



The 15th Sunday After Pentecost

September 6, 2026

Life in the Lane: Formed for the Debt Love Never Finishes

Romans 13

***Preparing People For The Road Ahead
Through Lutheran Theology In Action***



The Lutheran Church & School of Messiah

840 N. 11th St. Grand Junction, CO

970-245-2838



Offerings: *Offering baskets are located at either end of the back pews. Or feel free to scan the QR code. We use Square.*



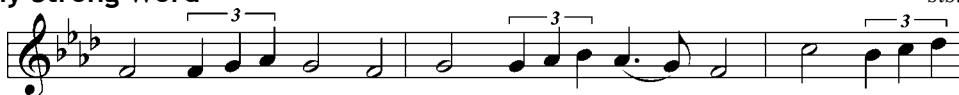
Scan for Offering

Confession and Absolution

Stand

578 Thy Strong Word

sts. 1-2, 4-5



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth
5 Give us lips to sing Thy glo - ry, Tongues Thy



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
night and deep as death, Broke the light of
forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -
mer - cy to pro - claim, Throats that shout the

light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.
 hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy ho - ly name.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! May the

Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 light which Thou dost send Fill our songs with

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ias, Al - le - lu - ias with - out end!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76
 Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944
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 Tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 C **Amen.**

Exhortation

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P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
 C **who made heaven and earth.**

- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalms 32:1–7

- ¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
²**Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

**⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.**

**⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

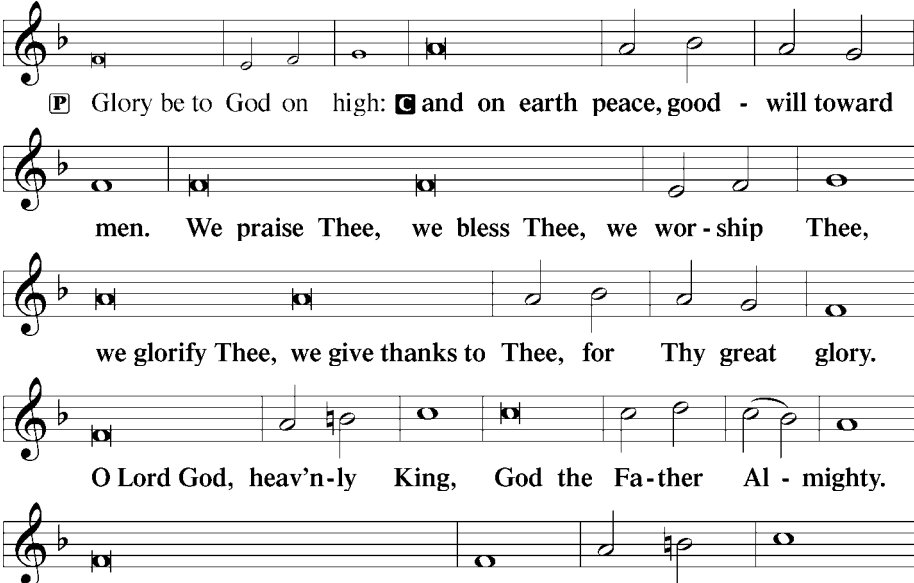
Kyrie

186

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us. [Mark 10:27]**

Gloria in Excelsis

187



[P] Glory be to God on high: **[C]** and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on-ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day [2 Timothy 4:22]

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7–9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 13:1–10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia

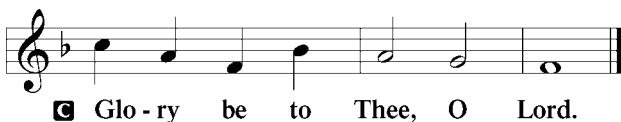
LSB 190



Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:1–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.



¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.

¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Creed [“Creed” comes from the Latin credo, which means “I believe.” From the time of Pentecost, the Ancient Christian Church has confessed a creed. The Early Christian Church has always believed, taught, and confessed these Scriptural teachings. This is why we are called a Creedal Church.]

Nicene Creed

**C 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.**

Sit

Kids' Time

851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our
 4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your

life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
 hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the

lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
 sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.

And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You
 Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to

count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py
 deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your
 stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of

and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
 all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-89, alt.
 Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon What We Owe Each Other

Romans 13

Stand

Offertory [Psalm 51:10-12]

LSB 192

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. The lyrics are printed below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Prayer of the Church [1 Timothy 2:1-4]

Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9-13]

196

**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 Conclusion for the Lord's Prayer is not in Matthew or Luke. The Conclusion is from 1Chronicles 29:10-11, King David's prayer in the assembly.]*

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction [Latin for God's "Good Speak" to you]

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

[Aaronic Benediction Numbers 6:24-26]

570 Just as I Am, without One Plea



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 Because Thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Leviticus 19:18

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself” is not a ladder. It does not mean you must first feel better about yourself, and it does not mean the law is waiting for you to finish it. Moses assumes what we already know: we look after our own life with energy. The command is that the person next to us get that same measure — not vengeance, not a grudge, but real care.

