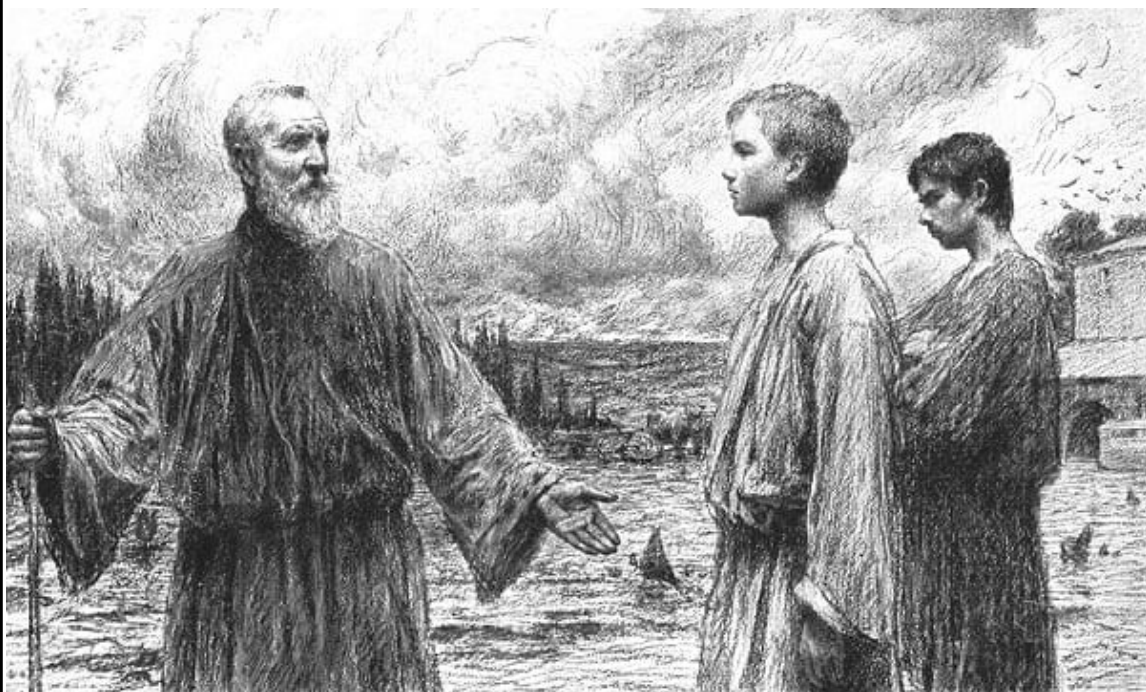




Which of the two did the will of his father?

Matthew 21:31

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 26 & 27, 2026**

As We Gather

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOLY CROSS is celebrated in accordance with the Lutheran confession that Christ's body and blood are truly given to us with the bread and wine to give forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Missouri-Synod Lutherans united with us in that confession are invited to receive the Sacrament with us. Others who desire to commune should first speak with a Pastor or an Elder.

- Those receiving communion have the choice of the common cup or the individual cup.
- For those whose health or circumstance may require it, Holy Cross offers an alcohol-removed red wine (containing less than 0.5% alcohol) located in the center of each Communion tray.
- Gluten-free wafers are available upon request to a Pastor or Elder before the service.
- If you want communion in the pew, please let an usher or Elder know before service.
- Place individual communion cups in the baskets without stacking them.

ATTENDANCE PADS: We invite members and guests alike to take a moment to sign the red fellowship pad located at the end of the pew by the center aisle. Please provide contact information if you are interested in membership or if you would like to be contacted by the church. After signing, please pass it to your neighbor and then return it to its spot by the aisle.

LIVE-STREAMING of 8 AM SERVICE WEEKLY: Holy Cross live streams the 8 AM service each Sunday on a link at our website (hcross.com). We provide this service for our members who cannot attend worship. The video perspective from the choir loft looks toward the altar and shows all aspects of the service from the sixth row of pews forward. This includes baptisms, children's talks, and communion.

Coloring Page: page 18

HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

Those with hearing aids can now download and use a smartphone or tablet app that broadcasts the service to their hearing aids. (Bluetooth connection required)

Step 1. Log in to the Guest Wi-Fi

Network Name: **HC-Guest**

Password: **Romans1:16**

You will be prompted to join the "HC-Guest" Wi-Fi network

Step 2. Download the ListenWIFI App

Search your device's app store for the **ListenWIFI** app by Listen Technologies

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Divine Service, Setting Four
September 26 & 27, 2026

Prelude - Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort BuxWV 185

Dietrich Buxtehude

Prelude - When Morning Gilds the Skies

Jason D. Payne

Confession and Absolution

Opening Hymn: "Praise Be to Christ" LSB 538

Please Stand



1 Praise be to Christ in whom we see The im - age of the
2 Praise be to Him whose sov - 'reign sway And will up - holds cre -
3 Praise be to Him who, Lord Most High, The full - ness of the



Fa - ther shown, The first-born Son re - vealed and known, The truth and
a - tion's plan; Who is, be - fore all worlds be - gan And when our
God-head shares; And yet our hu-man na - ture bears, Who came as



grace of de - i - ty; Through whom cre - a - tion came to birth,
world has passed a - way: Lord of the Church, its life and head,
man to bleed and die. And from His cross there flows our peace



Whose fin - gers set the stars in place, The un - seen pow'rs, and
Re - demp-tion's price and source and theme, A - live, the first - born
Who chose for us the path He trod, That so might sins and



this small earth, The fur - thest bounds of time and space.
from the dead, To reign as all - in - all su - preme.
sor - rows cease And all be rec - on - ciled to God.

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

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.

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

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Kyrie

LSB 204



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

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204; 5PM, 10:45AM



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-shipped 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.

All Creatures of Our God and King

8AM

The children's choir sings stanza 1. The congregation sings stanza 2.

A All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam!
O praise Him, O praise Him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

C All praise to God the Father be,
All praise, eternal Son, to Thee.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Whom with the Spirit we adore
Forever and forevermore:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Please Sit

A The Old Testament Reading for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost is from Ezekiel, chapter 18.

The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is My way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are My ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Choral Response: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

8AM

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms,
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms,
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
Leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Epistle: Philippians 2:1-18

A The Epistle is from Philippians, chapter 2.

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?"²⁴Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said

to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

Children's Message

Sunday/Please be seated

Hymn of the Day: Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

LSB 655

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
 Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
 u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
 we strife And sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 lead us out of death to life.

Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Please stand

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Additional petitions conclude:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

G **Hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord.

G **Amen.**

Offering

Please be seated

We invite members and guests alike to take a moment to sign the red fellowship pad located at the end of the pew by the center aisle. Please provide contact information if you are interested in membership or if you would like to be contacted by the church. After signing, please pass it to your neighbor and then return it to its spot by the aisle.

Voluntary: Go, My Children

Sam Batt Owens

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

LSB 208 PLEASE STAND

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

LSB 208



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.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

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

The Lord's Prayer *(Matthew 6:9–13)*

G **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 *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

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 — *The Peace of the Lord*

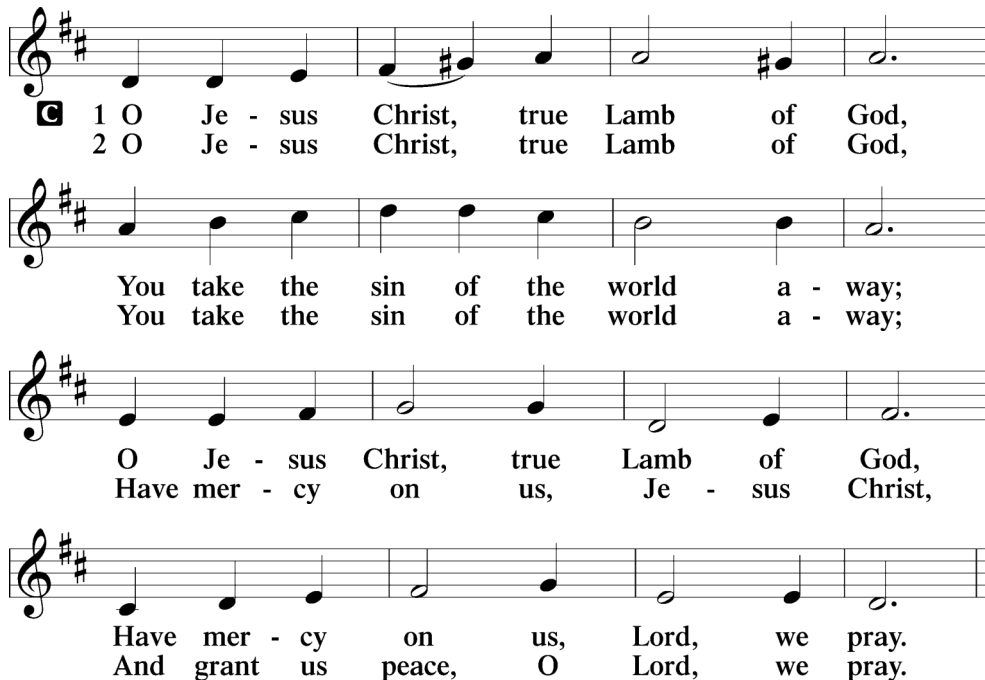
John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G **Amen.**

Agnus Dei: "Lamb of God"

LSB 210



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 us, 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.

Distribution

PLEASE SIT

Distribution Hymns

LSB 580 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace

LSB 773 Hear Us, Father, When We Pray

LSB 807 When Morning Gilds the Skies

LSB 788 Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness

Dismissal

PLEASE STAND

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.



C 1 O Lord, now let to 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.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- 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: Go, My Children, with My Blessing

LSB 922



1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.
 2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
 3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
 Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My
 I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.
 heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.
 Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.
 Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing— You are My own.
 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Joy - ful and free.
 Go, My chil-dren; I will keep you And give you peace.

Silent Prayer & Chimes

Postlude: Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort BWV 1103

J. S. Bach

Holy Cross Lutheran Church & Pręschool

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O'Fallon, MO 63366
(636) 272-4505 | www.hcross.com

Serving in God's House: September 26-27, 2026		
Preacher		Pastor Jason P. Kohm
Liturgist		Pastor Andrew J. Gimbel
Seminarrians		Jacob Bode (Second Year) Kyle Beckstrom (First Year) Clyde Diercks (First Year)
Director of Music		David Gilson
Organist on Saturday		Jill Kirk
Children's Choir at 8AM		Melanie Dafler, Director
Director of Christian Education		Charity Smith
Acolyte at 5PM		Lily Witte
Acolytes at 10:45AM		Natalie Elick, Jocelyn Elick
Elders	Saturday, 5PM	Jerry Lancour/Paul Helvey
	Sunday, 8AM	Mike Claxton
	Sunday, 10:45AM	Kent Haffer/Brian Storm
Ushers	Saturday, 5PM	Lily Witte, Dale Witte
	Sunday, 8AM	Dale Dusheke, Terry Hardy
	Sunday, 10:45AM	Refer to Elder
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PLEASE NOTE: Saturday services will be at 3PM starting Oct. 3, 2026.