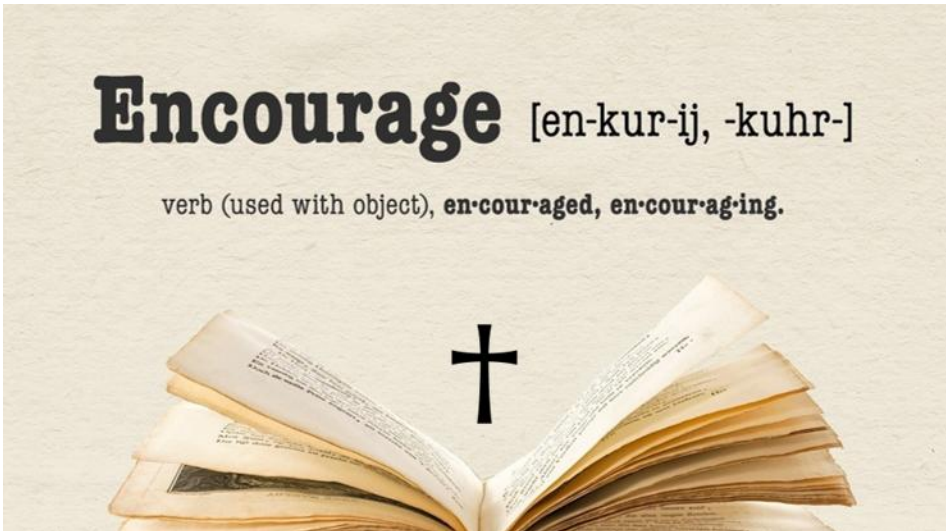




Serving Christ & Community! Serving you!



**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Celebration Worship
September 26/27, 2026**

As We Gather

From the beginning, God implanted His life-creating power into His creation with the command “Be fruitful and multiply” to animals (Genesis 1:22) and to humans (1:28), with one important difference. You are not an accident or only a product of biology. Every human being is a personal soul. So we confess, “I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them” (Small Catechism, Creed, Explanation of the First Article). Because of our inherited sin, however, “the soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). Nevertheless, God’s design is for life—eternal life. He declares, “I have no pleasure in the death of anyone” (18:32). Because God so loves you, He sent His Son to take away your sin by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Therefore, “we preach Christ crucified, . . . the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:23–24). Christ died to sin for you. By Holy Baptism, you died with Christ and are raised to new life in Him. The love of God is yours today by faith in the cross of Jesus Christ. The Father’s declaration of Jesus now becomes yours: “My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

Please Stand

Gathering Songs

“This Is Our God”

Verse 1

Remember those walls that we called sin
and shame
They were like prisons that we couldn’t
escape
But He came and He died and He rose
Those walls are rubble now
Remember those giants we called death
and grave
They were like mountains that stood in
our way
But He came and He died and He rose
Those giants are dead now

Chorus

This is our God this is who He is
He loves us
This is our God this is what He does
He saves us
He bore the cross beat the grave
Let heaven and earth proclaim
This is our God King Jesus
(last time to ending)

Verse 2

Remember that fear that took our
breath away
Faith so weak that we could barely pray
But He heard every word every whisper

Now those altars in the wilderness
Tell the story of His faithfulness
Never once did He fail and He never will

Chorus

Bridge 1

Who pulled me out of that pit
He did He did
Who paid for all of our sin
Nobody but Jesus

(Repeat Bridge 1)

Bridge 2

Who rescued me from that grave
Yahweh Yahweh
Who gets the glory and praise
Nobody but Jesus (Him)

(Repeat Bridge2, Chorus)

Ending

He bore the cross beat the grave
Let heaven and earth proclaim
This is our God King Jesus

CCLI Song # 7211413 Brandon Lake | Pat Barrett | Phil Wickham | Steven Furtick © Capitol CMG Genesis; Housefires Sounds; Brandon Lake Music; Music by Elevation Worship Publishing; Phil Wickham Music; Simply Global Songs For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved.

“Our God”

Verse 1

Water You turned into wine
Opened the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You
None like You

Verse 2

Into the darkness You shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You

Chorus

Our God is greater
Our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is healer

Awesome in power our God our God
(repeat Verse 2, Chorus)

Interlude

Bridge

And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
And if our God is for us
Then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us
Then what could stand against
What could stand against

Chorus 2x

Bridge

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Opening Song

“What An Awesome God”

Verse 1

God is great give Him all the praise
Hallelujah Name above all Names
Fire in His eyes healing in His veins
Everywhere His glory on display
Take a look at those stars He can
name them all
Before His throne every knee falls
The demons have to run the angels
have to praise
Even the wind and waves obey

