

CHAMELEON

WEEK THREE: You are God's ambassador

Labor Day Combined Service
August 31, 2025 – 9:30 AM

AS WE GATHER

God has reconciled the world to Himself through the saving work of Christ Jesus. We therefore, as the Apostle Paul says, are ambassadors to this ministry of reconciliation. Made new in Christ, we have the amazing joy of participating in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

WE SING

"Our God, Our Help In Ages Past"

LSB #733

WISDOM IN THE LORD

P: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble," says the Lord. "I will deliver you, and you will honor Me."

C: He saved us because of His mercy! He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior!

P: If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

C: All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and give us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.

P: And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

C: We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us.

WE SING

"You Are My All In All"

WE PRAY

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

¹⁴For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. ¹⁶So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 5:43-48

⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

KIDS' TIME

DCE Hailey Miller

MESSAGE

"Ambassadors of Grace"

Pastor Doug Slavens

(Today's readings)

WE HEAR GOD'S PROMISE OF PEACE

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(a time of quiet before the Lord)

WE CONFESS OUR SINS

P: We confess our sins to our Heavenly Father,

C: Gracious God, Friend of sinners, we confess to you our sinfulness. We've not measured up to Your perfect will in what we've done and what we've failed to do; by what we've said and failed to say; by what we've thought and failed to think. We have not always loved one another with Your kind of love. We've found ourselves unwilling or too timid to reconcile with those who have wronged us, or confess our wrongs to those we have wronged.

Forgive us, Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Show us Our steadfast love. Restore us and make our lives ready to be carriers of Your peace that comes to us through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST WE ARE FORGIVEN!

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH — APOSTLES' CREED (words on screen)

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

GOD COMES TO US IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

PREPARATION

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

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| WE SING | "Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service" | LSB #848 |
| | "How Deep the Fathers Love for Us" | |
| | "Take My Life and Let It Be" | LSB #784 |

**COMMUNION BLESSING
PRAYER**

CLOSING BLESSING

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| WE SING | "Love in Christ Is Strong and Living" | LSB #706 |
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OUR OFFERINGS

All that we have and all that we are, belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good! We pray: "Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You."

You can give online memoriallutheran.net or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.