

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026



Guard what has been entrusted to your care.

A priority list is made with a fundamental question in mind: "If I encounter difficult choices, what is my most important concern?" Imagine having to let go of everything on that list—family, friends, finances, health, reputation, and recreation—just to preserve a single priority.

This week, we are confronted with a sincere evaluation of what truly holds significance in life. The kingdom of God is of utmost value, surpassing all other worldly possessions that deteriorate over time and won't endure. Genuine wealth is spiritual wealth. Such wealth is found only in God and his eternal blessings for us in Christ. Jesus is our greatest treasure.

Hymn #898

Send, O Lord, Your Holy Spirit

Please stand for the last verse.



1 Send, O Lord, your Ho - ly Spir - it on your ser - vants
2 You, O Lord, your - self have called them for your pre - cious
3 Help, Lord Je - sus, help them nour - ish our dear chil - dren



now, we pray; let them all be faith - ful shep - herds
lambs to care; but to pros - per in their call - ing,
with your Word, that in con - stant love they serve you



that no lamb is led a - stray. Your pure teach - ing to pro -
they the Spir - it's gifts must share. Grant them wis - dom from a -
till in heav'n their song is heard. Bound - less bless - ings, Lord, be -



claim, to a - dore your ho - ly name, and to feed your
bove, fill their hearts with ho - ly love; in their weak - ness,
stow on your ser - vants' work be - low till by grace to



lambs, dear Sav - ior, make their aim and sole en - deav - or.
Lord, be near them, in their prayers, Good Shep - herd, hear them.
them is giv - en their re - ward, the crown of heav - en.

Text: Lieder-Perlen, St. Louis, 1905; tr. Frederick W. Herzberger, 1859–1930, alt. Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667

In the name of the Father and + of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession & Absolution

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



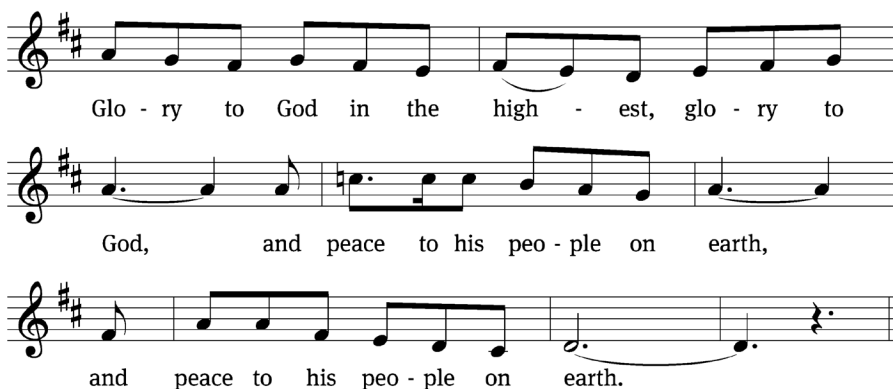
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman
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Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis



Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly

Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

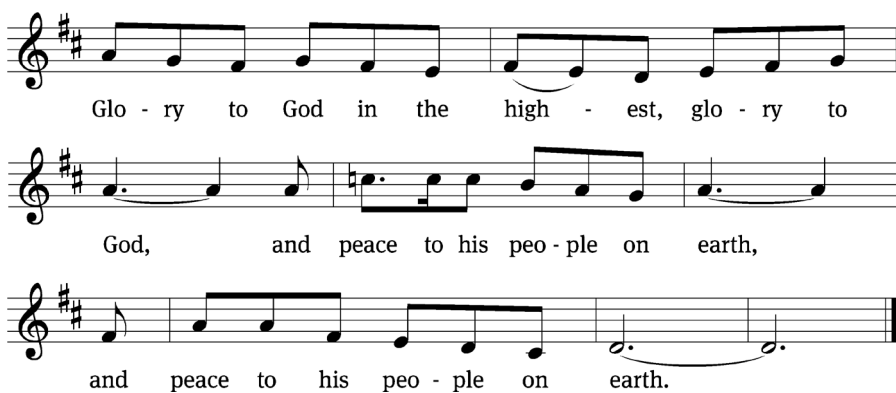
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For

you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus

Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the

glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman
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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you reveal your mighty power chiefly in showing mercy and kindness. Grant us the full measure of your grace that we may obtain your promises and become partakers of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5–12

When the Lord offered Solomon anything he wanted, Solomon chose spiritual wealth.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

⁶Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given

him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

⁷"Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. ⁸Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹So God said to him, "Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹²I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63A

In the Morning I Will Sing

*The minister introduces the **Refrain**. The congregation repeats the **Refrain** and sings it after each verse.*

Refrain



In the morn-ing I will sing, I will
sing glad songs to you, I will sing glad songs of praise to
you. I will sing glad songs of praise to you.

- 1 O God, you are my God; for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.
So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.
Refrain
- 2 For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.
So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.
Refrain
- 3 On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night,
for you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.
My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.
Refrain

Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:17–21

Wealth tempts the heart toward arrogance and false security. Paul charges the rich to set their hope on incorruptible treasure.

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

¹⁸Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

²⁰Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care. Turn away from godless chatter and the opposing ideas of what is falsely called knowledge,

²¹which some have professed and in so doing have departed from the faith.

Grace be with you all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 3:1,2

The congregation repeats the refrain after the minister before and after the verse.

Refrain



Minister Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



All Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,
set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Refrain

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Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus teaches a series of parables to have us consider the value of spiritual wealth.

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked.

“Yes,” they replied.

⁵²He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

Hymn #717

What Is the World to Me



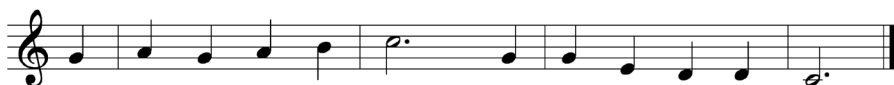
1 What is the world to me with all its vaunt-ed plea - sure
 2 The world seeks af - ter wealth and all that mon - ey of - fers,
 3 The world is like a cloud and like a va - por fleet - ing,
 4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



when you and you a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
 yet nev - er is con - tent though gold should fill its cof - fers.
 a shad - ow that de - clines, swift to its end re - treat - ing.
 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;
 I have a high - er good, con - tent with it I'll be;
 My Je - sus shall re - main, though all things fade and flee,
 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 is my wealth. What is the world to me!
 my ev - er - last - ing rock. What is the world to me!
 Once more then I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Sermon

1 Kings 3:5-12

Theme

After the sermon, please stand for the creed.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Please be seated

Installation of Council Members

Elder: Josh Clark
Stewardship Chair: Kyle Rathje
Education Chair: Bob Harrison

Outreach Chair: David MacDonald
Financial Chair: Harry Newton

President Morris Hayes, Elders Greg Six & Mike Saur, and Property Chair Curt Roby continue their two-year terms through June 2027.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Living Hope is transitioning to a new giving platform. Online offerings may now be given at bit.ly/LHgive.

Offerings are one way that our members support our gospel ministry. Visitors should feel no obligation to contribute.



Offering Prayer

God our Father, you have gifted to us your abundant treasure: the marvels of nature, the wisdom of Jesus, the sacrifice of the cross, and the triumph over the grave's closed door. By your invitation, we turn our hearts to you in adoration, offering ourselves to your eternal and everlasting glory. Use our hands and our homes to spread your kingdom's goal.

Amen.

Hymn #505

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the
2 For the won - der of each hour of the
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er,
5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our



glo - ry of the skies, for the love which
day and of the night; hill and vale, and
heart and mind's de - light, for the mys - tic
sis - ter, par - ent, child, friends on earth, and
world so free - ly giv'n; for that great, great



from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
tree and flow'r, sun and moon, and stars of light:
har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:



Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835–1917, abr., alt. Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872, alt.

Please stand

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.

Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 on you with favor + and give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn #807

All Depends on Our Possessing



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's a - bun - dant
2 He who to this day has fed me and to man - y
5 Well he knows what best to grant me; all the long - ing
6 If my days on earth he length - en, he my wea - ry



grace and bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me is and ev - er shall be mine.
hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
soul will strength - en; all my trust in him I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en in their God are
He who ev - er gent - ly schools me, he who dai - ly
I shall doubt his wis - dom nev - er; as God wills, so
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing, like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
be it ev - er; I com - mit to him my way.
way is glid - ing; safe I an - chor in his grace.

Text: Andächtige Haus-Kirche, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645–1705; adapt. Johann Balthasar König, 1691–1758

Silent Prayer

This week at Living Hope

Today

10am	Refreshments
10:30am	Family Bible Lesson
11am	Council Kick-off <i>Study + Orientation</i>

Tuesday

1:30pm	Assisted-living Service at Brandermill Woods
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Next Sunday

9am	Worship w/ Communion
10am	Refreshments
3:30pm	Josh Wordell Ordination <i>Amherst, New Hampshire</i>

Gathering around God's Word

Family Bible Lesson

Today: The Word: Spoken, Read, Remembered. The Spirit does not work faith and fruits according to a method, but a means.

Next Sunday: Baptism: What It Is. Your baptism was more than a past event. It is a present blessing that follows you each day.

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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Serving in worship today & next Sunday

Musicians

Alex Rathje
Dave MacDonald

Ushers

Wyatt Saur & Brian Lacey
Morris Hayes & Mike Saur

Acolyte

Lauren Nawrocki
Tishann Charles

Church Cleaning

Clarke/Austin Family
still needed

After-worship Snacks

still needed
still needed

Livestream

Saur Family
Seifert Family

Offering Caretakers

Beverly Henley & Barbara Byrd
Donna Bosma & Morris Hayes

Mowing

Pastor Lindemann & Scott Swoboda
Pastor Seifert & Dave MacDonald

Service Folders

Kristine Gill
Kathryn Haddon

Assisted-living Leader

Ken Dunaway
Livestreamed

Please join us for refreshments after the service. We would love to get to know you better!

To our guests: Thank you for worshiping with us! We would appreciate the opportunity to connect with you. Please share your contact information with us by scanning the code with your phone or speaking with an usher in the back.



3903 Old Hundred Rd S
Midlothian, Virginia
LivingHopeWELS.com

God has given us new birth into a *Living Hope*.
- 1 Peter 1:3

Pastor Alex Lindemann
pastorlindemann@livinghopewels.com
cell: 507-429-8008

Pastor Michael Seifert
pastorseifert@livinghopewels.com
cell: 804-239-5206