



9th Sunday after Pentecost
Augustana Lutheran
Church
July 26, 2026

Thank you for silencing your mobile device.
An asterisk (*) invites the congregation to stand.

Prelude

Shannon Peterson

GATHERING

Announcements

Announcement of the Day

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

***Opening Hymn** "Open Your Ears, O Faithful People" #519

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

***Greeting**

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

C: And also with you.

***Kyrie (p.120)**

***Prayer of the Day**

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷ And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Response to the Reading

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Special Music

The Hennemans

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

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

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

Response to the Reading

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation** (p.124)

***Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52**

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

***Gospel Announcement and Spoken Response**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it

was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; 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; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he 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 caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

***Spoken Gospel Response**

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon *Pickle Jar funds going to the Siouxland Foodbank*
Sermon Pastor Chuck Meyer

Silence for reflection

***Hymn of the Day**

“Be Thou My Vision” #793 v.1,3,4

***Apostles’ Creed**

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession —**

We pray for: Jeanne Alingh; Lily Bodammer; Jackson Bullock; Sheryl Dickey; Dan Graben; Terry Heck; Con Heider; Dennis Holton; Lois Irwin; Theresa Krusko; Joe LaScala; Benjamin Lindgren; Dave Lindgren; Terry McAllister; Becky Moos; Ollie Nygard; Kurt Peterson; Eden Roach; Dan Robinson; Shelly Schossow; Jill Simonson; Marge Swanson; Josh Wingert; and those affected by disasters and diseases throughout the world. We pray for all of the caregivers that give of their time and gentle care for those who are ill. We also pray for the families of the church: Jerry and Sue Levay; Jeff, Marlene, Chris, and Robyn Levine; Paul and

Kathleen Lindblom; Dick Lindblom; David and Linda Lindgren.

A: God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

***Sharing of the Peace**

OFFERING

***Offering Prayer**

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,

so that all creation can taste your abundance.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,

through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

Amen.

MEAL

***Great Thanksgiving** (p.129)

***Proper Preface**

***Sanctus** (p.130)

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer** (p.134)

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

***Invitation to Holy Communion**

P: Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast!

C: Thanks be to God.

Lamb of God (p.135)

Distribution—*We believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the Supper of our Lord, in the forms of bread and wine. We also believe that admission to the sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper at Augustana Lutheran Church. Receive the bread in your hands. Gluten free hosts are available if you prefer. The wine will be served in a small glass. Grape juice is available if you prefer. Those who do not partake of Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

Distribution Hymns

"Gather Us In"

#532

"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

#533

***Post-Communion Blessing**

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

***Blessing**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

† one God,

bless, heal, and hold you

today and always,

Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“In Thee Is Gladness” #867 v.1

***Dismissal**

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Shannon Peterson

From sundaysandseasons.com

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GOD’S LOVE MADE REAL!

Today, Sunday, July 26 Worship Leaders—Presiding Minister: Pastor Chuck Meyer; Assisting Minister: Shelley Hexom; Musician: Shannon Peterson; Technical Assistant: Team Hexom; Altar Guild: Debbie and Terry McAllister; Acolyte: Elie Iversen

Sunday, August 2 Worship Leaders—Presiding Minister: Pastor Chuck Meyer; Assisting Minister: Marlene Levine; Musician: Angela Iversen; Technical Assistant: Team Iversen; Altar Guild: Debbie and Terry McAllister; Acolyte: Klara Winter

Attendance for Sunday, July 19—39

July Benevolence—Don't forget to grab school supplies for students at Irving Elementary School!

'Coffee Forever' Fundraiser—ELCA Lutheran Churches in Sioux City are participating in a project to provide "Coffee Forever" for The Warming Shelter. The Warming Shelter offers low-barrier shelter and compassionate support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Siouxland. Church members, neighbors, and friends are encouraged to donate packaged or canned coffee (ground coffee, not whole bean). "Coffee Forever" bins are now located at the 8 Sioux City ELCA Lutheran churches. Participating churches are Augustana, First, Riverside, St. John, St. Luke, St. Mark, and United. Donations will be accepted at the churches on Sunday mornings, and on weekdays during church office hours. This ongoing support of the work of The Warming Shelter has begun, and is scheduled to last... forever!

This week at Augustana

Sunday, July 26, 2026

11:00am Holy Communion

Next week at Augustana

Sunday, August 2, 2026

11:00am Holy Communion

Wednesday, August 5, 2026

10:00am Women's Bible Study

Welcome to all visitors; we've been expecting you! Please worship with us regularly! If you are looking for a church home and would like to attend a new member class, please check the appropriate box on the Fellowship Register as you sign in. The register can be found in three places in the narthex as you enter the nave. Please sign it and check the appropriate boxes.

There are several ways to find out more about Augustana! Copies of the *Trumpeter*, Augustana's monthly newsletter, are available in the entryway for visitors. Look for us on the web at www.augustanasc.org. Check us out on Facebook! Augustana Lutheran, Sioux City is the name of our page.

Congregational Mission Statement

A welcoming, caring congregation offering opportunities for
worship, spiritual growth, and fellowship.

We express our faith and love to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

