

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

07/26/2026

Greg Fetzer, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for our sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN: [ELW#815 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"](#)

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
C And also with you.



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



B 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.



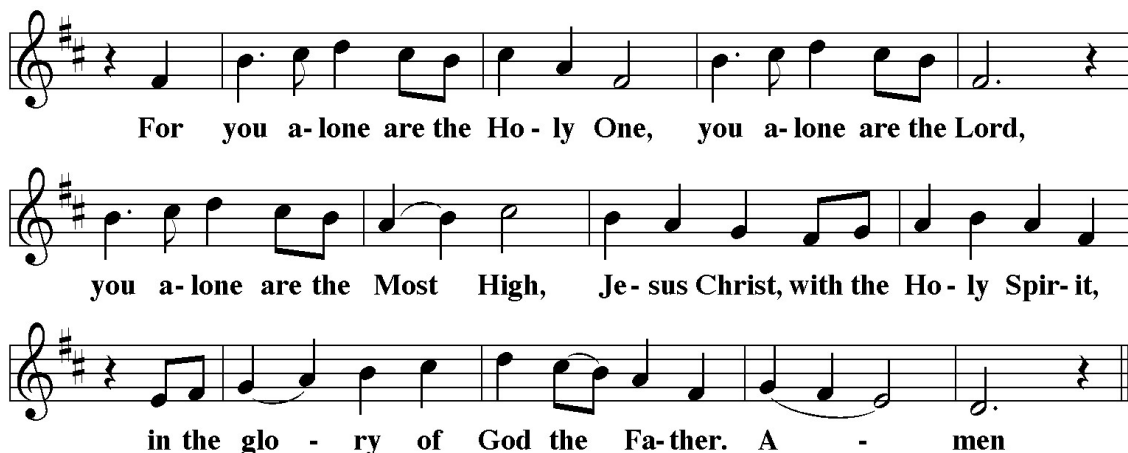
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



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.



P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O Lord our God, our times are in your hand.

C You saved your chosen one, Jesus Christ, when he commended himself to you. Let your face shine on all who suffer persecution, and give our hearts courage to confront evil. Lead us and guide us through all our weary years, that we may praise you for the wonders of your love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Please be seated.

PSALM 31:9-16

L ⁹Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

C ¹⁰**For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

L ¹¹I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

C ¹²**Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

L ¹³For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

C ¹⁴**But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. I have said,
"You are my God."**

L ¹⁵My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

C ¹⁶**Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your
steadfast love."**

JOHN 12:20-36

L A reading from John: ²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. ³⁴The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵Jesus said to them, "The light is in you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know

where you are going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#330 "Seed That in Earth Is Dying"](#)

Seed that in earth is dying, grows into ears of grain.
Grapes that are crushed in the vessel, turn into golden wine.
God, through this mystery grant us, faith in our deepest darkness,
life in our night and death

We were baptized in Jesus, into his death and grave,
to resurrection's promise: praise and eternal life.
Heaven's own praises begin here, where you yourself are near us,
deep in our night and death.

Seed that in earth is dying, Rises to bear much fruit.
Christ, as we meet at your table, give us the bread of life.
Lord, we do thank and adore you! Unceasing praise of the ages
rises from night and death

SERMON: [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

Please stand, as you are able.

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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

