

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, August 9, 2026
10:30 AM

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
901 East Stroop Road
Kettering, Ohio 45429
(937) 298-0136

INTRODUCTION

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

SILENCING THE WIND

In a world filled with noise and empty words, God comes to us as stillness and silence, even to the point that wind ceases (Matt. 14:32). Jesus walks over stormy waters to his disciples, entering their boat and being present with them despite their fears and doubts. Today's readings encourage us to keep our words spare and meaningful, to lay aside our little faith with its wordy worries, and to listen for God, who comes to us as quieting comfort.

The wind blows us powerfully, frighteningly, making even familiar places seem strange, stirring up the water to obscure our vision and make our journey fearful and slow. Today Jesus comes to us in our drowning panic, quickly responding to our "Lord, save me!" (v. 30). The "little faith" (v. 31) of Peter (and our little faith) is not only a chiding to "do better" in our faith lives and respond to Jesus' call with discipline. It holds room for forgiveness. Even when we risk and screw up anyway, God's hand is there to reach out and catch us.

To command even the wind to be still is a powerful thing. If a very strong wind suddenly stopped near one of us, we would probably panic, wondering who did it, whether it was the calm eye of a storm, or whether a still bigger tornado is coming. But Jesus walked out upon the water and helped Peter in his fear to return to the boat's safety and security. Jesus gives powerful reassurance and the gift of presence. God is not distant from our fears, but close to keep us safe.

*** indicates to stand as you are able.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Mallory Morris

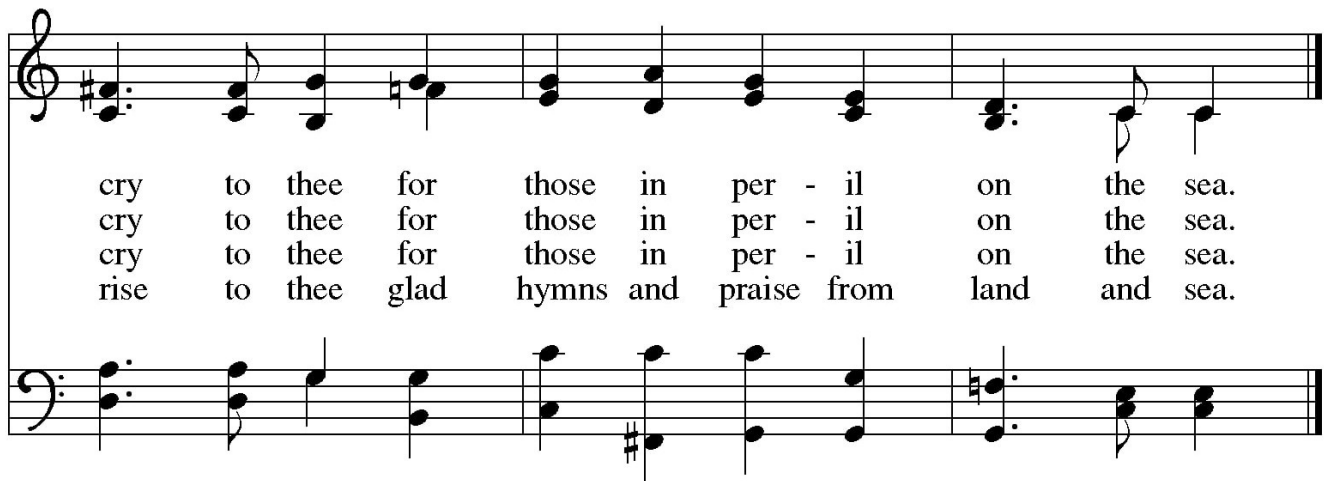
CALL TO WORSHIP

"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



OPENING LITANY

Children of God, some of us come today with songs of joy, rejoicing at all God has done for us.

We give thanks for God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Some of us come today with songs of mourning in our hearts, feeling the weight of loss, isolation, and loneliness.

We find comfort in God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

Some of us come today with songs of worry and distress, overwhelmed by the troubles and the sufferings of the world.

We find comfort in God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

In our joy, our sorrow, our isolation, and our worry, God is faithful!

We come to sing God's praises, for in all things, God's steadfast love and faithfulness never fail.



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.



All of my days I want to praise the won-ders of your might-y love.



My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow-er of ref - uge and strength;



let ev-'ry breath, all that I am nev-er cease to wor-ship you.



Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow-er and maj - es - ty, praise



to the King. Moun-tains bow down and the seas will roar at the



sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;



for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.



Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

"Holy Forever"

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

A thousand generations falling down in worship
To sing the song of ages to the Lamb,
And all who've gone before us
And all who will believe
Will sing the song of ages to the Lamb.
Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all;
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.

(Refrain - All)

**And the angels cry, "Holy."
All creation cries, "Holy."
You are lifted high, Holy,
Holy forever.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

If you've been forgiven and if you've been redeemed,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
If you walk in freedom and if you bear his name,
Sing the song forever to the Lamb.
We'll sing the song forever and amen.

