CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Patrick Cox

Worship for Saturday, September 5, 2026
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Living as Humble Little Children of the Father

True greatness is not self-sufficient strength, but humility like that of a little child. The greatness of childlike faith receives all good things as gracious gifts from our Father in heaven. Apart from such faith, "you will never enter the kingdom of heaven," but whoever is humbled like a little child will be "the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3-4). Though in our sin we deserve to be "drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matt. 18:6), we have instead been drowned ("buried") with Christ in Baptism and then raised to the new, humble life of a child of God. The Lord sends His watchman to warn us with a word from His mouth, in order that we may not die in our iniquity but be turned from our pride and selfishness to live (Ezek. 33:7-9). Thus, we live in humility and faith before God as well as in love for our neighbor, which "is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10). In the reverent fear of God, we do no harm to our neighbor, but we "pay to all what is owed to them" (Rom. 13:7) and we "owe no one anything, except to love each other" (Rom. 13:8).

+ Please silence your cell phone.
+ Please fill out the red 'Record of Fellowship' book in your pew.

✢ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING 2 ✢

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

✢ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✢

INVOCATION and EXHORTATION LSB 167

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

✢ SERVICE OF THE WORD

SALUTATION LSB 172
People: **And also with you.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 33:7-9
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: Romans 13:1-10
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:1-20
Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Holy Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SONG OF THE DAY

SERMON **"Last Ditch"** from Matthew 18:1-20

APOSTLES' CREED LSB 175

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
Pastor: …Lord, in your mercy,
People: **Hear our prayer.**

RESPONSIVE SONG
OFFERING

✢ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✢

PREFACE LSB 177
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.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING LSB 178

LORD'S PRAYER LSB 179

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI LSB 180
Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT and BENEDICTION LSB 183

CLOSING SONG

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HOLY COMMUNION

In the Sacrament of Holy Communion our Lord Jesus Christ comes to us with His true body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins. He invites to His table baptized Christians who trust His words, repent of all their sin, and forgive one another as He forgives us.

In 1 Corinthians 10:14-22, St. Paul teaches us that Holy Communion is also a public profession that unity of doctrine exists amongst those who commune at the same altar. Therefore, we ask any who are not yet instructed in the doctrine of our church or who hold membership/commune at a non-LCMS church body to abstain from receiving the Sacrament here today. If it is your desire to receive communion with us at this altar, please speak with Pastor Cox. It would be his joy to instruct you toward confirmation. *For further study see Matthew 5:23ff, 10:32ff, 18:15-35, 26:26-29; Acts 2:38, 42; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:17-34.*

All who are not receiving the Sacrament today are welcome to come to the communion rail to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest when you come to the rail.

- ✠ **The individual cups are offered first, followed by the chalice.**
- ✠ **The cups in the center of the trays include one drop of wine.**
- ✠ **Please let the pastor know if you need a gluten-free wafer.**

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PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP SERVICE

READERS: (Sat) Pastor Cox| (Sun) Tony Pessini
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Holloway, Emily Tripp
ELDERS: Scott Brewster, Carl Hunt, Jon Sonntag
USHERS: (Sat) Scott Brewster
(Sun) John Clemmons, Mat Shelby, Pastor Hildebrandt
ORGANIST: Dr. Sarah Harr DIRECTOR OF CHOIRS: Judy Zehnder
PRAISE TEAM: Nyssa Hunt and Sylvia Hildebrandt
A/V TEAM: Scott Brewster, Nyssa Hunt, Tim Riethmeier,
Mike & Monica Witherby, Bonnie Wright-Woodward