

+ Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost +

August 24, Year of Our Lord 2025 | Service of the Word

*Pastor Roberts is away (taking Sophia to college in Nebraska).
Please welcome new member and retired Pastor Lou Trebus
(LCMS) and Praise's Elders to co-lead today's service.*



Prelude: *Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser: J. Haydn*
- Thema (Theme)

Opening Hymn: 903 This Is the Day the Lord Has Made (see hymnal)

Common Versicles

Psalm 51:15; Psalm 70:1

- L** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

- L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia.

Prayer for Forgiveness

- L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Introit

Psalm 117; antiphon: Psalm 96:6a; 115:18



- L** Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him,*
we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. | Praise the LORD!
- C** Praise the LORD, all | nations!*
- Extol him, all | peoples!

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. | Praise the LORD!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Splendor and majesty are be- | fore him;*
we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. | Praise the LORD!

Salutation and Collect of the Day

I Let us pray. O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 66:18–23

“For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

“For as the new heavens and the new earth
that I make
shall remain before me, says the LORD,
so shall your offspring and your name remain.
From new moon to new moon,
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,
all flesh shall come to worship before me,
declares the LORD.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

**G Fear the LORD, you his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

Epistle

Hebrews 12:4–24

In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reproved by him.
For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”

It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no “root of bitterness” springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, though he sought it with tears.

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

A This is the Word of the Lord. **G Thanks be to God.**

Verse of the Day

Luke 13:29

- P** Alleluia. People will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 13:22–30

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.
G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus] went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”



- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **G** **Praise to You, O Christ**

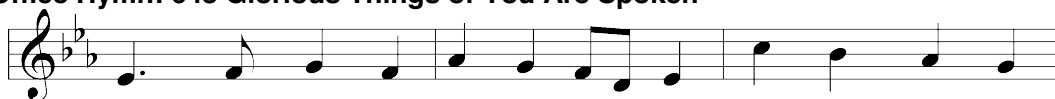
Apostles' Creed

- G** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And 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.**

**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.**

Office Hymn: 648 Glorious Things of You Are Spoken



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, See the cloud and
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God; He whose word can - not be bro - ken Formed you
ter - nal love, Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters And all
fire ap - pear For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, Show - ing
mem - ber am, Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will



for His own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found - ed,
fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er
that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner
glo - ry in Your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain plea - sures,



What can shake your sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's
Ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace, which like the
Light by night and shade by day, Safe they feed up -
All their boast - ed pomp and show; Sol - id joys and



walls sur - round - ed, You may smile at all your foes.
Lord, the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.
on the man - na Which God gives them on their way.
last - ing trea - sures None but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

Hymn after the Sermon: 804 O Worship the King

1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
 3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?

O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
 Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,

Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,

Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
 And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust and feeble as frail, In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
 Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end, Our maker, defender, redeemer,
 and friend!

6 O measureless Might, ineffable Love, While angels delight to hymn Thee above,
 Thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays, With true adoration shall sing to Thy
 praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt. Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727 Text and tune: Public domain

Offering

Prayer of the Church - see colored insert for the prayer list

L O Lord, bless the world with peace and protection, bless the church with the saving Word of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Sacraments, bless the people with strength to carry out their various callings, bless the children as they study in schools, bless the suffering and those who are dying, bless those who mourn, and bless those who rejoice. Keep us as the apple of your eye and guide us by your gracious hand into the way of truth, love, and peace through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Lord in your mercy. **C Hear our prayer.**

L O Father, bless the birthdays and anniversaries of our church. Thank you for their lives, their hope, and their service to You and their loved ones. Lord in your mercy. **C Hear our prayer.**

L O Lord, bless the travels of our pastor and his family and all who travel this day. Bless all returning college students and those beginning their studies. Lord in your mercy. **C Hear our prayer.**

L O Heavenly Father, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

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.

