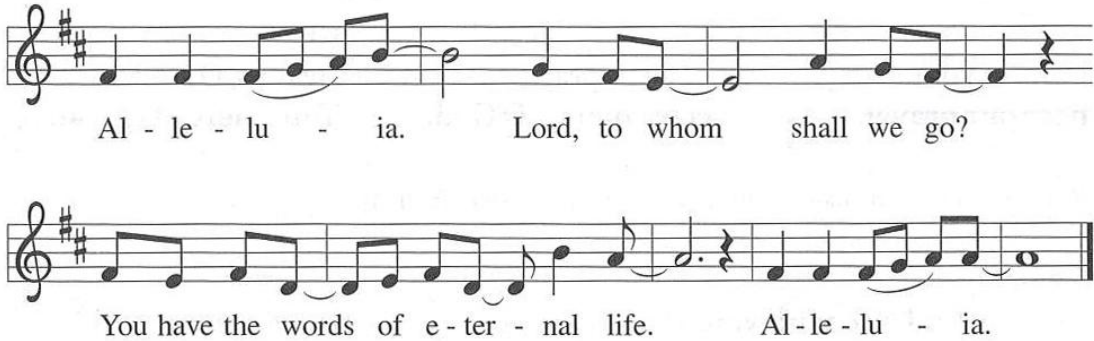
“The Grab Bag”

*“The Grab Bag” is one way of welcoming children – and the Spirit of God through kids – in worship. Each week, a child pulls a surprise from the bag for us to share. We never know what we’ll find, but trust God always has something to teach us. **The child who pulls something from the Grab Bag is invited to hold the basket for empty cups during communion, so please send them forward after the Lord’s Prayer, with the other acolyte and 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 Library 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 Hymn of the Day.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING

Matthew 20:1-16 (p. 801)

P: The Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th Chapter:

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner...”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Mark

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord of all Hopefulness”

#765

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

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

OFFERTORY

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 offered 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.



OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Most gracious God,

C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

S 173

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.

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 are 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 who sets the table.

LAMB OF GOD

We sing this to connect our meal of Holy Communion to the Passover meal shared by the Jews of the Old Testament. At that time, God saved the Jewish people from death by ‘passing over’ homes marked with the blood of a sacrificed lamb. Similarly, Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the sign of salvation for the world.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Take My Life That I May Be”

#685

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: Now may the Lord 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

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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: Lee Wierda

Ushers: Denise & Miles Hercamp

Acolyte: Owen Keljo

Lay Reader: Terry Snow

Comm. Assistants: Ingrid Mielke & Kirs Vance

Children's Church: Francina Kissel & Evelyn Keljo

Altar Setup: Donna Kuffner

Altar Clean Up: Dale Reid

Bread Baker: Susan Oxley

Counters: Bill Goers & Julie Zachary

Cleaning Crew: R. Graham, Prickle, 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.
- HS 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.
- 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