



***Jesus saw and called Matthew,
and he rose and followed Him.***



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Corner of Broadway and Florey



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WELCOME TO PILGRIM LUTHERAN CHURCH! We are glad that God has brought you here! Today is a "red" festival in the midst of the long "green" season of Sundays after Pentecost. Today we remember St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, and we learn from him and his confession of Christ's Name. As we care about this saint of old, we also care about the present and future saints, people made holy by God through His Word and Sacraments. So, we invite you to join us for all of our services, Bible classes, and other activities!

AS YOU ARRIVE, please move down the pew towards the wall, in order to leave room for others. If you arrive late, please wait for an appropriate time to enter the sanctuary, such as during a hymn. Please also remember to turn off your cell phones and/or any other electronic devices. Thank you!

ORDER OF SERVICE: To your right you will find today's order of service. The right side of that outline indicates from where the item listed comes: either in this bulletin or the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, with the Psalms towards the front, its liturgical pages towards the middle, and its hymns towards the back. The Δ symbol before a hymn stanza indicates that it especially gives glory to the Triune God; we stand before singing the stanza and, in most cases, conclude the stanza by singing "Amen.", if an "Amen" is not already included.

HOLY COMMUNION: At Pilgrim we value your presence among us and love and care about our guests and visitors! However, due to the sad divisions that exist in the world and even in Christianity, we cannot commune everyone at the Lord's Table here. We respectfully ask that guests and visitors who desire to commune first speak with the pastor well before the service. All those present but not communing still may approach the rail for a blessing: come forward and kneel with those who are communing, but fold your arms over your heart and place your hands on the opposite shoulders. For more information about the ancient practice of Closed Communion, see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/closed-communion>.

INDIVIDUAL CUPS: The top of the tray contains several individual cups of highly-diluted wine. If you receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please be sure to wait to consume it until Pastor comes by with the chalice, so that he knows you are receiving it in that fashion. If the supply of individual cups is depleted, please accept the blood of Christ from the chalice.

CATECHESIS

(On the following page[s],
locate the specified portion of Luther's Small Catechism,
and, when prompted by the question, recite the given answer.)

The week's announcements follow the service at the back of the binder.

SECTION 4

Christian Questions
with Their Answers

*Prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those
who intend to go to the Sacrament*

[The "Christian Questions with Their Answers," designating Luther as the author, first appeared in an edition of the Small Catechism in 1551, five years after Luther's death.]

After confession and instruction in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the pastor may ask, or Christians may ask themselves these questions:

1. *Do you believe that you are a sinner?*
Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.
2. *How do you know this?*
From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept.
3. *Are you sorry for your sins?*
Yes, I am sorry that I have sinned against God.
4. *What have you deserved from God because of your sins?*
His wrath and displeasure, temporal death, and eternal damnation. See Romans 6:21, 23.
5. *Do you hope to be saved?*
Yes, that is my hope.
6. *In whom then do you trust?*
In my dear Lord Jesus Christ.
7. *Who is Christ?*
The Son of God, true God and man.
8. *How many Gods are there?*
Only one, but there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
9. *What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?*
He died for me and shed His blood for me on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

10. *Did the Father also die for you?*

He did not. The Father is God only, as is the Holy Spirit; but the Son is both true God and true man. He died for me and shed His blood for me.

11. *How do you know this?*

From the Holy Gospel, from the words instituting the Sacrament, and by His body and blood given me as a pledge in the Sacrament.

12. *What are the Words of Institution?*

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."

13. *Do you believe, then, that the true body and blood of Christ are in the Sacrament?*

Yes, I believe it.

14. *What convinces you to believe this?*

The word of Christ: Take, eat, this is My body; drink of it, all of you, this is My blood.

15. *What should we do when we eat His body and drink His blood, and in this way receive His pledge?*

We should remember and proclaim His death and the shedding of His blood, as He taught us: This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.

16. *Why should we remember and proclaim His death?*

First, so we may learn to believe that no creature could make satisfaction for our

sins. Only Christ, true God and man, could do that. Second, so we may learn to be horrified by our sins, and to regard them as very serious. Third, so we may find joy and comfort in Christ alone, and through faith in Him be saved.

17. What motivated Christ to die and make full payment for your sins?

His great love for His Father and for me and other sinners, as it is written in John 14; Romans 5; Galatians 2; and Ephesians 5.

18. Finally, why do you wish to go to the Sacrament?

That I may learn to believe that Christ, out of great love, died for my sin, and also learn from Him to love God and my neighbor.

19. What should admonish and encourage a Christian to receive the Sacrament frequently?

First, both the command and the promise of Christ the Lord. Second, his own pressing need, because of which the command, encouragement, and promise are given.

20. But what should you do if you are not aware of this need and have no hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?

To such a person no better advice can be given than this: first, he should touch his body to see if he still has flesh and blood. Then he should believe what the Scriptures say of it in Galatians 5 and Romans 7. Second, he should look around to see whether he is still in the world, and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble, as the Scriptures say in John 15–16 and in 1 John 2 and 5. Third, he will certainly have the devil also around him, who with his lying and murdering day and night will let him have no peace, within or without, as the Scriptures picture him in John 8 and 16; 1 Peter 5; Ephesians 6; and 2 Timothy 2.

NOTE

These questions and answers are no child's play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked."

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Stand

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

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

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P 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, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. 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.

Kneel/Stand

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

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Stand

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray. ... now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Sit

⁸“But you, son of man, hear what I say to you. Be not rebellious like that rebellious house; open your mouth and eat what I give you.” ⁹And when I looked, behold, a hand was stretched out to me, and behold, a scroll of a book was in it. ¹⁰And he spread it before me. And it had writing on the front and on the back, and there were written on it words of lamentation and mourning and woe.

¹And he said to me, “Son of man, eat whatever you find here. Eat this scroll, and go, speak to the house of Israel.” ²So I opened my mouth, and he gave me this scroll to eat. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, feed your belly with this scroll that I give you and fill your stomach with it.” Then I ate it, and it was in my mouth as sweet as honey.

⁴And he said to me, “Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with my words to them. ⁵For you are not sent to a people of foreign speech and a hard language, but to the house of Israel— ⁶not to many peoples of foreign speech and a hard language, whose words you cannot understand. Surely, if I sent you to such, they would listen to you. ⁷But the house of Israel will not be willing to listen to you, for they are not willing to listen to me. Because all the house of Israel have a hard forehead and a stubborn heart. ⁸Behold, I have made your face as hard as their faces, and your forehead as hard as their foreheads. ⁹Like emery harder than flint have I made your forehead. Fear them not, nor be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house.” ¹⁰Moreover, he said to me, “Son of man, all my words that I shall speak to you receive in your heart, and hear with your ears. ¹¹And go to the exiles, to your people, and speak to them and say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD God,’ whether they hear or refuse to hear.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205; Matthew 28:19a, 20b

(After a brief introduction, the congregation sings the triple Alleluia before and after Pastor sings the appointed Verse.)



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P Go therefore and make disciples of all | nations.*
And behold, I am with you always, to the end | of the
age.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁹As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him.

¹⁰And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

☐ 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.

The Nicene Creed continues on the next page.

**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.**

Hymn of the Day

730 What Is the World to Me



1 What is the world to me With all its vaunt - ed plea - sure
2 The world seeks to be praised And hon - ored by the might - y
3 The world seeks af - ter wealth And all that mam - mon of - fers
4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



When You, and You a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
Yet nev - er once re - flects That they are frail and flight - y.
Yet nev - er is con - tent Though gold should fill its cof - fers.
My life, my health, my wealth, My friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, My soul's de - light shall be;
But what I tru - ly prize A - bove all things is He,
I have a high - er good, Con - tent with it I'll be:
My joy, my crown, my all, My bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



You are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus, He a - lone. What is the world to me!
My Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
Once more, then, I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Sit

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Congregational responses may be included according to one of the following forms:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A ... Lord, in Your mercy, | <input type="checkbox"/> C hear our prayer. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A For ... let us pray to the Lord. | <input type="checkbox"/> C Lord, have mercy. |

Sit

Offering

Stand

Seasonal Offertory

851 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us (stanza 2)

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,
free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a 2/4 time signature. It consists of six lines of music. The first line begins with a '2' indicating a second ending. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. Phrasing slurs are used to group notes that correspond to a single syllable or a short phrase. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text and tune: Public domain

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P 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:

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P 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.

The prayer continues as appropriate to the season and concludes as follows.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C 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

P 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."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C Amen.

Distribution Hymns

632 O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -



ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Public domain

682 God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons



1 God of the proph - ets, bless the proph - ets' sons;
2 A - noint them proph - ets, men who are in - tent
3 A - noint them priests, strong in - ter - ces - sors they,
4 A - noint them kings, yes, king - ly kings, O Lord.



E - li - jah's man - tle o'er E - li - sha cast.
To be Your wit - ness - es in word and deed,
For par - don and for love and hope and peace,
A - noint them with the Spir - it of Your Son.



Each age its sol - emn task may claim but once;
Their hearts a - flame, their lips made el - o - quent,
That, through their plead - ing, guilt - y sin - ners may
Theirs not a jew - eled crown, a blood - stained sword;



Make each one no - bler, strong - er than the last.
Their eyes a - wake to ev - 'ry hu - man need.
Find Je - sus' mer - cy and from sin re - lease.
Theirs, by sweet love, for Christ a king - dom won.

5 Make them apostles, heralds of Your cross;
Forth let them go to tell the world of grace.
Inspired by You, may they count all but loss
And stand at last with joy before Your face.

518 By All Your Saints in Warfare (stanzas 1, 25, 3)



1 By all Your saints in war - fare, For
 2 Praise, Lord, for him whose Gos - pel Your
 △ 3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther And



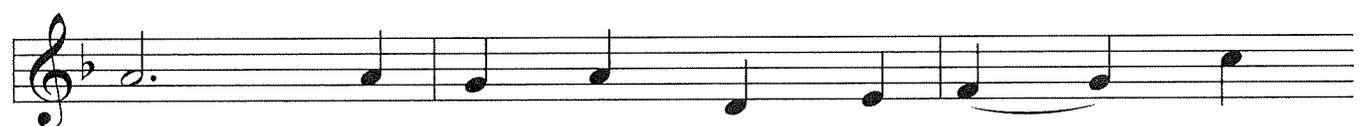
all Your saints at rest, Your ho - ly name, O
 hu - man life de - clared, Who, world - ly gain for -
 wor - ship God the Son And sing to God the



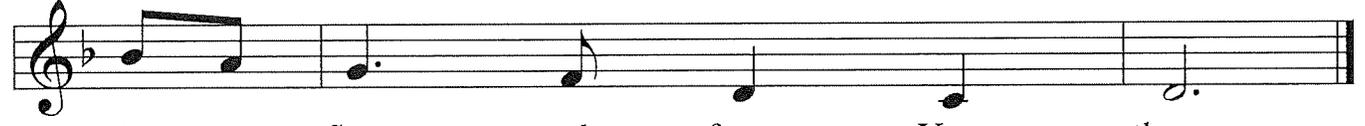
Je - sus, For - ev - er - more be blest! For
 sak - ing, Your path of suf - f'ring shared. From
 Spir - it, E - ter - nal Three in One, Till



You have won the bat - tle That they might wear the
 all un - righ - teous mam - mon, O raise our eyes a -
 all the ran - somed num - ber Fall down be - fore the



crown; And now they shine in glo - ry
 new That we in our vo - ca - tion
 throne, As - crib - ing pow'r and glo - ry



Re - flect - ed and from Your throne.
 May rise and fol - low You.
 And praise to God a - lone.

Text: Public domain
 Tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty. Amen

Post-Communion Collect

- A** Let us pray.
... one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P 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.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

696 O God, My Faithful God



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing;
What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;
Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;
And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless
But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small



A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.
Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.
And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

5 Let me depart this life Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul That it may live forever;
And let my body have A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave; And let it sleep in peace.

6 And on that final day When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand, My deathly slumber
breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice, Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice With those who love Your name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

BEFORE THE SERVICE: As you greet and visit one another, please be sensitive to others who may wish an opportunity for silence to pray and otherwise to prepare for worship.

OFFERING BOX: Offerings may be placed in the Offering Box in the Narthex before or after services. Envelopes are available on the side of the Box for your use, such as if you would like your cash offering to be recorded, tracked, and receipted in a report back to you.

PEW CUSHIONS: If you would like to use a cushion either for your seat or for your seat and back, cushions for your use are available in the Usher's Closet off the north side of the Narthex.

PEW SLIPS: *Visitors*, please register your attendance both by completing a slip from rack on the back of the pews and placing them in the Offering Box in the Narthex and by signing the Guest Register at the door. *Members*, please complete a slip only if your contact information has changed or you have a new or updated prayer-list request. (The Usher tracks church attendance and communion participation.)

GROWING IN WORSHIP: Parents, please make use of the bulletins available in the Narthex for children aged 5-10, including the bulletins' activities for the whole week!

LARGER-PRINT/FLOW-THROUGH BINDERS are available in the Narthex for those who have trouble seeing the smaller-print of the hymnal, those with other special needs who cannot follow the liturgy in the hymnal or handle its weight, and those who are visiting Pilgrim who are not already familiar with liturgical services and/or our hymnal. If you need or otherwise want to use a flow-through and can help minimize paper and copying expenses, a PDF of the flow-through binder's contents is available in the upper-right corner of Pilgrim's homepage, www.pilgrimlc.org, to open on or to download to your electronic device.

PRAYER REQUEST: If you have a special petition for the Prayers of the Church, please notify the Usher, Elder on Duty, or Pastor before the service.

IF A NEED SHOULD ARISE, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Restrooms are available in the Parish Hall (non-ADA Restrooms are available in the Office Area, one with a change table), and there is a Cry Room (also with a change table) off the south side of the Narthex. Let the Usher or Elder-on-Duty know if you need assistance or supplies.

Announcements continue on the inside of this insert.

Announcements continue from the front of this insert.

LAST WEEK: There were 0 students but 1 teacher prepared for Sunday School; 13 people were present in person for Adult Bible Class; 27 were present in person for the Sunday Divine Service (26 communed), and another 1 participated via YouTube; 4 were present in person for Midweek Bible Study and another 3 participated via Jitsi; there were 3 youth catechumens Thursday afternoon via Jitsi; and 3 catechumens were present in person for Thursday-evening catechesis.

THANKS to all those caring for the inside and outside of Pilgrim's facilities; to Rev. Adler for the use of his chasubles; to Remo Gualtieri all those helping with the video and audio for classes and services; and to Ellen Menconi for her Church Office work.

SERVING TODAY: The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor; Jeromy McMurray, Elder on Duty; and Elaine Navaille, Accompanist.

LIFE THOUGHTS: First-century tax-collectors like Matthew exploited their neighbors, their own kin, for personal profit. Yet, Jesus in forgiveness and fellowship made them an illustration of how family ought to be treated (even when embryos or elderly relatives make us uncomfortable). Let us, like the repentant evangelist, proclaim how Christ crucified can release us even from the guilt of sins regarding the sanctity of life.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS: After Christ descended to earth in order to die for our sins, when He ascended back to heaven, He gave people the gifts of those who fill the Office of the Holy Ministry (Ephesians 4:7-16). Through pastors, Christ Himself equips the saints, does the work of ministry, and builds up His Body, the Church, in love. As the Rev. Dr. Tom Winger comments on the passage, "The body that is loved grows; the body that grows loves."

AS YOU DEPART, please be mindful of those who are ushered out behind you, who may have difficulty standing and waiting, and so who may need an open path to the door and to get to their cars quickly. If you stop to talk to someone in the Sanctuary, please keep the aisle as clear as possible, and please delay lengthier conversations with the pastor until after he has greeted everyone. Thank you for your consideration!

AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX are hardcopies of Pastor Galler's recent newspaper columns (including his 09/20 column, "New starts at school remind us of new starts with God"); the latest issue of *Christian Culture: A Magazine for Lutherans* from Luther Classical College (and some copies of

the Winter 2025 and Fall 2024 issues, too); the September edition of Pilgrim's monthly newsletter *The Pilgrimage*; *Portals of Prayer* both for July-September 2025 and for October-December 2025; the larger-print schedule of Daily Bible Reading for August and September; the latest Church Directory (dated 2025/07/01, printed on goldenrod paper); and Pilgrim's Funeral Planning Worksheet for completing, discussing with Pastor Galler, and filing in the Church Office.

PILGRIM'S MARY/MARTHA SOCIETY will gather today after the Divine Service, for lunch and some cleaning. All women are invited and welcome! On Sunday, October 19, the Society will continue its study of the Women of the Bible, focusing on Esther.

2026 BUDGET PIECES are due to Treasurer Debbie Shockley today, September 21, or as soon as possible, so that she can put the draft budget together and it can be discussed when the Church Council meets as the Budget Committee next Sunday, September 28, after the Divine Service.

STUDY HOURS: Pastor Galler is usually in his study Tuesdays from 5:00-8:00 p.m., Wednesdays through Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon, and Saturdays Noon to 3:00 p.m. Come for Individual Confession and Absolution (see *Lutheran Service Book* 292-293) or for any other reason. Pastor Galler is also available at other times by appointment at Pilgrim, or he can come to you (email pastor@pilgrimlc.org or text/call 903-984-4333). For emergency pastoral care, please *call* Pastor Galler

NOAH EVENT: Sight & Sound Theaters (for example, in Branson, Missouri) will "broadcast" a recording of the company's stage production of *Noah* to movie theaters across the country September 18-24. The AMC Classic Tyler 14 (7415 South Broadway in Tyler) will have shows at 7:00 p.m. those days. You can buy tickets at www.noahevent.com/tickets.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE 2025 NATIONAL CONFERENCE will be held September 24-26 in Colorado Springs. More information is available in the Church Office and online at www.lutheransforlife.org.

"ALL THE PROPHETS TESTIFY": Pilgrim's Midweek Bible Study continues this Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m., taking up Joel 2:12-17. All of the prophetic books testify that everyone who believes in Jesus receives life in His Name (Acts 10:42-43). All people are welcome to participate in the Study, either in-person in the Conference Room/Library or on-line via

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Jitsi. For more information and for the handouts and audio and video files from past sessions, see <https://www.pilgrimlc.org/bible-studies/prophets>.

CIRCUIT #14 PASTORS' MEETING: The pastors of Circuit #14 are scheduled to meet this Thursday, September 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at a place and with presenters yet to be announced.

CATECHESIS: This Thursday Pastor Galler continues the new youth class starting at 4:15 p.m. via Jitsi, and he continues the family class starting at 7:00 p.m. in-person in the Conference Room/Library.

NEXT SUNDAY: 9:15 a.m. Refreshments; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class ("Romans: The Righteousness of God"); and 10:45 a.m. Divine Service, followed by Pilgrim's "Budget Committee" Meeting.

Readings: Amos 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; and Luke 16:19-31.

Hymns: LSB 708, 625, 504, 681, and 675.

Prepare yourself for worship in advance by praying about, reading over, and meditating on the appointed Scripture Readings and Hymns.

LWML FALL EVENT: The LWML Texas Northeast Texas and East Texas Zones are combining for a Fall Event, presumably on Saturday, September 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Longview. RSVPs were requested by this past Thursday, September 18, but registration is usually possible at the door. See the flyer on the LWML bulletin board in the Narthex for more information.

PILGRIM'S CHURCH COUNCIL MEETS AS ITS BUDGET COMMITTEE next Sunday, September 28, after the Divine Service, in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend and discuss Pilgrim's plan to disburse the offerings the congregation expects to receive in 2026.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Please submit reports for the Third Quarter of 2025 and agenda items for the Fourth Quarter Council Meeting to Recording Secretary Joy McHargue by Sunday, October 5, so that the Packet for that Meeting can be distributed and otherwise available before that Meeting on October 26. Thank you!

"THE 15-2 FOLK" will gather next on Sunday, October 5, after the Divine Service in the Great Room of the Parish Hall, for heavy snacking and playing some Cribbage. All are welcome to stay for the heavy snacking, even if not staying for the Cribbage! If you do not know how to play Cribbage, they will teach you!

Acknowledgements

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