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **C Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 669 Come, We That Love the Lord (see hymnal)

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Praise Lutheran Church (LCMS)

315 Southdowne Dr, Maryville, TN 37801 | (865) 977-5810 | praiselutheran.com

Office Hours | Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Church Calendar: praiselutheran.com/events

Online giving: praiselutheran.com (click the blue “Give” button)

Subscribe to our newsletter at the bottom right of the homepage, and visit us at:
facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch/ | youtube.com/@PraiseLutheran

Office Administration: Elissa Upward, officeadmin@praiselutheran.com

Pastor Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, cell: (865) 421-9988 (Day off: Fridays)

Director of Worship Arts: Caleb Hesse, caleb@praiselutheran.com

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, Vice President: Tim Nunnink

Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerman

Choir Directors: Caleb Hesse, Laura Bisconte, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson

For prayer requests to be added in the service, please submit by 9:00 a.m. on Thursdays. If your contact info has recently changed, please let the church office know. Large print hymnals are available (please check with an usher for availability).



+ Prayers +

World: For **protection** and **peace**. For God to cease the wars between modern-day **Israel** and the **Hamas** and the conflict between **Ukraine** and **Russia**. For **fire, flood, and hurricane** recovery. For **Flood Victims** and their families in Texas and other states with storm and flood.

Concern for the Lost: For family and friends who do not know or have fallen away from the truth, grace, and love of the Savior, Christ Jesus.

Vocation: For the upcoming **Baptism of Jack Kilbarger** (parents: Jake and Lillie Kilbarger) on 8/25. For **veterans and our military** for **Mason Burkett** (Mary Schopman grandson in-law) being deployed to Poland next week leaving behind his wife and new baby; military servants: **Carter Felt, Casey Lawson, Tyler Smith** and **William Smolter**. For our singles, parents, grandparents, and families. For our families expecting a baby: **Alex & Shelby Hicks, Luke and Blair Johnson, Elijah & Faith Miessler** (boy in Sept.), **Sam & Kate Bohnet** (boy in Aug.), and **Samual and Sarah Kropp** (girl in Sept.). For **those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters**. For **teachers** in our community schools. For our circuit's seminary students: **Aaron Wade, Sam Bohnet** (vicarage placement in Louisville, KY), **Daniel Bueckman**, and **Alex Ogden** (call placements). **Michael Saxton** was placed as a convertible vicar at Grace Lutheran, Knoxville. For **children and families** dealing with difficult situations due to drugs, alcohol, violence, abuse, stress, and strife.

Recent Loss and Mourning: For the family of **Emma Lu Kerekes** (founding member of Praise) who passed on 7/25 (Memorial Service will be 9/6). For family of **Shelby Williams** (granddaughter of Jeanne Lindenfelser) who died tragically in July. **Shauna** (friend of Laura Bisconte) who passed away in Knoxville. **Ruth** (sister-in-law to Phil & Carol Barnett) who passed away in Wisconsin and **Ruth's grandson** who died in a car accident. **Mona** (Angela Gift's mother) who passed away in Alabama.

