NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Treasures of God
July 22, 25 & 26, 2026

AS WE GATHER
Jesus famously teaches, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21), and Jesus knows a treasure when He sees one. Listen to the Readings in worship today. From the days of the Old Testament onward, the Lord has clearly declared how He vastly treasures His people. The Son of God gives up everything to reclaim you as His treasured possession. And it is purely His love for you that gives you true value and limitless worth. Since His treasure is His people, you can be sure His heart remains with His people too, as He visits us here with the priceless goodness of His Word and Sacrament.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

VERSE
"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forevermore. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN “Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free—
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me
Is the current of His love—
Leading onward, leading homeward
To His glorious rest above.

1 continued

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
Praise His mercy, praise His goodness;
Praise His love forevermore.
How He watcheth o’er His loved ones,
Died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
Watcheth o’er them from His throne.

Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—
Love of ev’ry love the best—
’Tis an ocean vast of blessing;
’Tis a haven sweet of rest.
Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus—
’Tis a heav’n of heav’ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
Lifts me up eternally.

Text: S. Trevor Francis, 1834–1925. Public domain

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES
Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.
Pastor: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
People: How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!
Pastor: The LORD set His love on you and chose you.
People: Know therefore that the LORD is God.
Pastor: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
People: To Him be glory forever. Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION
Pastor: You are a people holy to the Lord your God.
People: We confess our unholy thoughts, words, and actions.

Silence for personal reflection.
Pastor: Almighty God,

People: we have not lived up to our calling as your treasured possession. Our desires are selfish and our love is shallow. We have turned aside from doing good and chosen to treasure things of creation rather than our Creator. In our sinful state we are vulnerable to the devil, death, and darkness. And so we seek your mercy. We surrender to your loving kindness in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pastor: "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

People: "He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?"

Pastor: Indeed, the mercy of almighty God is displayed in the giving of His Son, Jesus, to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE LSB p. 155

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. ***Refrain***

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. ***Refrain***

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. ***Refrain***

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ***Refrain***

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Loving God, you mercifully call your people to be your treasured possession and defeat our mortal enemies of sin, death, and darkness. Supply our hearts with faith and secure us in the victory of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Deuteronomy 7:6–9* (In love, the Lord reaffirms His faithfulness and His people's worth.) 6 "For you are a people holy to
the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his
treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It
was not because you were more in number than any other people that
the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all
peoples, 8 but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he
swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and
redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of
Egypt. 9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who
keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his
commandments, to a thousand generations,

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:28–39* (Paul gives words to the inexpressibly lavish love of God in Christ Jesus.) 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work
together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those
whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,
in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom
he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and
those whom he justified he also glorified. 31 What then shall we say to these
things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own
Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all
things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.
34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who
was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or
persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is written, "For
your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be
slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him
who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor
anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)
HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:44–52* (Jesus' parables of the kingdom point to the value of the treasures He came to save.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.
People: Glory to you, O Lord.

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found
and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that
field. 45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,
46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and
bought it. 47 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the
sea and gathered fish of every kind. 48 When it was full, men drew it ashore and
sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. 49 So it will
be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the
righteous 50 and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth. 51 "Have you understood all these things?" They
said to him, "Yes." 52 And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been
trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of
his treasure what is new and what is old."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, O Christ.
(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"This is My Commandment"

This is My commandment, that you love one another that your joy may be full.
This is my commandment, that you love one another that your joy may be full.
That your joy may be full. That your joy may be full.
This is my commandment, that you love one another that your joy may be full.

SERMON HYMN #594 "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free Lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled, All your might has come unraveled,
and, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

Death, you cannot end my gladness; I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine To make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

SERMON

(Rise)
OFFERTORY LSB p. 192
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

CATECHISM *The Second Article*

People: 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.
This is most certainly true.

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
O Lord, preserve us from error and deliver us from temptation.

People: Grant that we may abide in Christ and His word of truth, remaining steadfast and immovable until the end.

Pastor: Holy Lord, grant wisdom to Donald, our president; Tony, our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws,

People: May they seek what is best for all in accordance with your will.

