

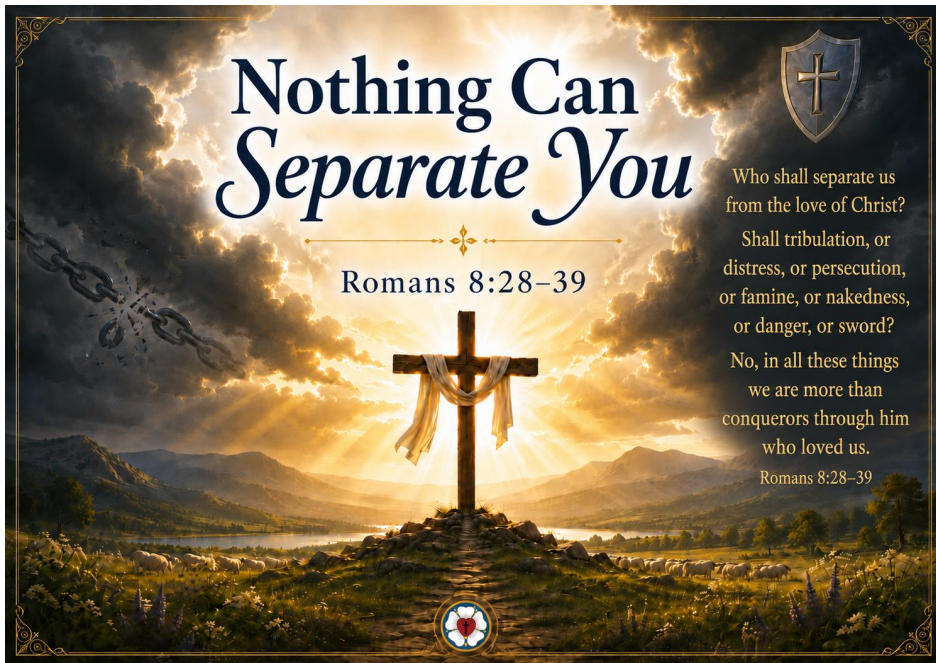


Risen Christ Lutheran Church

9th Sunday after Pentecost Worship

July 26, 2026 10am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER
HIS SANCTUARY, *PLEASE SIT QUIETLY*, PRAY, AND READ
THROUGH THIS WORSHIP FOLDER
TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**



**Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info**

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ's body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking, and giving forgiveness, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we do not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor Rennie if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the "individual" and "common" cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you "desire" a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby ("Narthex")

For Children – Children's Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather

There are times when suffering, uncertainty, guilt, and loss seem to argue against the love of God. Yet today's Readings direct us away from our changing circumstances and back to God's unchanging promises. The Lord chose His people, not because they were strong or deserving, but because He loves them and remains faithful to His covenant. He did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all. Christ died, was raised, and now intercedes for us at the Father's right hand. Therefore, no accusation, suffering, power, or even death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Today He comes among us through His precious Word and Sacrament to forgive us, strengthen us, and assure us again: **Christ has not let go of you.**

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

Romans 11:33; Deuteronomy 7:7, 9; Romans 11:36

- P Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
C **How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**
- P The LORD set His love on you and chose you.
C **Know therefore that the LORD is God.**
- P For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
C **To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

Living Hope

1. How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

2. Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope **CHORUS**

CHORUS: Hallelujah
praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(REPEAT)

Jesus Yours is the victory whoa **CHORUS**

Confession and Absolution

Romans 8:31–32

P You are a people holy to the Lord your God.

C **We confess our unholy thoughts, words, and actions.**

Silence for personal reflection.

P Almighty God,

C **we have not lived as Your holy people. We have loved ourselves more than our neighbors and treasured created things more than You, our Creator. We have trusted our own wisdom, strength, and goodness instead of Your promises. When suffering and uncertainty come, we doubt Your love and question whether You are truly for us. By our sin we stand guilty and cannot free ourselves from sin, death, and the power of the devil. For the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, have mercy upon us, forgive us, and restore us to live as Your redeemed people.**

P “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?”

C **“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?”**

P Almighty God has shown His mercy by giving His own Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you. Christ was raised from the dead and now intercedes for you at the Father’s right hand. No accusation against God’s elect can stand, for it is God who justifies. Therefore, upon this your confession, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority and command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 105:2–6; antiphon: v. 1

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Sing to him, sing praises to him;

tell of all his wondrous works!

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!

Seek the LORD and his strength;

seek his presence continually!

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

O offspring of Abraham, his servant,

children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

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.

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;

make known his deeds among the peoples!

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶“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. ⁷It 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, ⁸but 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. ⁹Know 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.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 125; antiphon: v. 2

¹Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

**²As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people,
from this time forth and forevermore.**

³For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,
lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.

⁴Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!

⁵But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers!
Peace be upon Israel!

Epistle

Romans 8:28–39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He 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?

³³Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all the day long;
we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Matthew 13:35b

P Alleluia. I will open My mouth in parables;

C I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:44–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] "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, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

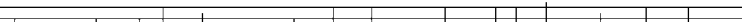
⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and 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." ⁵²And 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."