The New Testament will not let that sentence hang over you as unfinished homework. Paul says the one who loves has **fulfilled** the law (Romans 13:8–10). That “fulfilled” is first **Christ’s**. He loved the neighbor — loved you — as Himself, all the way to the cross. The account toward God is not waiting on your next kind week. Habit grows *from* there, *not toward* there. The Spirit uses the Word, the font, and the table to form a way of life: we keep practicing the love we have already received. When you notice you have not loved enough, that is not proof you are still under the law’s demand. That is the law doing its honest work so you run back to the One who already fulfilled it. Then you go again to the neighbor — not to complete Leviticus, but because you belong to Jesus.

Reflection Questions

General

Where this week is the devil offering you a smaller Jesus — one who only catches, or one who never warns — and how does the crucified Lord refuse both?

Youth

When someone is hard to love at school or at home, what lie does the devil tell you about them — and what has Jesus already done for you that changes how you treat that person?

Gen Z

The devil is fine if God stays private or becomes a mascot for your side. Where do you feel that pressure, and what does it mean that Jesus loved enemies from the cross instead of winning the room?

Spiritually curious

If God is real, is He only kind, only severe, or something the cross makes larger than both — and what would it mean that He loved you before you finished becoming easy to love?



Scan for Offering

Pastor: Mike Redeker
Elders: Peter Cheney
DCE: Jonathan Peterson
Acolytes: Oliver Messenger, Isabelle Johnson

Ushers: Jack Messenger, Gage Peck, Korrey Klein
Organist: Mason Genke
Greeters:

PRAYER REQUESTS— *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”* Prayer requests for you, family with permission, or by a pastor, may be sent to admin@mlgj.org & sec@mlgj.org

Messiah’s Prayer List

Birth Announcements: Emma Rae
Ryden 8/31/26
Continued health and healing: Chris Ballard, Mary Ann Bradshaw, Peter Chaney, Darlene & Darrel Clark, Lucy Clemmer, Linda Currey, Carol Haller, Jimmie Kenner and family, Carrie Lamgo, Jack Messenger, Jess Messenger, Tom Moore, Illona Rennels, Bob Rennick, Esther Schlauger, Karen Skoog, Bill & Deborah Stacy, Shane Walz, Jeff Vagneur, Rick Shaper, Joanie Lozano, Edie, Whinnie, Mark Ackermann, Brent Allred, Dan Crabtree, Jennifer Oien, Jennifer Oien’s friend Alietta, Darlene Johnson’s Family, Mike Merry
Fighting serious diseases: Sharon Breshears, Denise Currie, Courtney Grieger, Misty Hannah, Steve Kaskus, Shane Larsen, Anna Marie Mautz, Barb Moore, Melani Perschbacher, Debra Proctor, Diana Walcher, John Moseman Jr., Sue Morris
Continue to fight cancer: Ralph Bickel, Karen Caldwell, Tyler, Rhonda Covington, James Hamleton, Les Hawkins, Barbara Huff, Mike Jerome, Arthur Kluegel, Chuck Wagner, Marshall Mead, Walter Netze, Amy

Poulin, Rick Reimers, Loretta Siilata, Skogen, Karen Shoda, Connie Vazquez, Morgan Stewart

Home Hospice Care:

Called Home: Ralph Bickel

Serving in the military: Jake Bradshaw, Jack Eberhard, Elijah and Rachael Messenger, Karen and James Moore, Caleb Schmidt, Brandon & Kayt Soine, Eric Stahly.

Messiah Lutheran members

Messiah Lutheran faculty & staff

Messiah Lutheran Church/School

High School Students

Mavericks of Messiah: *Continue to pray for the college students.*

Missionaries: Rev. Tim Norton to the Navajo Nation and **Rev Dr. Karl Heimer**, Ysleta, El Paso Texas.

Celebrating Birthdays:

6-Sep Carl Boydston, Jan Hoaglund, Donny Olbert

7-Sep Harlan Diaz

9-Sep Craig Wegner

10-Sep Betty Colvin

11-Sep Petra Lampe, Carl Lampitt, Linda Romersberger

12-Sep Ray Seeley

Wedding Anniversaries:

Jim and Marsha Brodak (57)

Thomas and Sammie Bethka (13)

Tom and Barbara Moore (68)