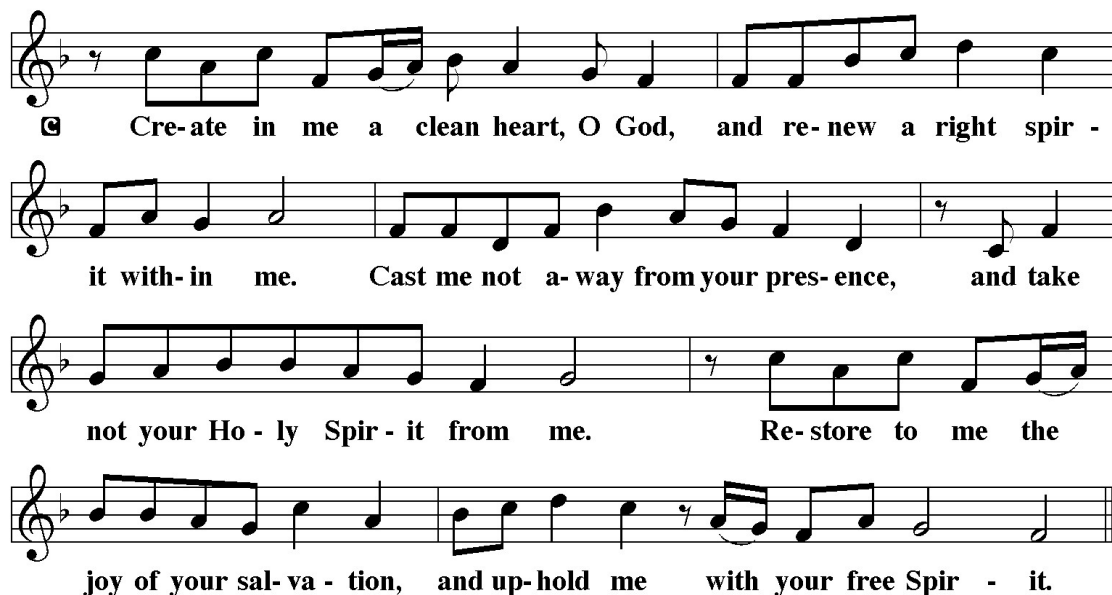
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose

again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERING*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re- new a right spir -
it with- in me. Cast me not a- way from your pres- ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re- store to me the
joy of your sal- va - tion, and up- hold me with your free Spir - it.

L With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

L For your church in every place, that it satisfies those who hunger for your word. Bless the ministry of readers, translators, Bible study leaders, and writers, that God's word is broken open and shared with all. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L For your wondrous creation and all the bounty it provides, that your creatures are fed and nourished. Bless the work of farmers, farmworkers, those who fish, and all whose labor brings your abundance to our tables. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L For your children in every nation, that they learn to love justice and live in harmony. As this week we remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, keep us mindful of the horrors of war; draw our hearts instead toward your reign of love, hope, and peace. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L For all who cry out with great sorrow and unceasing anguish, that they are comforted. Feed all who struggle with food insecurity; have mercy on all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit. We pray for Barbara Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, Rhina Chroniger, Lincoln Dippel, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, Christine Kourkoules, Charlotte Leer, John McCarthy, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, Pastor Jack, and Helena Zozulak. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L For this congregation, that it bears faithful witness to the abundance and joy of life in you. Bless all your faithful people gathered here, that they may become blessings for this community. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

L For whom or what else shall we pray?

- *For peace and reconciliation among the nations...*
- *For those in the path of Tropical Storm Bertha...*
- *For relief from flooding and wildfires and for rescue teams supporting recovery...*
- *For those living in areas with dangerous air quality...*
- *For the families of American service members and civilians killed in US-Iran escalations...*
- *For wisdom and integrity for world leaders making critical geopolitical decisions...*
- *For global health and those continuing to navigate ebola and cyclospora outbreaks...*
- *For safety and resolution to mass protests in India...*

- L** With thanksgiving for the faithful who now rest in your mercy, that their witness continues to inspire the church. By their example, may we trust your promises in life and in death. Merciful God,
- C** **receive our prayer.**

- L** Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C** **Amen**

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- C** **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

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- C** **Amen**

SENDING HYMN [ELW#660 "Lift Hight the Cross"](#)

- P** Go in peace. Love and serve God and neighbor.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive

Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Upcoming Events

- Saturday, Aug 1, 6 pm - Frederick Keys Baseball Game - Meet at 5:30 pm at the stadium
- Sunday, Aug 9, 9:30 am - Outdoor Worship in the Neumann Chapel – bring a lawn chair

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB173567. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.