Chorus 1

Our God is an awesome God
He reigns from heaven above
With wisdom power and love
Our God is an awesome God

Repeat Chorus

Verse 2

And even when I ran He didn't run away
He came and put death back in its place
Friday on a cross broken for my shame
Sunday morning rose up from that grave
Take a look at those scars on His hands
and feet

He saved our souls for eternity
Worthy is the Lamb glory to the King
Oh let all the saints and the angels sing
(Chorus 1- 2x)

Verse 3

Eyes on the sky there will be a day
He will come and wipe our tears away
No more fear no more pain
No more sorrow sin or shame
The King is coming back again
A reign of love that will never end
For everything You've done and
everything You do
And everything You are I'll sing to You

Chorus 2

My God You're an awesome God
You're great in all You do
I'm made to worship You
My God You're an awesome God (pause)
(Repeat Chorus 1- 4x)

Tag

Our God is an awesome God
Our God what an awesome God

CCLI Song # 7255825 Jonathan Smith | Phil Wickham | Richard Mullins © 2025 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing; Be Essential Songs; Cashagamble Jet Music; Phil Wickham Music; Simply Global Songs For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use.

Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P I will go to the altar of God,
C **to God my exceeding joy.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us.
C **This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.**

Confession and Absolution

- P** God invites His whole creation to the great feast of His salvation. That we may boldly enter into His gates of mercy, let us lift up our prayer of repentance and faith.
- C** **Lord God, heavenly Father, with thanksgiving for Your great love and promise of new life and hope for living, we confess to You all our sins, our waywardness, our neglect of Your call, as well as our failure to be of help to our neighbor and one another. We humbly pray, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew and cleanse our hearts and minds, and give us true faith in Your promised grace and deliverance.**
- P** The feast of God's salvation has already begun for you by your Baptism into Christ. Now receive the Lord's abiding forgiveness, faith, strength, and help to live in the certain hope of eternal life in fellowship with Him: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Please be Seated

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

18 The word of the Lord came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

²⁵ "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶ When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷ Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸ Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ³⁰ "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 2:1-18

2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and

under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

Please Stand

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

²³ And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I

tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I will, sir,' but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord

[C] Praise to You, O Christ

The Apostles Creed

[C] 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.

Message Song

"Crown Him (Majesty)"

Verse 1

Crown Him with many crowns
The Lamb upon His throne
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own
Awake my soul and sing
Of Him who died for me
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity

Chorus

Majesty Lord of all
Let ev'ry throne before Him fall
The King of kings
O come adore
Our God who reigns forevermore
(forevermore)

(2x to Bridge)

Verse 2

Crown Him the Lord of life

Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save
His glories now we sing
Who died and rose on high
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die

Chorus

Bridge

All hail Redeemer hail
For He has died for me
His praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity

(REPEAT)

Chorus, Key Change, Chorus

Ending

Praise God who reigns forevermore
You're the God who reigns forevermore

CCLI Song # 6463818 Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash | George Job Elvey | Godfrey Thring | Matt Maher | Matthew Bridges
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Sermon

"Encouragement in Christ"

(Philippians 2:1-18)

- I. In the world: we _____ what a person _____.
- II. In Christ: we _____ who a person _____.
- III. _____ is one of the great enemies of faith
- IV. We can genuinely give thanks in everything because God is at work in _____!

Offering (Please place in the Box located in the Narthex)

Kid's Church



Prayer of the Church

P Almighty God, we give You thanks for all Your goodness and loving kindness that You have bestowed on us as Your own creation. For Your whole creation and the blessings of this life, we give You praise and thanks. Continue Your gift of life and grant that all look to You as their Creator and Giver of life through the gift of Your redemption in Christ Jesus, the Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Grant Your blessing and guidance on Your holy church in this world to be the beacon of the light of Your salvation for all who look to You for the salvation of their souls and for every help in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Send upon the ministers of Your church and the congregations committed to their care the healthful spirit of Your grace, making all pastors diligent to preach Your Holy Word, and send Your people faithful obedience that they be comforted and strengthened in faith and do all things that are well pleasing to You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Guide and direct the governments of all nations to seek the ways of Your will in peace and justice, especially in the face of any and all adversity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Help all who call upon You in any need, that they have patience in times of sorrow or suffering and be released from their afflictions. **[We especially lift up...]** Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We remember before You all those who have loved and served You and who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your saints and bring us at last

to the joys of Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 179

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.**

Sending Song

"The Only Name (Yours Will Be)"

Verse 1

Yours will be the only Name that
Matters to me
The only One Whose favor I seek
The only Name that matters to me

Verse 2

Yours will be the friendship and affection
I need
To feel my Father smiling on me
The only Name that matters to me

