

**The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 13, 2026
Heritage Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, MN
9:00 a.m.**



The Order of Matins - ELH page 109

1. Welcome

2. The Confession Of Sin

Pastor Dearly Beloved: We have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts, and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

Congregation Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

Absolution

Pastor The almighty and most merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation Amen.

3. Opening Hymn #23 “Lord Jesus Christ Be Present Now”

1 Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,
And let Thy Holy Spirit bow
All hearts in love and fear today
To hear the truth and keep Thy way.

2 Open our lips to sing Thy praise,
Our hearts in true devotion raise,
Our faith increase, our minds enlight
That we may know Thy name aright.

3 Until we join the host that cry
"Holy art Thou, O Lord most High!"
And 'mid the light of that blest place
Shall gaze upon Thee face to face.

4 Glory to God, the Father, Son,
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,
Be praise throughout eternity!

4. Opening Versicles

Pastor O Lord, open my lips.

♪ **Congregation** And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Pastor Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

♪ **Congregation** Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: Forevermore. Amen. Alleluia.

5. The Invitatory and Venite (*Psalm 95*)

Pastor Oh come, let us worship the Lord.

♪ **Congregation** For He is our Maker.

Oh, come let us sing to the Lord:

let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving:

and make a joyful noise to Him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God: and a great King above all Gods.

In His hand are the deep places of the earth:

the strength of the hills is His also.

The sea is His, for He made it: and His hands form-ed the dry land.

Oh, come, let us worship and bow down:

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.

For He is our God: and we are the people of His pasture

and the sheep of His hand.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

6. Hymn #24 "Lord, Open Thou My Heart To Hear"

1 Lord, open Thou my heart to hear

And through Thy Word to me draw near;

Let me Thy Word e'er pure retain;

Let me Thy child and heir remain.

2 Thy Word doth deeply move the heart,

Thy Word doth perfect health impart,

Thy Word my soul with joy doth bless,

The Word brings peace and happiness.

3 To God the Father, God the son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Shall glory, praise, and honor be
Now and throughout eternity.

7. Psalm 119:113-120 (read responsively by whole verse)

¹¹³ I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.
¹¹⁴ You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word.
¹¹⁵ Depart from me, you evildoers, that I may keep the commandments of my God.
¹¹⁶ Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope!
¹¹⁷ Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually!
¹¹⁸ You spurn all who go astray from your statutes, for their cunning is in vain.
¹¹⁹ All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross, therefore I love your testimonies.
¹²⁰ My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, forevermore. Amen.

8. Old Testament Lesson *Ezekiel 33:7-9*

⁷ “So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

9. The Epistle *Romans 13:1-10*

¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

10. Gradual Hymn #583 “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage”

God's Word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations.

11. The Gospel *Matthew 18:15-20*

¹⁵ “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two

others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Pastor O Lord, have mercy upon us!
♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to You, O Lord!

12. Children's Message

13. Sermon Hymn #432 "Jesus Thy Blood And Righteousness" Tune: ELH #403 "St. Crispin" (verses 1-5)

1 Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
'Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.

2 Bold shall I stand in that great day,
For who ought to my charge shall lay?
Fully absolved through these I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

3 The holy, meek, unspotted Lamb,
Who from the Father's bosom came,
Who died for me, e'en me to atone,
Now for my Lord and God I own.

4 Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,
Which at the mercy seat of God
Forever doth for sinners plead,
For me—e'en for my soul—was shed.

5 Lord, I believe were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.

14. Sermon – "There Am I In The Midst" *Matthew 18:15-20*

15. The Offering

16. Te Deum Hymn #43 "Holy God We Praise Thy Name"

1 Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.

2 Hark! the glad celestial hymn Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"

3 Lo, th'apostles' holy train Join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain, And the white-robed martyrs follow;
And from morn to set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.

4 Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee,
Though in essence only one; Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee While we own the mystery.

5 King of glory, Thou, O Christ; Son of God, yet born of Mary,
For us sinners sacrificed, On the cross our sins didst carry;
First to break the bars of death, Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.

6 From Thy high celestial home, Judge of all, again returning,
We believe that Thou shalt come On the dreadful Judgment morning
When Thy voice shall shake the earth And the startled dead come forth.

7 Spare Thy people, Lord, we pray, By a thousand snares surrounded;
Keep us without sin today, Never let us be confounded.
Lo, I put my trust in Thee; Never, Lord, abandon me.

