

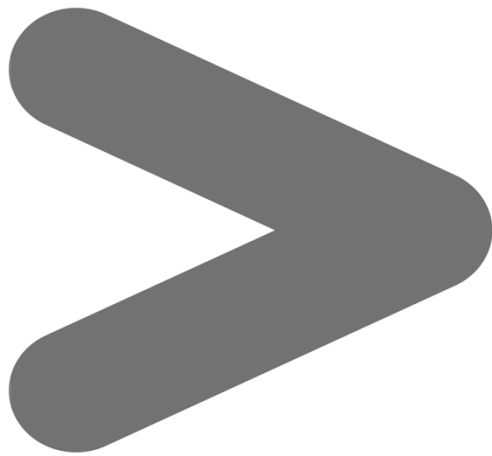


Our Saviour
Lutheran Church

Order of Worship

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
August 10, 2025

The Greater Way



A Sermon Series in Hebrews

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the (+) Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our † Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

I was glad when they said unto me,
let us go to the house of the Lord!

Unless the Lord builds the house,
in vain do the builders labor.

Surely the Lord is in this place.

**This is the house of God,
this is the gate of heaven!**

Oh, come let us worship!

Oh, come let us worship!

GATHERING SONG – All Are Welcome – ELW #641 v. 1-2

GREETING

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

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on us;

People: **Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on us.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Holy God, mold our minds and melt our hearts to receive what the Spirit is saying to us through the Word of God this day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

WORD OF GOD:

FIRST READING: Hebrews 8:3-6, 9:1-28

For every high priest is appointed to offer gifts and sacrifices; hence it is necessary for this priest also to have something to offer. Now if he were on earth, he would not be a priest at all, since there are already those who offer gifts according to the law. They offer worship in a sanctuary that is a sketch and shadow of the heavenly one, just as Moses was warned when he was about to erect the tent. For, God said, "See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain." But Jesus has now obtained a more excellent ministry, and to that degree he is the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on the basis of better promises.

Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was constructed, the first one, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the Presence; this is called the holy place. Behind the second curtain was a tent called the holy of holies. In it stood the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which there were a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot speak now in detail.

These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the first tent to carry out their ritual duties, but only the high priest goes into the second, and he but once a year and not without taking the blood that he offers for himself and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people. By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the sanctuary has not yet been disclosed as long as the first tent is still standing. This is a symbol of the present time, indicating that gifts and sacrifices are offered that cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper but deal only with food and drink and various baptisms, regulations for the body imposed until the time comes to set things right.

But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation), he entered once for all into the holy place, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of the ashes of a heifer sanctifies those who have been defiled so that their flesh is purified, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to worship the living God!

For this reason he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant. Where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. Hence not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. For when every commandment had been told to all the people by Moses in accordance with the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the scroll itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God has ordained for you." And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Thus it was necessary for the sketches of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves need better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the holy place year after year with blood that is not his own, for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once and after that the judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Here ends the reading. Word of God, word of life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 33:12-22 (*Read responsively by half verse.*)

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.

From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—

he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.

A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.

Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,

to deliver their soul from death
and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.

Our heart is glad in him
because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – In Christ Alone v. 1

**In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 12:32-40

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the

middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

"But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ!**

THE SERMON – The Greater Way: KINGDOM WORKER – *Chaplain Chris Schafer*

SONG OF THE DAY – Crown Him with Many Crowns – ELW #855 v. 1, 4-5

THE APOSTLES' 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

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG – ELW #186

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Wise and gracious God,

receive the labor of our hands—these gifts of money, time, talents, bread, and wine—along with the offering of our very lives. Nourish us with the life of your Son, that we might be his body in the world, making known your abundant mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.**

THE PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS – ELW p. 144

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, 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. We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary and rose again to make us living branches, drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the world. Send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power, to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord who comes to us in his body and blood.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.**

COMMUNION SONG – ELW #146

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.**

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.
God of our ancestors, God of all people,
before whose face the human generations pass away,
we thank you that as the broken bread was gathered into one loaf,
the broken fragments of our history are gathered up
and healed by the redeeming act of Christ.
Send us forth in peace,
form us into what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world.
Nourished by this sacrament, give us strength and courage to serve you in daily life
with joy and singleness of heart.
In the name of Christ we pray.
Amen.

SONG OF THANKSGIVING – ELW #207

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell everyone what God has done. Let
everyone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ. Send us
with your promises and lead your people forth in joy with shouts of
thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

COMMISSION

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage; hold on to what is good;
return no evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support your sisters and brothers, and help the suffering;
honor all people; love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG – Canticle of the Turning – ELW #723

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE