

GATHERING

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

- Welcome to worship! Welcome to all those joining us via our Live Stream, welcome to those joining us through our Listen to Church service.
- If you are joining us from home, I invite you to gather some bread and wine/juice so you can join us in celebrating Holy Communion this morning.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.

Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Our Father, We Have Wandered (#606)

1 Our Father, we have wandered
and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered
your legacy of grace.

But now, in exile dwelling,
we rise with fear and shame,
as, distant but compelling,
we hear you call our name.

2 And now at length discerning
the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning
with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us
and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us
with calf and robe and ring.

3 O Lord of all the living,
both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving,
and ever-caring Lord,
grant now that our transgressing,
our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
in pardon, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006

Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy* © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

And also with you.

Let us pray...O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 32:7-14

While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them. A reading from Exodus.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY**Psalm 51:1-10**

Our Psalm for today is taken from Psalm 51. We read together responsively by whole verse.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL**Luke 15:1-10**

Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.

The holy Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of

them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Finding Joy”

Pastor Keith Ruehlow

HYMN OF THE DAY

You Are Mine (#581)

BIBLE PRESENTATION – 3 YEAR-OLDS & 7TH GRADE CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Sarah:

At this time I invite Denise Vick together with our 3-year-olds and their parents and 7th graders and their parents, who are receiving Bibles today to come forward. *Sarah and Denise to hand out Bibles.*

Pr. Keith:

Three-year olds and new confirmands, welcome back to the baptismal font. We gather here again to remember the promises God made to you and the promises your parents made to God at your baptism. We want to welcome you to a mile-stone moment along your journey of faith – whether it is just beginning or now starting confirmation – the time preparing you to affirm your baptism.

*Addressing parents...*Parents, in Holy Baptism you made promises to God on behalf of your children: to bring them to worship, to teach them the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments, to place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and to provide for their instruction in the Christian faith. Do you recommit to keeping these promises? If so, would you repeat after me...

We do, and we ask God to help us, so that we keep these promises and continue to grow in faith, along with our children.

*Addressing the congregation...*Do you, who are members and friends of Our Savior’s agree to support these youth and their parents and pray for them as together they journey in faith? If so say,
We do, and we ask God to help us.

Denise:

Parents, with your renewed promise and the prayers of this congregation, now offer the gift of a new Bible to your son or daughter.

To 3-year-old families... You with a three-year old, we offer you a Story Bible to give to your child. We encourage you to sit with your child and read these stories of faith together. *Parents present Bibles to their children.*

To 7th-grade families... You with a seventh-grader, we offer you a Study Bible to give to your son or daughter. Walk with them and pray for them as they grow in faith and experience the love of God through these years of confirmation. *Parents present Bibles to their children.*

Let us pray,

Gracious God, your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Bless these Bibles and the children that receive them. Speak your Word through these pages. Draw children and parents deeper into your love, fill their hearts and minds with holy wondering as they read these stories together, and encourage them to live as your beloved children, now and forever. We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Pr. Sarah

Parents and students you may return to your seats. As they do so, I invite the rest of the congregation to stand as you are able as we confess our faith together.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER AND SMALL GROUP GUIDE BLESSING

I invite all of our Sunday School teachers, helpers, and subs and confirmation small group guides to please stand. These ministers of OSL have volunteered their time, energy and gifts of the children and youth of the congregation. Let us offer them a blessing as they begin this new year of ministry.

Let us pray: Gracious God, for Jesus' sake, empower these servants to care for our Sunday school students and confirmands. Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently. Fill them with your grace and compassion as they nurture and support students. Stir up in them the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain *especially Virgil Aakre, Jan Krueger, Johnny Foster, Erica Peterson and the family of Marie Aakre*. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life, *especially Marie*. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection.

God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

MINISTRY MATTERS MOMENT--Transition Update – Lindsay Barnhart

BRIEFING THE MINISTERS

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Let All Things Now Living* (#881 vs.2)

2 God rules all the forces:
the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing

our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1892-1980, alt.

Text © 1939, 1966 E.C. Schirmer Music Company

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave
thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive**

those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION *Lamb of God*

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, grant us peace.

***Come, Let Us Eat* (#491)**

- 1 (Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,) come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
(Our Lord's body let us take together,) our Lord's body let us take together.
- 2 (Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,) come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
(Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,) Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

- 3 (In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,) in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
(In the presence of our Lord we gather,) in the presence of our Lord we gather.
- 4 (Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,) rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
(Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,) Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Text: Billema Kwillia, b. c. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.
Text sts. 1-3 © Lutheran World Federation. Text st. 4 © 1972
Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

- and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

On Our Way Rejoicing (#537)

1 On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?

hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!

2 Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore. *Refrain*

Refrain

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Use the
QR code
for giving:



FINANCIAL UPDATE		
	Mar - Aug	August
Income	\$184,645.24	\$29,692.00
Expenses	\$163,886.30	\$33,818.99
Over/short	\$20,758.94	(\$4,126.99)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Virgil Aakre;
Jan Krueger (Dan Krueger's mother);
Johnny Foster (Brittany Cisneros's brother);
Erica Peterson (Cheryl Merrill's granddaughter)

IN SYMPATHY

To the family of Jerry Hughes, whose funeral is
Monday, September 15 at 11am, OSL

IN SUPPORT

Patrick & Jacqueline Bencke,
missionaries in Japan

Kasungu Central, Our Malawi Sister Parish

Congregational Meeting—Sunday, September 28th

A special meeting has been called by the OSL Church Council for the purpose of electing a Call Committee on Sunday, September 28 following worship. According to the OSL constitution the Call Committee will be composed of eight members including the Council President and at least one high school youth. A slate of members recommended by the Transition Team and Church Council will be presented at the meeting.

Study of Matthew's Gospel

Join your OSL family this fall as we engage in a study of Matthew's Gospel, which will be the lectionary for the coming church year. Pastor Sarah will start things off with a forum on Sunday, October 5th following worship where she will preview Matthew as well as share other information about our church calendar. This will be followed by a series of six small group sessions on Wednesday nights beginning October 8th from 5:30-6:30pm. These sessions will also be available remotely. Sign up in the church office and pick up a book. We are asking for a \$10 donation to cover the cost. Contact Gayle Holte with any questions.

Little Church

Throughout September and October, funds collected in our Little church will go to support the *Rotary Feed Event on October 29, 2025 at OSL*.

THIS WEEK AT OSL

Sunday, September 14	Worship, 9am Coffee Fellowship, 10:15am Sunday School, 10:15am Troop meeting, 6pm
Monday, September 15	Quilters/Crafters — CANCELLED Funeral for Jerry Hughes, 11am
Wednesday, September 17	Reading Club, 1pm Confirmation, 6pm Choir rehearsal, 6:30pm
Thursday, September 18	Quilting Queens, 9am Vibrant Voices rehearsal, 1pm Bells Rehearsal, 6:30pm

Sunday School

Sunday School begins TODAY. Registration forms are available in the church office. If you are interested in teaching, subbing, or helping in Sunday School contact Denise Vick.

Kwik Trip Gift Cards

Kwik Trip gift card and carwash card orders will be taken September 14, 21, 28 (orders are sent in September 28).

Blessed Backpack Tags

are still available in the Friendship room.

Menomonie Homecoming Parade!

Join us Friday Sept. 26th for tacos and caramel apples during the homecoming parade. Help is needed on Thursday Sept. 25 from 9-11am to prep and on Friday, Sept. 26 to serve and clean up. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board under the skylight. See Denise Vick for more information.

Lutheran Campus Ministry is looking for volunteers on: **September 15 and December 1**. If you can help cook/serve, contact Sara McCullough, at lcmstoutdirector@gmail.com or call 715.563.6336.