

September 14, 2025
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Evangelical Lutheran Church

8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12)

WOUNDS THAT HEAL

THE FOUND ARE LEFT; THE LOST ARE FOUND

“He’s lost.” We use that term not only to refer to someone who is bewildered about where they are but also to refer to someone who is in a helpless, hopeless state. Mankind’s natural state is one of complete spiritual helplessness, a profound lostness. It manifests itself in countless ways. The one who simply wants God to leave him alone: lost. The one who feels she can handle life on her own: lost. The one who thinks he has the right to repent of his sins on his own timetable and terms: lost. The one who thinks God owes her in some way: lost. Wandering around physically lost can lead to winding up in bad places. Jesus’ wounding words this week teach that wandering around spiritually lost puts you in the worst place of all. Fortunately, Jesus does not leave us in our lostness. He relentlessly seeks us. He involves the rest of the Christian community in seeking the lost and rejoicing over the found.

549 Across the Lands



1 You're the Word of God the Fa - ther from be - fore the
 2 Yet you left the gaze of an - gels, came to seek and
 3 With a shout you rose vic - to - rious, wrest - ing vic - t'ry



world be - gan. Ev - 'ry star and ev - 'ry plan - et has been
 save the lost, and ex - changed the joy of heav - en for the
 from the grave, and as - cend - ed in - to heav - en, lead - ing



fash - ioned by your hand. All cre - a - tion holds to -
 an - guish of a cross. With a prayer you fed the
 cap - tives in your way. Now you stand be - fore the



geth - er by the pow - er of your voice. Let the skies de -
 hun - gry, with a word you calmed the sea, yet how si - lent -
 Fa - ther, in - ter - ced - ing for your own; from each tribe and



clare your glo - ry, let the land and seas re - jice!
 ly you suf - fered that the guilt - y may go free!
 tongue and na - tion you are lead - ing sin - ners home!

Refrain



You're the au - thor of cre - a - tion, you're the Lord of ev - 'ry



man, and your cry of love rings out a - cross the lands.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963; arr. Ruth N. Coleman, b. 1953

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M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



1 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who bore my
 2 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who walks be -
 3 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who reigns a -



pain, who plumbed the depths of my dis - grace and
 side, who floods my weak - ness - es with strength and
 above, whose wis - dom is my per - fect peace, whose



gave me life a - gain, who crushed my curse of sin - ful -
 caus - es fears to fly, whose ev - 'ry prom - ise is e -
 ev - 'ry thought is love. For ev - 'ry day I have on



ness and clothed me in his light and wrote his law of
 nough for ev - 'ry step I take, sus - tain - ing me with
 earth is giv - en by the King. So I will give my



right - eous - ness with pow'r up - on my heart.
 arms of love and crown - ing me with grace.
 life, my all, to love and fol - low him.



* This phrase repeats at the end of st. 3.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974
 Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING

HOSEA 3:1-5

¹The Lord said to me, “Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the Lord loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes.”

²So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. ³Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

⁴For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. ⁵Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings in the last days.

The Lord—he is God!”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

51D God, Be Merciful to Me *Psalm 51D*



1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on your grace I
2 My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my
3 I am e - vil, born in sin; you de - sire all
4 Bro - ken, hum - bled to the dust by your wrath and



rest my plea; your com - pas - sions o - ver - flow,
soul op - press; I have sinned a - gainst your grace
truth with - in. You a - lone my Sav - ior are,
judg - ment just, let my con - trite heart re - joice



blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me
and pro - voked you to your face; I con - fess your
teach your wis - dom to my heart; make me pure, your
and in glad - ness hear your voice; from my sins, O



pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.
judg - ment just, speech - less, in your mer - cy trust.
grace be - stow, wash me whit - er than the snow.
hide your face, blot them out in bound - less grace.

5 Gracious God, my heart renew,
make my spirit right and true;
let me not abandoned be,
let your Spirit dwell in me;
your salvation's joy impart,
steadfast make my willing heart.

6 Sinners then shall learn from me
and to God restored shall be;
Savior, all my guilt remove,
and my tongue shall sing your love;
touch my silent lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall praise accord.

