The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 27, 2026
Heritage Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, MN
9:00 a.m.



ELH Rite 4, Chorale Service, no Communion page 107

1. Welcome

2. Opening Hymn #402 "Holy Ghost With Light Divine"

1 Holy Ghost, with light divine
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn the darkness into day.

2 Let me see my Savior's face,
Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me
Which are only known to Thee.

3 Holy Ghost, with pow'r divine
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In Thy mercy pity me,
From sin's bondage set me free.

4 Holy Ghost, with joy divine
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Yield a sacred, settled peace,
Let it grow and still increase.

5 Holy Spirit, all divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down ev'ry idol throne,
Reign supreme and reign alone.

6 See, to Thee I yield my heart,
Shed Thy life through ev'ry part;
A pure temple I would be,
Wholly dedicate to Thee.

3. Invocation

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Congregation Amen.

4. The Confession of Sin

Pastor Let us confess our sins:

Congregation Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned against Your divine majesty by thought, word, and deed, provoking Your wrath against us. We earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for our sins. We grieve to think of them. Their burden is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, gracious Father! Forgive us our sins for the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that we may serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Pastor Lift up your hearts. The Lord God, according to His promise, is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. By the command of Christ and the authority of my holy office I forgive your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5. The Kyrie - Hymn #34 "Kyrie, God Father in Heaven Above"

Kyrie, God Father in heav'n above, Great art Thou in grace and love
Of all things the Maker and Preserver. Eleison, eleison!
Kyrie, O Christ, our King, Salvation for sinners Thou didst bring.
O Lord Jesus, God's own Son, Our Mediator at the heav'nly throne,
Hear our cry and grant our supplication. Eleison, eleison!
Kyrie, O God the Holy Ghost, Guard our faith, the gift we need the most;
Do Thou our last hour bless; Let us leave this sinful world with gladness.
Eleison, eleison!

6. The Gloria Hymn - Hymn #35 "All Glory Be to God on High" *verse 1*

All glory be to God on high, Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is ended.
God showeth His good will to men, And peace shall reign on earth again;
O thank Him for His goodness!

7. The Collect for the Day

Pastor Let us pray. O Lord God, heavenly Father: Pour out, we beseech You, Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people; keep them steadfast in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort them in all temptation, defend them against all enemies of Your Word, and bestow upon Christ's Church militant Your saving peace; through the same, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

8. Psalm 27:1-9 *(read responsively by whole verse)*

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.
3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.
5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.
6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.
7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!
8 You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."
9 Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!
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.

9. The Old Testament Lesson – *Isaiah 55:6-9*

6 "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked
forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he
may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my
thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as
the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my
thoughts than your thoughts.

10. The Epistle – Philippians 1:1-27

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at
Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every
prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the
gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in
you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way
about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of
grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God
is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer
that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that
you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of
Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory
and praise of God. 12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has
really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole
imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the
brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to
speak the word without fear. 15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others
from good will. 16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of
the gospel. 17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to
afflict me in my imprisonment. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or
in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for I know
that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my
deliverance, 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but
that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by
death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means
fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 I am hard pressed between the
two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. 24 But to remain in the
flesh is more necessary on your account. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and
continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that in me you may have
ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.
27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and
see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one
mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.

11. Chief Hymn #226 "By Grace I'm Saved" (Verses 1-5,9)

1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Hath Scripture ever falsehood taught?
Nay; then this word must true remain;
By grace thou, too, shalt heav'n obtain.

2 By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,
Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.

3 By grace! O mark this word of promise
When thou art by thy sins oppressed,
When Satan plagues thy troubled conscience,
And when thy heart is seeking rest.
What reason cannot comprehend
God by His grace to thee doth send.

4 By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
Came down to earth to bear our sin.
Was it because of thine own merit
That Jesus died thy soul to win?
Nay, it was grace, and grace alone,
That brought Him from His heav'nly throne.

5 By grace! This ground of faith is certain;
So long as God is true, it stands.
What saints have penned by inspiration,
What in His Word our God commands,
What our whole faith must rest upon,
Is Grace alone, grace in His Son.

9 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
In Jesus' promise I rejoice;
For though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
Since I am saved by grace alone.

12. The Gospel Lesson Matthew 20:1-16

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning
to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he
sent them into his vineyard. 3 And going out about the third hour he saw others standing
idle in the marketplace, 4 and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever
is right I will give you.' 5 So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth
hour, he did the same. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others
standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' 7 They said to him,
'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' 8 And when
evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay
them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' 9 And when those hired about the
eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when those hired first came,
they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And on
receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, 'These last worked only
one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day
and the scorching heat.' 13 But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong.
Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to
give to this last worker as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what
belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' 16 So the last will be first, and the first
last."

13. Children's Message The 6th Commandment: Hymnary page 31

14. The Creed Hymn #37 "We All Believe In One True God"

1 We all believe in one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present Help in need, Praised by all the heav'nly host,
By whose mighty pow'r alone All is made and wrought and done.

2 We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son,
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won,
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.

3 We all confess the Holy Ghost, Who from both fore'er proceeds,
Who upholds and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blest and Holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!

15. The Sermon "The Mystery And Majesty Of God's Grace" Matthew 20:1-16

16. The Offering

17. The Prayers *prayer requests and general prayers for the needs of all people*

18. 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.

19. The Closing Prayer

Pastor Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn and take them to heart, that by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; 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.

20. The Benediction

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
Congregation Amen.

21. Closing Hymn

#233 "The Gospel Shows The Father's Grace"

1 The Gospel shows the Father's grace,
Who sent His Son to save our race,
Proclaims how Jesus lived and died
That we might thus be justified.

2 It sets the Lamb before our eyes,
Who made th'atoning sacrifice,
And call the souls with guilt opprest
To come and find eternal rest.

3 It brings the Savior's righteousness
Our souls to robe in royal dress;
From all our guilt it brings release
And gives the troubled conscience peace.

4 It is the pow'r of God to save
From sin and Satan and the grave;
It works the faith, which firmly clings
To all the treasures which it brings.

5 It bears to all the tidings glad
And bids their hearts no more be sad;
The heavy-laden souls it cheers
And banishes their guilty fears.

6 May we in faith its tidings learn
Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
May we in faith its truth confess
And praise the Lord our Righteousness!

Announcements

TLC – The October TLC meeting will be on Saturday, October 3rd at 9:30 am. All women of the congregation are invited.

Sunday School & Bible Class - meet after the worship service and fellowship time at about 10:30 am.

Catechism Class – Catechism class meets on Wednesdays at 4:15 pm.

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 meets on Tuesdays at 6:30. They are studying "The Theology of the Cross." Please talk to Sarah Smith if you have questions.

Men's Bible Study – Men's Bible study meets on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. and they are studying the 1st Epistle of John.

Heritage Choir meets on Wednesdays from 6:45 to 7:45. 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.

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.

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 tomorrow, September 28th from 9 am to 3 pm at Bethany Lutheran College.

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.

New Carpet – New carpet will be installed in the narthex sometime in November. This will be paid for by TLC and memorial money.

Budget Update - We have updated the member-giving scorecard through the end of August. If you have any questions, please speak with church treasurer Phil Holz or church president Dave Paulsen.

Member Giving Scorecard	YTD Actual	YTD Target	Variance	Annual Target
Member General Fund Giving	$61,809	$57,266	**$4,543**	$380,000
School Deficit Reduction Giving Target	$1,652	5,833	**($4,181)**	$35,000
Parking Lot Project	$15,380	$65,000	**($49,620)**	$65,000
Total Member Giving	**$78,841**	**$128,099**	**($49,258)**	**$480,000**

Mission Rally – The Mission Rally is coming up on Saturday, October 24th from 9-2. There is info and a sign-up sheet on the volunteer board if you would like to attend.

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