

Stewardship 2026 Join the Journey

*"Trust in God from the bottom of your heart;
don't try to figure out everything on your own.
Listen for God's voice in everything you do,
everywhere you go." Proverbs 3:4-6*



WELCOME TO WORSHIP Worship Express 9:15 a.m. 19th Sunday after Pentecost October 19, 2025

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Lector: Donna Olson

Acolytes: Addy & Carter Swain

Usher: David Olson

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Day by Day" Ahnfelt/Porter

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful and loving God,

C: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have

mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING SONG: “I Will Call Upon the Lord”

**I will call upon the Lord (I will call upon the Lord)
Who is worthy to be praised (Who is worthy to be praised)
and so shall I be saved from my enemies.**

**The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock
and may the Rock of my salvation be exalted.
The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock
and may the Rock of my salvation be exalted.**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

LITANY

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord.

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

C: Talk about them when you are home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

P: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE: “This Is the Day”

**This is the day (This is the day)
that the Lord has made. (that the Lord has made)
Let us rejoice (Let us rejoice)**

and be glad in it. (and be glad in it)
This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day (This is the day)
That the Lord has made.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O Lord God, you guard your people. You are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely on your care day and night. Inspire us to do what is right for all suffering in this world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: "I Love to Tell the Story" ELW #661

Vs. 1: I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Good News according to Luke the 18th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

Narrator:¹⁻³ Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, "There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him:"

Widow (Women and Girls): My rights are being violated. Protect me!

Narrator: "He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself,"

Judge (Men and Boys) I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won't quit badgering me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I'm going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.

Narrator: Then the Master said, "Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he

is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?"

P: The Good News of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

SONG OF THE DAY: "Give Me Jesus" ELW #770 Vss. 1,2,3 & 5

**Vs.1: In the morning when I rise, In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.**

**Refrain: Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.**

**Vs. 2: Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. Refrain...**

**Vs. 3: Just about the break of day, just about the break of day,
just about the break of day, give me Jesus. Refrain...**

**Vs. 5: And when I want to sing, and when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing, give me Jesus. Refrain...**

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all creation.

A Brief Silence

P: We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the
beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the
entire cosmos. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all
the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for
the sake of the entire world. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and
strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort,
and heal those who suffer. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY AND OFFERTORY: "Make Me a Servant"

Make me a servant, humble and meek.

Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.

And may the prayer of my heart always be:

Make me a servant, make me a servant.
Make me a servant today.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: The God who does right, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Total Praise" Smallwood/Key