



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
15th Sunday after Pentecost Worship
September 6, 2026 10am

**As you enter the sanctuary, please use these moments for quiet prayer
and preparation as we gather in the presence of the Lord
to receive His gifts.**



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

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – Celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We believe that Christ's true body and blood are received in the Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. Because Scripture also warns against receiving the Sacrament in an unworthy manner, communicants should repent of their sins, trust Christ's words and promises, and desire to forgive and live in Christian love toward others. Baptized Christians who share this confession and have examined themselves are welcome to commune with us. Please speak with Pastor Rennie if you have questions. The bread is distributed before the individual and common cups of wine. White nonalcoholic wine is located 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! We are grateful that you are worshiping with us. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Indicate on the card whether you would appreciate a call or other contact from Pastor Rennie.

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 – Jesus does not teach us simply to ignore a brother or sister who is wandering into sin, nor does He tell us to shame them before others. He says, "Go." Christian love sometimes must speak a difficult word because the goal is not to win an argument, but to gain a brother. Yet before we start thinking about everyone else who needs correcting, Jesus reminds us that we are the wandering sheep. The Good Shepherd came looking for us, carried our sin to the cross, and still comes to us through His Word and forgiveness. Because Christ's love went after us, His love moves us to seek the wandering, speak His truth in love, forgive the repentant, and rejoice when the lost are restored. Love goes after the one.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship – "Build My Life"

Worthy of ev'ry song we could ever sing
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You **CHORUS**

Jesus... the name above ev'ry other name
Jesus the only one who could ever save
Worthy of ev'ry breath we could ever breathe
We live for You... We live for You **CHORUS**

CHORUS: *Holy there is no one like You
There is none beside You
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are
And fill me with Your heart
And lead me in Your love to those around me*

BRIDGE: I will build my life upon Your love
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
And I will not be shaken

CCU Song # 7070345
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Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, 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.
C Amen.
- P** He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

Thy Strong Word



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; At Thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, Dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us righ - teous; Bright with
 4 From the cross Thy wis - dom shin - ing Break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed
 night and deep as death, Broke the light of
 Thine own ho - li - ness, Glo - rious now, we
 forth in con - qu'ring might; From the cross for -



light we thank Thee, While Thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 Thy sal - va - tion, Breathed Thine own life - breath - ing breath.
 press toward glo - ry, And our lives our hopes con - fess.
 ev - er beam - eth All Thy bright re - deem - ing light.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to



Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 Thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
 Alleluia, alleluia!
 May the light which Thou dost send
 Fill our songs with alleluias,
 Alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
 To Thee laud and honor be.
 To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
 Praise be sung eternally.
 Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
 Glory, glory be to Thee.
 Mortals, angels, now and ever
 Praise the holy Trinity!

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Introit for Pentecost 15

Psalm 92:1–4; antiphon: v. 5

C How great are Your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

P It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;
 to declare Your steadfast love in the morning, and Your faithfulness by night,
 to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.
 For You, O LORD, have made me glad by Your work;
 at the works of Your hands I sing for joy.

**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.
 How great are Your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!**

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Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; 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

Ezekiel 33:7–9

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.

- 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

Romans 13:1–10

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Verse

Matthew 5:3

G Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 18:1–20

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

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

¹⁰"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Come Thou Fount, Come Thou King

Come Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace.
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above,
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy redeeming love.
I was lost in utter darkness 'til You came and rescued me.
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free.
Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home,
Now Your grace is always with me, and I'll never be alone.

**CHORUS: Come Thou Fount, come Thou King,
Come Thou precious Prince of Peace;
Hear Your bride, to You we sing;
Come Thou Fount of our blessing;**

O, to grace, how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be.
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above. **CHORUS**

I was lost in utter darkness 'til You came and rescued me.
I was bound by all my sin when Your love came and set me free.
Now my soul can sing a new song, now my heart has found a home,
Now Your grace is always with me, and I'll never be alone.

Sermon – “Love Goes After the One” *Matthew 18:1–20*

1. Love sometimes has to go.
 2. Before you go after the wandering sheep, remember: you are the sheep.
 3. You are the one Jesus came to find.
 4. The goal is not to win the argument. The goal is to gain your brother.
- Love goes after the one because Jesus first came after us.

Apostles' Creed

☩ 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.

Offering – ONLINE GIVING is 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.

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

***CHORUS: My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace***

3. The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures ***CHORUS***

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

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Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ and for all people according to their needs.

Silence for prayer

- P** Gracious Father, every good and perfect gift comes from You. Receive our tithes and offerings as acts of faith, gratitude, and love. Use these gifts for the proclamation of Christ, the care of those in need, and the work You have placed before Your Church. Make us generous with all that You have first entrusted to us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

- P** Good Shepherd, You do not abandon the wandering or consider one lost sheep an acceptable loss. Give Your Church a heart for those who have drifted from Christ, become entangled in sin, or grown distant from Your Word. Give us courage to go when love requires it, wisdom to speak Your truth, and humility to remember that we too are sheep who live entirely by Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, guard us from self-righteousness, gossip, bitterness, and the desire merely to win an argument. When a brother or sister sins, teach us to speak privately, patiently, and lovingly, seeking not humiliation but restoration. Where repentance is given, make us eager to forgive as we ourselves have been forgiven in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus Christ, many among us carry the name of someone we love who no longer worships, no longer confesses the faith, or seems to be wandering farther from You. Keep us from giving up on them. Open doors for honest conversation. Give us the right words when words are needed, the wisdom to listen, perseverance in prayer, and opportunities simply to say, "Come with me." Through Your Word and Spirit, call the wandering home. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Lord of the Church, bless all pastors, teachers, missionaries, and church workers. Make them faithful watchmen who speak not their own opinions but the Word You have given. Grant them courage to warn where warning is necessary and tenderness to proclaim Christ's forgiveness to every repentant sinner. Raise up faithful servants for Your Church and keep Your people steadfast in the apostolic faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, You have established earthly authorities for the good of Your people. Grant wisdom, integrity, courage, and humility to our president, governor, judges, legislators, and all who serve in positions of authority. Bless and protect those who serve in our military, law enforcement, fire service, emergency medical services, and all who place themselves in danger for the sake of their neighbors. Teach us to give honor where honor is due and to seek the good of our neighbor in all things. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, bless our homes and families. Strengthen husbands and wives in faithfulness and love. Give parents and grandparents wisdom as they teach, correct, encourage, forgive, and pray for those You have entrusted to them. Where relationships have been wounded, grant repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and the courage to say, "I was wrong. Will you forgive me?" Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P God of mercy, look with compassion upon all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially **[names]**. Give skill and wisdom to those who care for them, patience in affliction, strength for each day, and confidence that nothing can separate them from Your love in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Lord of all vocation, bless the work of our hands. Help us to serve faithfully in the places where You have put us—as spouses, parents, children, neighbors, workers, citizens, and friends. Give us eyes to see the people around us not as problems to solve or arguments to win, but as neighbors whom You have called us to love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Father of all comfort, sustain those who mourn and those who draw near to death. Keep them in the faith You have given, and fix their eyes upon Jesus, the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep and rose again. At the last, gather us with all Your saints into the joy of Your eternal presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting not in our own righteousness but in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

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.**

The Blessing

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make his face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn his
Face toward you
And give you peace

CHORUS:

Amen

Amen

Amen

1st Bridge

May his favor
Be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family
And your children And their children
And their children

2nd Bridge

May his presence
Go before you
And behind you
And beside you
All around you
And within you
He is with you
He is with you

3rd Bridge

In the morning
In the evening
In your coming
And your going
In your weeping
And rejoicing
He is for you
He is for you

Tag

He is for you
He is for you

CHORUS:

Amen

Amen

Amen

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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 ☩ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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