

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025, 9:30A.M.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR

\* = Please stand as you are comfortable.

**Bold** type indicates congregational responses.

- **Welcome! No matter your background, circumstance, or footing in faith your presence is valued and celebrated as a part of the beloved community of God today.**
- Your generosity is appreciated and encouraged as it sustains and furthers the work of the congregation in the community and makes a difference in the lives of many. Gifts and offerings may be placed in the plate at the entrance before, during, or after the service. To give electronically, please visit [richfield-lutheran.org/give](http://richfield-lutheran.org/give)

### **As we Gather...**

Today in worship we hear the story in Genesis of elders, Abraham and Sarah, welcoming the miraculous birth of their son, Isaac, and the subsequent near sacrifice of Isaac. Both Abraham's faith and God's faithfulness are at stake in the story. Meanwhile the Gospel of John proclaims Jesus as the Lamb of God, interceding in love as the suffering servant with and for all people. We gather to witness and receive that same gift and faithfulness. We also celebrate with Avery and Reese Jepps as they receive the gift of Holy Baptism.

## **I. GATHERING**

### **PRELUDE**

PRIERE A NOTRE-DAME

BOELLMANN

*(The prelude gathers us in the Lord's presence. You are invited to center through it.)*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Psalm 118:1,24 (adapted)*

O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;

**God's steadfast love endures forever!**

This is the day that God has made

**Let us be glad and rejoice in it.**

### **WELCOME**

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, maker, redeemer, and life-giving renewer.

**Amen.**

Together let us confess all that has kept us from love of God and our neighbors as ourselves...

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Merciful God,

**we confess that we are bound to fall short of your perfect will. In the ways we have failed in thought, word, or deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone, we ask for your grace, forgiveness, and renewing Spirit. Instill in us again the power of your love so that we may follow and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ.**  
**Amen.**

God's steadfast love endures forever. In the Word made flesh, God's compassion is poured out completely in grace and mercy, and in the name of Christ ✠ you are forgiven and set free. Live now again in faith, hope, and love.  
**Amen.**

**\* GATHERING HYMN**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

**ELW #834**

**\* GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

**\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Gracious God, your faithfulness is shown through Jesus, who intercedes for us and grants us peace, hope, and the confidence in your loving presence. Deepen our trust in your promises, so that we may live in love and bear your generous heart to the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

*Fur Elise*  
Leo Schroeder

**Beethoven**

**FIRST READING: Genesis 21:1-6**

*(God fulfills God's promise to Abraham and Sarah with the birth of a son. Ironically, after their initial laughter at the promise, they name their son Isaac, which means "laughter.")*

The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. <sup>2</sup>Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. <sup>3</sup>Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. <sup>4</sup>And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup>Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup>Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 103:1-5, 15-18** *(read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.

<sup>2</sup>**Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,

<sup>4</sup>**who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

<sup>15</sup>**As for mortals, their days are like grass;  
they flourish like a flower of the field;**

<sup>16</sup>for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.

<sup>17</sup>**But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting  
on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,**

<sup>18</sup>to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.

## **SECOND READING: Genesis 22:1-14**

*(God "tests" Abraham's faith in a troubling command to sacrifice Isaac. In doing so, God's own faithfulness is on the line. Abraham's faith clings to hope that "God will provide the lamb.")*

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup> He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." <sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. <sup>4</sup> On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. <sup>5</sup> Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." <sup>6</sup> Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. <sup>7</sup> Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup> Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

<sup>9</sup> When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup> Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. <sup>11</sup> But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that

you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” <sup>13</sup> And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> So Abraham called that place “The LORD will provide,” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**p 151**

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

**\* GOSPEL: John 1:29**

*(Jesus centers his disciples’ calling in the love he will reveal in his suffering, death, and continued Spirit of loving presence toward them all in the resurrection.)*

The holy gospel according to John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup>The next day [John, the baptizer] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*Will the Promise Prevail?*

**Pastor Charlie Ruud**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us  
(Please stand for the final verse.)*

**ELW #789**

**SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM** – *Avery Lyn Jeppson and Reese Arlyn Jeppson*

**\* PEACE**

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

*(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace, and may say, “Peace be with you,” or similar words.)*

<b>II. THANKSGIVING</b>
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**CHOIR ANTHEM**

*We Gather Together*  
**Chancel Choir**

**\* OFFERTORY**

*Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

**ELW #864 v. 1**

**Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring.**

**Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!**

**\* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*After each petition:*

*...Merciful God,*

**Hear our prayer.**

**\* LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

<b>IV. SENDING</b>
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**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\* BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Triune God.

**Amen.**

**\* SENDING HYMN**

*How Great Thou Art*

**ELW #856**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*MINUET*

*BOELLMANN*

*(The postlude sends us out to be Christ's peace in the world. You are invited to savor it.)*

*Our service continues with sharing fellowship in Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall, across the hall; and then in the world with other neighbors.*

***Next Sunday in worship...***

*We hear the story from Genesis of one of Isaac's son's, Jacob, who uses trickery to steal his brother Esau's birthright and inheritance. Jacob then flees and, in a dream, sees the vision of a ladder between heaven and earth, famously referred to as "Jacob's ladder." Upon waking, God gives promise of blessing to Jacob. Jacob, it would seem, is quite undeserving of such grace.*

*What does that say about God? What does it mean then for us? Join next week to encounter this grace poured out anew for us.*

**THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS:**

Mon, September 15. John 3:13-17

Tues, September 16. Psalm 73

Wed, September 17. Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6

Thurs, September 18. Psalm 113

Fri, September 19. Romans 8:31-39

Sat, September 20. Mark 12:41-44

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