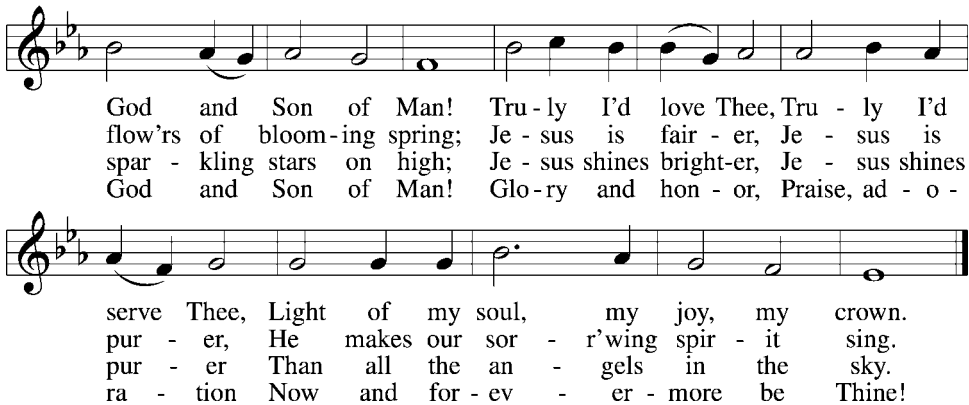
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



Sermon – “Nothing Can Separate You” *based on Romans 8:28–39* OUTLINE

1. When life seems to argue against God’s love

Our circumstances and emotions may cause us to question whether God is still for us.

2. God works through all things without calling evil good

The cross proves that sin, suffering, the devil, and death do not get the final word. God does.

3. God’s saving purpose begins with His grace

Our assurance rests not in our feelings or faithfulness, but in God’s gracious choice, His Gospel, and His baptismal promise.

4. The cross is God’s answer: “I am for you”

Our feelings may go silent, but the cross has not changed, the tomb is still empty, and Christ still intercedes.

5. No accusation can overturn God’s verdict

The devil accuses and the conscience condemns, but God justifies and the risen Christ speaks the final word: **Forgiven. Justified. Mine.**

6. Christ delivers His verdict through the Means of Grace

Through His Word (preached, taught, studied), Absolution, Baptism, and Holy Supper, Christ ***gives*** forgiveness and strengthens weak sinners.

7. More than conquerors in the midst of suffering

We are not conquerors because suffering never reaches us, but because suffering and death cannot take Christ from us.

8. Nothing in all creation can separate us from Christ

The Kingdom is God’s gift in Christ. Neither guilt, fear, suffering, the future, nor death can carry us beyond His love.

Central Promise - God chose you in Christ. Christ died and rose for you. He has not let go of you.

Final Assurance – Nothing in life, nothing in death, nothing in the present, nothing in the future, and nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

P He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all has graciously given us every treasure of salvation. In faith and thanksgiving, we now receive the offering.

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. As we place these offerings before the Lord, we ask Him to receive and use them for the proclamation of Christ and the loving service of our neighbors.

Mighty Lord, in a world of danger, suffering, temptation, and death, guard Your Church in body and soul. Strengthen all pastors and congregations to proclaim Christ crucified and risen, so that troubled consciences may hear that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** Faithful Lord, You chose Your people not because they were strong or deserving, but because You loved them and remained faithful to Your promise. Keep us from pride in ourselves and from despair over our weakness. Fix our faith upon Christ, who died, was raised, and now intercedes for us at Your right hand. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** Generous Lord, every good gift comes from Your gracious hand. Free us from selfishness and from treasuring created things more than You, our Creator. Make us generous toward Your Church and toward neighbors in need, trusting that You will provide all that is necessary for this body and life. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** Gracious Lord, You call sinners through the Gospel and gather them into the Kingdom of Your Son. Open the ears of those who do not know Christ, soften hearts hardened against Your Word, and give Your people courage and compassion to bear witness to the hope that is within us. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** Lord of all nations, grant wisdom, integrity, and humility to those who govern. Restrain violence and injustice, protect those who defend life and preserve peace, and teach all in authority to recognize that they remain accountable to You. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** Faithful Lord, bring forgiveness and healing to families where trust has been broken and love has grown cold. Strengthen husbands and wives, parents and children, the widowed and the unmarried. Help us to forgive as we have been forgiven and to bear one another's burdens in patient love. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

- P** Compassionate Lord, remember the lonely, the grieving, the poor, the dying, and all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, [especially ...]. Do not allow illness, fear, grief, or uncertainty to drive them away from Your promises. Sustain them amid their trials, provide healing according to Your gracious will, and assure them that no suffering can separate them from Your love in Christ Jesus. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Victorious Lord, we remember with thanksgiving those who have died in the faith. Comfort all who mourn with the certainty that neither death nor life can separate Your children from Christ. Keep us steadfast until the day when You raise our bodies in glory and gather all Your redeemed into the resurrection life of Your Kingdom. Through the love of Christ, we pray:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Into Your hands, gracious Father, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting not in our understanding or the strength of our faith, but in Jesus Christ, Your Son, who died, was raised, and intercedes for us; for nothing in all creation can separate us from Your love in Him.

C Amen.

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So 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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Communion

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

It Is Well With My Soul

1. When peace like a river
Attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot
Thou hast taught me to say
It is well
It is well with my soul

CHORUS: *It is well with my soul*
It is well
It is well with my soul

2. My sin O the joy
Of this glorious tho't
My sin not in part but the whole
Is nailed to the cross
And I bear it no more
Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord O my soul **CHORUS**

3. And Lord haste the day
When the faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound
And the Lord shall descend
Even so it is well
With my soul **CHORUS**

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
C **Amen.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 3.
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