



September 7, 2025 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Divine Service Setting Four

AS WE GATHER

Jesus' words in our Gospel reading seem very harsh. "If anyone comes to me and does not *hate* his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). What does Jesus mean by this? C. S. Lewis has a quote that helps us sort this out. He says, "Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in: aim at earth and you will get neither" (*Mere Christianity*, chapter 20). Following Jesus means "aiming" at Jesus; we look to Jesus and expect from Him all good things; we look to Jesus and trust Him to be our sure refuge, defense, and help in trouble; in short, we "aim" at Jesus, fearing, loving, and trusting in Him above all things (see Luther's Small and Large Catechisms on the First Commandment). When we "aim" at Jesus, following Him as the One from Whom we expect all good and all help, it turns out that we end up receiving all good from Him, even our family. But if we "aim" for family – or anything else – and expect from family or other things what only Jesus can give, we will get neither the thing for which we seek nor Jesus. Let us, then, follow Jesus!

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 427, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES AND CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Throughout the Gospels, Jesus bids for people to follow Him.

People: **And as He does so, He tears down idols.**

Pastor: Jesus wants us to view *Him* as the One from Whom we expect all good and from Whom we expect help in times of trouble.

People: **But there are times when we expect all good or expect help from someone or something else.**

Pastor: And yet, our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, especially that we have made other people and other things into idols. Let us also confess that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful

condition. We take a moment of silence to make this confession privately before God our Father.

Pastor: Now, together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *"This is the Feast" (Music and words in hymnal, LSB 155)*

All: *Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Worthy is Christ the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Refrain

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. Refrain

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation; Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. Refrain

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. Final Refrain

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O merciful Lord, You did not spare Your only Son but delivered Him up for us all. Grant us courage and strength to take up the cross and follow Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 30:15-20*

(Life and good, death and evil set before God's people.)

¹⁵ "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I

have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING *Philippians 3:2-11* (*Paul counts everything a loss for the sake of Christ.*)

² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Philippians 3:8*

All: **Alleluia. I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Alleluia.**

GOSPEL READING *Luke 14:25-35* (*Jesus talks about the cost of discipleship.*)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the fourteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁵ Now great crowds accompanied him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² And if not, while the other is yet a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks for terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. ³⁴ “Salt is good, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? ³⁵ It is of no use either for the soil or for the manure pile. It is thrown away. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 688, “Come, Follow Me, The Savior Spake”*

SERMON *“Jesus: Our Goal, Our Aim, Our Good, Our Help”*

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE COMMUNION CONFESSION

Pastor: The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

People: I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is truly present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life.

(Augsburg Confession-Article X)

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 208)*

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your righteous judgement You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and bloody.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:
All: **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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 210)*

All: 1. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
2. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 628, "Your Table I Approach"

LSB 629, "What Is This Bread"

LSB 783, "Take My Life and Let It Be"

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BLESSING

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 729, "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: Thanks be to God!



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of September 7, 2025

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 daniel.heitshusen@gmail.com Pastor's Day Off; Friday

Family for the Week: James Sharp & Dane Arbuckle Families
Immanuel, Joplin - Rev. Christopher Ramstad

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Bonny Gray – (Sister of Cunthia Swoyer (Wolf) health and healing)

Joyce Campbell - (friend of Wanda Thompson) - hospitalized with heart problems.

Dayton Wheeler - (grandson of Wanda Thompson) - surgery

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Carol Bresnick – (friend of Cathy Munden – health and healing)
Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)
Treaa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Jan Fisher – (daughter of Bill & Joanne Michel – from Shingles)
Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)

Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)
Ervin Jung – (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Jeeper Meyer – health and healing from cancer
Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)
Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)

Long Term

Diana Bauer – (daughter-in-law of Gladys Bauer – health & healing)
Jami Bauer – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)
Rick Bauer – (Gladys Bauer's son – health and healing from surgery)
Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)
Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)
Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)
Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken-hip)
Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)
Steve Doss – (friend of Harold Lampe – health & healing)
Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)
Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)

Gary Gardner – (health and healing)
Betty Gordon – (health and healing)
Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)
Vicki Heppard – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health & healing cancer)
Robbie Krueger – (friend of Kathy Holle)
Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)
Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister-in-law – health & healing)
Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)
Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)
Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)
June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

THIS WEEK

Sunday	September 7th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service with communion
Monday	September 8th	Braille – 9:00 am and 1:00 pm LWML – 1:30 pm (see below for details)
Wednesday	September 10th	Bible Study - 5:30 pm
Sunday	September 14th	9:00 am - Happy Half Hour 9:30 am - Fellowship 10:00 am – Service
Monday	September 15th	Braille – 9:00 am and 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study – 1:30 pm

Birthdays: Sept. 7-Faith Wright; Sept. 8-Byron Martin & Darlene Lampe;
Sept. 10-Michael Garoutte; Sept. 12-Dawne Votra & Sharon Barlow
Anniversaries: Sept. 9-Paul & Barbara Martin

September

07-Stan & Sharon Crandall
14-Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer
21-Bill & Joanne Michel
28-Charlie & Edee Chambers

07-Charlie Chambers
14-David Lampe
21-Bill Michel
28-Harold Lampe



Synod Convention: The convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will be held in Phoenix, AZ, from July 18-23, 2026. We need to nominate a lay person to be put into the running to be a lay delegate to the convention. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please see Pastor Heitshusen.

Circuit Forum: Related to the convention, on September 28, 2025, the Southwest Circuit will meet at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Carthage, MO, at 4:00 pm for a worship service and to vote on pastoral and lay delegates for the Synod convention. If you would like to join Pastor Heitshusen for this service and to vote, please let Pastor Heitshusen know as soon as possible. All are welcome to come.

Wednesday Bible Study: Our Wednesday evening Bible class will begin on Wednesday, September 10, at 5:30 pm. We welcome any feedback you may have about the timing, and in our first session we will discuss whether that time will work moving forward.

September Fish Fry: September 20th from 6-8 pm on the church grounds. A flyer is on the bulletin board.