CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Pastor Patrick Cox

Worship for Saturday, September 26, 2026
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Cross of Christ Opens to Us the Way of Repentance to Life with God

The way of the Lord is righteous and just: "The soul who sins shall die" (Ezek. 18:4). However, because the Lord has "no pleasure in the death of anyone" (Ezek. 18:32), He calls sinners to repentance and faith in His gracious forgiveness of sins. The man who is thus turned away from his wickedness, who henceforth lives by the grace of God, "shall surely live; he shall not die" (Ezek. 18:28). This way of repentance has been opened for us by the cross of Christ. In the righteousness of faith and love, "he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death" (Phil. 2:8), and He was vindicated in His resurrection from the dead. Indeed, "God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name" (Phil. 2:9). He has given us this name in our Baptism into Christ, in whom we now "shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15). He uses the authority that He has received from His Father (Matt. 21:23-27) to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, by which even "the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God" (Matt. 21:31-32).

+ 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 ✢

INTROIT *(see insert)*

SALUTATION LSB 172

People: And also with you.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-27

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first 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 **"Authority"** *from Matthew 21:23-27*

APOSTLES' CREED LSB 175

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: …let us pray to the Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

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) Sandra Drews
ALTAR GUILD: Kathy Holloway, Emily Tripp
ELDERS: Scott Brewster, Carl Hunt, Jon Sonntag
USHERS: (Sat) Scott Brewster
(Sun) Jo Parham, 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