Health: For **Carol Ehrens** health and good days (hospice care at home). For **Bob McDermott** recovering strength after hospitalized for an infection. For **Ed Hannah** good treatment of bladder cancer. For **Joel Morsch** treatment for a brain bleed. For **Becky Hamby's brother** with a brain bleed, and another brother **Jeffrey Happel** with ongoing health issues. For **Janeen Meier** healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts' sister and Pastor Roberts's Aunt). For **Fred Hansen** recovery of strength and health. For **Bob Goodrich** diabetes management and heart health. For **Linda Davis** a fib treatment. For **Rhonda Heckman** recovering from back surgery and for **Bob Heckman's** health. For **Chuck Pettyjohn** for lung and heart health. For **Stephanie** (Larry & Cathy Wacker's daughter) for cancer treatment and stem cell treatment for **Kevin** her husband. For **Don Hammond** heart a-fib (Joan Large's son). For **Cole Hammond** (Joan Large's grandson) comfort in dealing with epilepsy. For **Marvin Arcari** (Paul Ruble's cousin, Will Wade's brother-in-law) hospitalized and awaiting biopsy results. For **Sandy Bagley** health. For **Margaret** (Justin Gift's great grandma) in ICU. For **Pat Sweet** (friend of Ole & Mavis) fragile health condition. For **June McDonnell** recovering from falls and lung health. For **Tim Smith** heart and blood pressure health. For **Ted Frazier** headaches and blood pressure drops. For **Lee Schuck** and **Gus** taking care of her. For **Pam** (Jim Roberts's sister) heart and respiratory issues. For **Derek Bryant** (friend of Mary Schopmann) kidney reception. For **Ken Kropp** recovering from heart surgery. For **Kim Smolter** health. For **Gary Kubin** hip surgery rehab (now home). For **Ed & Barbara McGillick** health, pain and dizziness management. For **Haley Jenkins** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's niece) esophageal issues. For **Rachel Ernst** upcoming rescheduled surgery. For **Margarete** (neighbor to Jim & Maureen Roberts) dealing with advancing cancer. For **Ron Williams** (back at Foothills) and for his

wife Pamela. For **Barbara Moyers** health. For **Marie Guinn** (Jennifer Kropp’s mother) cancer treatment and health. For **Mary** (Ed & Sandy Bagley’s daughter) health. For **June Latham** (Phyllis Bembas’ sister) stroke and vision recovery. For **Fred Goddard** (nephew of Mary Ellen Brown) lung cancer treatment. For **Carol** (Alex Hick’s aunt) frontal lobe dementia. For **Tom Williams** maintenance chemo treatments. **Debbie Johnston** kidney health. **Bob McDermott** dealing with Parkinson’s symptoms. For **Alan Stremsterfer’s mother** and **Lisa Stremsterfer’s father** health. **Aurora Stevens** back and shoulder pain treatments. For **Kathy Bigger** (friend of Donna Wall) pancreatic cancer. Andrew Hebar’s Aunt **Kara** (health).

Birthdays: Chris F (8/24), Bob McD (8/24), Ray T (8/24), Donna C (8/25), Nicholas J (8/25), J J S (8/25), Chris B (8/26), Susan H (8/26), Alora B (8/27), Karen F (8/28), Gretchen R (8/28), Gracie S (8/30), Owen P (9/1), Sandra W (9/1), Justin G (9/3), Pam T (9/3), Jacob W (9/4)

Anniversaries: Seth & Tina Pierce (8/25), Derek & Gretchen Roberts (8/26), Al & Sharon Felker (8/28), Steve & Rebecca Keyes (8/28)

Church Operations & Christian Stewardship

Building Fund	2024 Receipts	2025 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$211,037	\$38,376	\$1,216,372
Pledged	\$179,106	\$42,744	\$1,065,270
Remaining	\$31,931 [over]	\$4,368 [under]	\$151,102 [over]

Build Project total cost: \$2,973,613 (approximately 38% funded).

Visit **praiselutheran.com/build** to see our build completion video! Gifts to the Build Fund are still encouraged (the extended Capital Campaign ends on December 31, 2025). Our total monthly mortgage payments to Lutheran Church Extension Fund: \$11,413 [breakdown: \$10,309 (new building) + \$1,104 (older building)].

Online Giving is available on our website, praiselutheran.com (see the Give button). You can set up recurring gifts to select funds. “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor. 9:7

To select **Kroger Community Rewards**, log in to your account at www.kroger.com, go to “My Account,” then “Community Rewards,” and search for and enroll in Praise Lutheran Church. From the Kroger app, tap the menu (≡), go to “Rewards,” then “Community Rewards,” and follow the prompts to select and enroll your chosen organization.

Children and Youth Ministry

Sunday School for all children and students, age 2 on up; begins at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays. *Confirmed youth are encouraged to join the Congregational Bible Study with Pastor Roberts in the Social Hall.*

Special Midweek Youth Group with Parents: meet this Wed, Aug 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. We encourage all youth families—both parents and youth—to join us as we brainstorm and plan for the fall.

Youth Group Pool Party on Sun, Aug. 31 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Steve & Rosalyn Lee's home: 1701 Wilkinson Pike, Maryville. (We're inviting other youth from camp from our Circuit.) To assist with planning the food quantities, please RSVP to Suzanne Nunnink at 530-559-8335 by August 28th.

Youth Catechesis begins Sun, Sept. 7 at 12:30 p.m. (with the next session on Sept. 14). We encourage you to bring or grab lunch, as well as your catechism and Bible. The full calendar will be shared at the first meeting.

Worship and Music Ministry

Choir rehearsals resume Wed, Sept. 3 at 6:00 p.m., where we'll explore a variety of choral music—hymns, spirituals, and arrangements—while strengthening vocal technique and growing as musicians. **Instrumentalists** are encouraged to connect with Caleb for opportunities in solo, chamber, and ensemble performances based on your availability.

Piano lessons are coming to Praise! Anyone age 6 and up (with a parent/guardian for children) is welcome to join instructor Caleb Hesse and explore the joy of piano playing.

For any questions and extra information, please reach out to our Director of Worship Arts, Caleb Hesse, at caleb@praiselutheran.com.

Congregational Life & Fellowship

Pastor Roberts will be back in office tomorrow (Mon, Aug. 25).

The next **Issues Class** meets at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday in the Social Hall. Today: The Church's Role in Government. *Next Sun, Aug. 31: Life on other Planets, Regarding Life here on Earth.*

Veterans Pantry Donations are being accepted in the Narthex. All items will be delivered to the Office of Veterans Affairs of Blount County.



There are **opportunities to connect and serve**. If you haven't filled out the Rally Day form yet, it's available at <https://forms.gle/nMMnDjnJQgF4NS3z7> or via the QR code. Paper sign-ups are also on the table in the narthex.

Today

Interested in cycling and Christian fellowship? Join us for an interest meeting today at 3:00 PM in the Social Hall to explore starting a Christian cycling group open to all riders, styles, and skill levels. Whether you're a seasoned cyclist or just getting started, all are welcome. For more info, contact Rick Gift at 865-274-2063 or gifthaus@gmail.com.

This Week

Men's Bible Study on break, resumes Sept. 3 at 7:00 p.m. (starting with Compline in the Sanctuary).

Middle and High School Youth both meet at 7:00 p.m. The group will start in the church with Compline this week—then will move into the Social Hall for study.

Ladies Bible Study Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall with Barbara Morsch.

Upcoming

August 31 (Sun) 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Pool Party (see Children and Youth Ministry announcement for address and other details)

September 3 (Wed) Choir rehearsals begin at 6:00 p.m. Followed by Compline with Youth Group and Men's Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.

September 6 (Sun) Memorial Service for + Emma Lu Kerekes + Visitation at 1:00 p.m. Service at 2:00 p.m. Refreshments to follow in the Social Hall.

September 21 (Sun) Fall Picnic, 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. More details to come.

September 26–28: Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) Fall Retreat in Tallassee, TN. For more details, please see the information displayed in the Narthex, to the right of the mailboxes.

October 24–26: Ladies Fall Retreat, A Heart After the Lord's Own Heart, will take place at the Tuckaleechee Retreat Center in Townsend, Tennessee. Guest speaker, Stella Beabout of Crossville, brings deep biblical insight and teaching experience, having studied Old Testament Exegesis in the Ph.D. program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. She has led many Bible studies and retreats across the region. Scholarships are available for those in need. To learn more, pick up a brochure in the Narthex or reach out to Kris Smith or Barbara Morsch.