17. Prayers

The Kyrie Sung by All

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer Sung by All

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 Collect

Pastor Let us pray: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, having safely brought us to the beginning of this day, defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doing, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

18. Benedicamus & Benediction

Pastor Let us bless the Lord!

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to God!

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

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

19. Benediction Hymn #163 "O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly" (verses 1,3,4)

1 O rejoice, ye Christians, loudly,
For our joy hath now begun;
Wondrous things our God hath done.
Tell abroad His goodness proudly
Who our race hath honored thus
That He deigns to dwell with us.
Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness,
Christ hath done away with sadness!
Hence, all sorrow and repining,
For the Sun of Grace is shining!

3 Lord, how shall I thank Thee rightly?
I acknowledge that by Thee
I am saved eternally.
Let me not forget it lightly, But to
Thee at all times cleave,
And my heart true peace receive.
Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness,
Christ hath done away with sadness!
Hence, all sorrow and repining,
For the Sun of Grace is shining!

4 Jesus, guard and guide Thy members;
Fill Thy brethren with Thy grace,
Hear their prayers in ev'ry place.
Brighten now life's glowing embers;
Grant all Christians, far and near,
Holy peace, a godly cheer!
Joy, O joy, beyond all gladness,
Christ hath done away with sadness!
Hence, all sorrow and repining,
For the Sun of Grace is shining!

Announcements

Church Council – The Church Council will meet on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School & Bible Class - begins today after the service and fellowship time.

Catechism Class – Catechism class will begin on Wednesday, September 16th at 4:15 pm. Parents are invited to attend the first class which serves as an orientation.

Companions in Prayer Orientation - An orientation to the Companions in Prayer (CIP) program is being scheduled for the end of September or early October. We hope you will consider becoming a Companion. The purpose of CIP is a group of confirmed members of Heritage Lutheran Church that have gone through specific orientation to the concepts of intercessory prayer as well as the importance of the ethics and confidentiality involved in being a part of Companions in Prayer.

The Companions in Prayer group has the following goals:
Establish a group of individuals who will actively participate in intercessory prayer for individuals/groups of the congregation as well as family and friends of the congregation members.
Foster an active and effective prayer life of Heritage members through on-going communication encouraging individuals and families to expand their prayer life.

Dates being considered for orientation are 9/27, 10/4, or 10/11. It will be immediately following Bible Study/Sunday School and will be about an hour long. You may sign up on the bulletin board or electronically via the Google form that was sent to the congregation. The final date will be determined based on the largest number of people who are available. If you have further questions, please contact Alice Schmidt or the office.

Worship Times – Sundays at 9:00 a.m. & Mondays at 6:30 p.m.

Special Parking Lot Fundraiser – The parking lot looks great after the mill and overlay project. The cost was \$65,000 for a mill and overlay of the entire lot. If you would like to contribute to this project, please specify your donation is for the parking lot project.

Women's Bible Study – Women's Bible class will resume Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30. We will be studying "The Theology of the Cross" and would love for you to join. Please talk to Sarah Smith if you have questions.

Men's Bible Study – Men's Bible study has resumed on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. with a study of the 1st Epistle of John.

Heritage Choir meets on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30. Please come and sing with us! We are looking at an additional rehearsal time for those that are interested in singing in the choir but cannot make it to the Wednesday evening rehearsal.

Sunday mornings?

A different weeknight?

During the day?

Please contact Julie Wright if you have questions, suggestions, and/or would like more details.

O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth.

Sing unto the LORD, bless His name; show forth His salvation from day to day. Psalm 96:1-2

The Lutheran Sentinel & Meditations – The Lutheran Sentinel and Meditations are available on the welcome stand.

Fellowship - Volunteers are always needed to provide fellowship food every Sunday. Please sign up on the volunteer board.

Help Needed – Please see the volunteer board for opportunities to help around the church grounds. There are indoor and outdoor projects. Please take a look and see if there are any projects that you would like to help with.

Teacher's Aide Position - Heritage Lutheran School is hiring for a part-time teacher's aide position. This position could be shared by 2 people. Hours would be 11:15 am - 4:30 or 5 pm Monday - Friday. We are looking to hire one or two people for this position. Please reach out to the Heritage office if interested - office@heritagelutheran.org or 952-431-6225.

Bethany Auxiliary – Bethany Auxiliary Day is coming up on Monday, September 28th from 9 am to 3 pm at Bethany Lutheran College.



13401 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd. Apple Valley, MN 55124

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