Chorus

And Yours is the Name the Name
that saved me
Mercy and grace the power that
forgave me
And Your love is all I've ever needed

Verse 1, Chorus

Bridge 1

When I wake up in the land of glory
With the saints I will tell my story
There will be one Name that I
Proclaim

Repeat Bridge 1

Interlude

La la la la la la la la la la
La la la la la la la la la la
La la la la la la la la la la la

Bridge 2

Jesus Jesus Jesus just that Name

(REPEAT)

Repeat Bridge 1 - 2x

Repeat Interlude 3x

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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 ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen**

Silent Prayer: Jesus, let my life bear your imprint that I may live joyful. Grant me, also, a grateful and thankful spirit which promotes peace, health, and godly encouragement to all. Amen.

Announcements

Postlude

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We would love to get to know you. Scanning the QR Code will allow you to share your contact information so we can better serve your needs.



REMEMBER OUR MISSIONARIES: (A card of encouragement is always welcomed)

L.W.M.L./WOMEN'S SOCIETY TIM (Together In Mission)

†Supporting: Danelle Putnam Schumann & husband Carlos Schumann, Apartada 1356, Santiago, Dominican Republic.

Danelle.Putnam@lcms.org lcms.org/international lcms.org/putnam

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ST. JOHN'S TIM (Together in Mission):

Rev. Carl & Chenhsi Hanson with Emma, Andrea, and Lydia serving in Seoul South Korea as Pastor at International Lutheran Church. 148 Hannam-daero, Yongsan-gu, Seoul, South Korea 04417

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MY FRIEND'S CLOSET THRIFT STORE TIM (Together in Mission)

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David Offermann,
Director of Family Life 815-821-4034
Sid Kemmis, Lay Minister 309-236-5061
Michelle Rothschadl, Parish Assistant & Director
of Celebration Worship 815-275-0397
Chris Winter, Ministry Assistant.....815-291-6994
Lisa Lobdell, Organist 815-275-5165
Ruth Maedge, Choir Director 815-238-1595
Sharon Thompson, Accompanist 815-493-8347
Joy Shaw, Handbell Director 573-987-8421

STAY CONNECTED

www.stjohnslena.org
Facebook: St Johns Lena

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday at 5:30 pm

Sunday at 8:00 am

Sunday at 9:15 am – Education Hour

Sunday at 10:30 am

**Acoustic – 4th Sunday 10:30 service*

BIBLE EDUCATION

Sunday at 9:15 am

Adults w/ the Pastor – Luke



Pre-School/Kindergarten
Jr. High & High School
WDS and **BLAST**
Women In the Word

1st and 3rd Monday's at 3:00 & 6:00 pm

Bible Journaling – Mark

Tuesday's 10:00 am

Stitching Blessings – Mark

Wednesday at 9:30 am

Women's Bible Study – Luke

Friday at 6:30 am

Men's Breakfast Bible Study – Fellowship H.

***See Church Calendar & Newsletter for
additional studies and gatherings!***

COMMUNITY

Church Van: If you live in Lena and would like a ride to the 10:30 am service, please call the church office.

My Friends Closet: Visit our thrift store for heavenly deals! 511 W Lena St, Lena, IL 61048. [\(815\) 369-4527](tel:8153694527)

Adult Day Care: Visit our "Friendship Center" to care for your loved ones. 311 N Lake Rd, Lena, IL 61048. [\(815\) 369-2690](tel:8153692690)

SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEK –September 26/27

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Donny Fox	Mike Rothschadl	Kevin Keltner
GREETERS	Cliff/ Karen Klenke	Dennis Potter	Steve/ Julie Lotz
USHERS	Jon Werkheiser	Heath Harbach	Derek Tessendorf
ACOLYTES	Usher	Everly Keeffer	Tate Tessendorf
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Barb Harbach/ Evan Zier	Carsten Wade/ Sam Cobine
ALTAR GUILD	Karen Spinhirne/ Jodi Zeal	Karen Spinhirne/ Jodi Zeal	Karen Spinhirne/ Jodi Zeal

SERVING THE LORD NEXT WEEK – October 3/4

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Donny Fox/ Don Bamberg	Dave Thompson/ Jeff Jones/ Denny Potter	Brett Richardson/ Rob Cobine/ Mark Mau
GREETERS	Larry/ Eleanor Maaske	Barb Harbach/ Glenda Potter	Rob/ Laura Cobine
USHERS	Neal Wagner	Steve Stich	Hudson Winter
ACOLYTES	Usher	Blaine Drake/ Evelyn Tessendorf	Max Winter/ Layne Richardson
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Gary Erickson/ Jeff Jones	Ron Conway/ Steve Levan
ALTAR GUILD	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles