CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Patrick Cox

Worship for Sunday, September 6, 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 ✢

Piano Prelude: **"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"** *(Becki Slagle Mayo)*

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: **"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"** **LSB 686**

✢ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✢

INVOCATION and EXHORTATION LSB 167
CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

✢ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✢

INTROIT *(see insert)*
KYRIE LSB 168
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS LSB 170
SALUTATION LSB 172
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.**

ALLELUIA and VERSE LSB 173

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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"** **LSB 649**

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.**

OFFERING
VOLUNTARY: **"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"** *(James Engel)*
OFFERTORY LSB 176

✢ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✢

PREFACE and PROPER PREFACE LSB 177
SANCTUS and PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING LSB 178
LORD'S PRAYER LSB 179
THE WORDS OF OUR LORD
PAX DOMINI and AGNUS DEI LSB 180

DISTRIBUTION LSB 181
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS
"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared" **LSB 622**
"As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered" **LSB 612**

NUNC DIMITTIS LSB 182
POST-COMMUNION COLLECT LSB 183
BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: **"Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds"** **LSB 867**

ORGAN POSTLUDE: **"Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds"** *(Mark Sedio)*

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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