Pastor: Heavenly King, we thank you for 100 years of kingdom work in this place where we have been reminded over and over again of the great treasure that we and our neighbors are to you. We thank you for Pastor Stefanic being in our midst this week to bring the Gospel that is a priceless treasure into our ears and hearts.

People: Bless us as we move into the next years of ministry and mission. Help us to remember the need for us to embrace new ways of engaging our community with "the old, old story of Jesus and His love."

Pastor: Almighty God, bestow your comfort on all who are burdened by sickness and affliction especially Nancy, Patrick, Sharon, Michael, Barb, Marlene, Zach, Carole, Kathy, Dan, Maxine, Pam, Marilyn, Dorothy, Janet, Jerry, Rhonda, Harland, June, Cathy, John, Debbie, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Guy, Jill and Sarah. Grant that they may await healing and deliverance in the firm conviction that nothing can separate them from your love in Christ Jesus.

People: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious God, we know that neither life nor death can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

People: We thank you for all who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and we ask you to grant us also our inheritance with the saints in light. Bless Chester as he remembers Susan, the Weil family as they remember Henry and Eleanor, and the Conrad family as they remember Ralph.

Pastor: Father in heaven we thank you for the gift of family. Today we especially pray with thanksgiving for Liz's 42nd birthday and the blessing that she is to her family.

People: Grant her your richest blessings throughout the year.

Pastor: These and whatsoever you would have us ask of you, O God, grant us for the sake of Jesus Christ, your only Son, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS LSB p. 161

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.

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI LSB p. 163

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.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #743 "Jesus, Priceless Treasure"

Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure, Truest friend to me,
Ah, how long in anguish Shall my spirit languish, Yearning, Lord, for Thee?
Thou art mine, O Lamb divine!
I will suffer naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask beside Thee.

In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would molest me Cannot reach me here.
Though the earth be shaking, Ev'ry heart be quaking, Jesus calms my fear.
Lightnings flash And thunders crash;
Yet, though sin and hell assail me, Jesus will not fail me.

Satan, I defy thee; Death, I now decry thee; Fear, I bid thee cease.
World, thou shalt not harm me Nor thy threats alarm me While I sing of peace.
God's great pow'r Guards ev'ry hour;
Earth and all its depths adore Him, Silent bow before Him.

Hence, all earthly treasure! Jesus is my pleasure, Jesus is my choice.
Hence, all empty glory! Naught to me thy story Told with tempting voice.
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my Savior move me
Since He deigns to love me.

Evil world, I leave thee; Thou canst not deceive me, Thine appeal is vain.
Sin that once did blind me, Get thee far behind me, Come not forth again.
Past thy hour, O pride and pow'r,
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever, Leave thee now forever.

Hence, all fear and sadness! For the Lord of gladness, Jesus, enters in.
Those who love the Father, Though the storms may gather,
Still have peace within.
Yea, whate'er I here must bear, Thou art still my purest pleasure,
Jesus, priceless treasure!

HYMN #611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

10 continued

Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me--wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.

O my Savior, help afford By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray, Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply While I live and when I die.

HYMN #636 "Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness"

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet Him, And with loving rev'rence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him, Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, That I nevermore will leave You.

He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven, And His blood, for you once given.

Now in faith I humbly ponder Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation, Pledge and seal of my salvation!

11 continued

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You And, so favored, never leave You.

Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.

Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Most holy God, it is the promise of your Word that you work all things together for good, for those called according to your purpose. We praise you that at this altar we have tasted and seen what is good, and that by your reconciliation, we have been made good through our Savior, Jesus Christ. May the goodness delivered to us by your mercy be spread throughout our community, that everything good might witness to you, Giver of all good things. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN #818 “In Thee Is Gladness”

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus sunshine of my heart.
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;
Who trust Thee surely Has built securely;
He stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining,
Dying or living To Thee are cleaving;
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

Since He is ours, We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death.
He sees and blesses In worst distresses; He can change them with a breath.
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices;
All heav’n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, Triumph o’er sadness,
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

Preacher (Wednesday)	Pastor Richard Schneider
Preacher (Saturday & Sunday)	Pastor J J Stefanic
Liturgist	Pastor Richard Schneider
Lector	Miriam Richardson
Organist	Deaconess Carole King

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