7 No attempted sacrifice
has acceptance in your eyes;
broken hearts are in your sight
more than sacrificial rite;
contrite spirit, pleading cries,
you, O God, will not despise.

8 Prosper Zion in your grace
and her broken walls replace;
then our righteous sacrifice
shall delight your holy eyes;
freewill off'rings, gladly made,
on your altar shall be laid.

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt.
Tune: Richard Redhead
Text and tune: Public domain

SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 2:5–11

⁵If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely. ⁶The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. ⁷Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. ¹⁰Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

LUKE 15:1–10

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

⁸“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

654 Jesus Sinners Does Receive



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray are not by the
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to you with a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 Lord for - sak - en; wea - ry souls who lost their way
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, show me mer - cy, too;



and from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope for
 here their ills have per - fect heal - ing who with hum - ble
 are by Christ, the Shep - herd, tak - en in his arms that
 grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 hearts be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

**5 Oh, how blest it is to know,
 were as scarlet my transgression,
 it shall be as white as snow
 by your blood and bitter passion,
 for these words I do believe:
 Jesus sinners does receive.**

**7 Jesus sinners does receive,
 even I have been forgiven.
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to him I cleave:
 Jesus sinners does receive.**

**6 Now my conscience is at peace,
 from the law I stand acquitted.
 Christ has purchased my release
 and my ev'ry sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:
 Jesus sinners does receive.**

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.

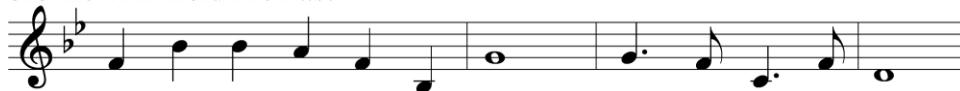
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

813 He Will Hold Me Fast



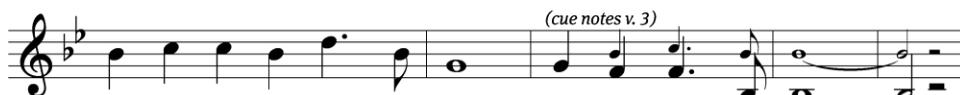
1 When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
 2 Those he saves are his de - light; Christ will hold me fast;
 3 For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast;



when the tempt - er would pre - vail, he will hold me fast.
 pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.
 jus - tice has been sat - is - fied; he will hold me fast.



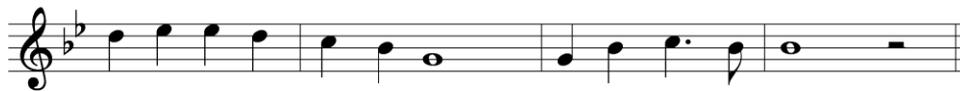
I could nev - er keep my hold thro' life's fear - ful path,
 He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;
 Raised with him to end - less life, he will hold me fast



for my love is of - ten cold— he must hold me fast.
 bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
 till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last! *(Refrain 2X)*



He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;



for my Sav - ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Text (sts. 1–2): Matt Merker, b. 1984, alt.; (sts. 1, Ref, 2): Ada Habershon, 1861–1918; (st. 3): Matt Merker, b. 1984

Tune: Matt Merker, b. 1984

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PRAYER & BLESSING

619 Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him



1 Praise the Al - might - y; my soul, a - dore him!
 2 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,
 3 Trust not in princ - es, they are but mor - tal;
 4 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud him un - til death. With songs and
 par - don and peace from him ob - tain; ev - er the
 earth-born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their
 of him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I'll come be - fore him as long as
 wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, their faith - ful
 coun - sels at life's last por - tal when the dark
 be - ing, to praise him sole - ly, with hap - py



he al - lows me breath. From him my life and
 God he will re - main. He helps his chil - dren
 grave will claim its prey. Since, then, no one can
 heart its a - men sings! Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; bless, O my soul, his ho - ly
 in dis - tress, the wid - ows and the fa - ther -
 help af - ford, trust on - ly Christ, our God and
 an - gel host praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



name. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 less. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Ghost! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!