(Refrain - All)

**And the angels cry, "Holy."
All creation cries, "Holy."
You are lifted high, Holy,
Holy forever.**

**Hear your people sing, "Holy,"
To the King of Kings "Holy."
You will always be Holy,
Holy forever.**

(Music Ministers)

Your name is the highest,
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all;

All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.

(Music Ministers / All)
Jesus, **your name is the highest,**
Your name is the greatest,
Your name stands above them all;
All thrones and dominions,
All powers and positions,
Your name stands above them all.

(Refrain - All / Music Ministers)
And the angels cry, "Holy."
All creation cries, "Holy."
You are lifted high, Holy,
Holy forever.

Hear your people sing, "Holy,"
To the King of Kings "Holy."
You will always be Holy,
Holy forever.

You will always be Holy,
Holy forever.

"Cornerstone"

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers / All)
My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' name.

(Refrain - All)

**Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.**

(Verse 2 - All)

**When darkness seems to hide his face,
I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.**

(Refrain - All)

**Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.
He is Lord, Lord of all.**

**Christ alone. Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm, he is Lord, Lord of all.**

(Verse 3 - All)

**When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh may I then in him be found,
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
Faultless stand before the throne.**

**** CONFESSION**

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, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**** FORGIVENESS**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Assisting Minister

O God our defender, **storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**** PASSING OF THE PEACE**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture-reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

A reading from First Kings, the nineteenth chapter.

At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness shall go before the Lord
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

SECOND READING

Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

A reading from Romans, the tenth chapter.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without

someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

**** GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH MESSAGE

MESSAGE

Pastor Mallory Morris

**** APOSTLES' CREED**

**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 power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
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.**

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

God of New Beginnings,
We thank you for all that we've done and experienced this summer:
Chances to rest, play, travel, and explore.
And now we thank you for the beginning of a new school year.
For our students here and everywhere,
We pray for calm nerves, good teachers, new friends, new chances to grow.
We pray you'll be with them
Through every minute of the day.
For our teachers, and staff,
We pray for renewed passion, abundant energy, and the wisdom to know
How best to teach, love, and serve their students and schools.
We pray you'll make your love and presence known
In every decision and action.
We pray for new memories, new connections, and new chances
To see how much you love us all.
We ask all these things
In Jesus' name,
Amen.

**** PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Assisting Minister

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Each petition concludes:

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Assisting Minister

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

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**** DIALOGUE**

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

**** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this

for the remembrance of me.” Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

**** LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast!

For those communing at home or in the pew:

COMMUNION — *Receiving the Lord’s tangible presence*

The body of Christ given for you.

The blood of Christ shed for you.

Each person may respond: **Amen.**

Communion Statement ~ We believe that the communion table is not Pr. Mallory’s table, Good Shepherd Lutheran’s table, or even the ELCA’s table. This is God’s table. And because this is God’s table, we believe that anyone who wishes to receive communion can come forward and do so without condition or qualification.

Please note that we provide a non-alcoholic option (white) for those who do not want to partake of the communion wine (red). We also have gluten-free wafers available for those who need them. Simply let Pr. Mallory and the communion assistants know that you need something different when they come to you.

If anyone wishes to come forward and receive a blessing instead of communion elements, you are welcome to come forward to the communion rails with your arms crossed over your chest in the shape of an “X” instead.

If mobility concerns make it difficult to come forward for communion, you can alert the ushers, and they will let Pr. Mallory know to come to you.

REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION

As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ and ponder the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work in us and through us each and every day.

** TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assisting Minister

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 OF COMMUNION

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent. The presiding minister may lead this prayer of sending.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

** BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always. **Amen.**

**** SENDING SONG**

“Only a God Like You”

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

For the praises of man
I will never ever stand;
For the kingdoms of this world
I'll never give my heart away
Or shout my praise.
My allegiance and devotion,
My heart's desire and all emotion
Go to serve the Man
Who died upon that tree.

(Refrain - Music Ministers)

Only a God like you
Could be worthy of my praise
And all my hope and faith;
To only a King of all kings
Do I bow my knee and sing,
Give my ev'rything.
Only a God like you
Could be worthy of my praise
And all my hope and faith;
To only a King of all kings
Do I bow my knee and sing,
Give my ev'rything.
To only my Maker, my Father, my Savior,
Redeemer, Restorer, Rebuilder, Rewarder -
To only a God like you
Do I give my praise.

(Verse 2 - All)

**For the praises of man
I will never ever stand;
For the kingdoms of this world
I'll never give my heart away
Or shout my praise.**

**My allegiance and devotion,
My heart's desire and all emotion
Go to serve the Man
Who died upon that tree.**

(Refrain - All)

**Only a God like you
Could be worthy of my praise
And all my hope and faith;
To only a King of all kings
Do I bow my knee and sing,
Give my ev'rything.**

**Only a God like you
Could be worthy of my praise
And all my hope and faith;
To only a King of all kings
Do I bow my knee and sing,
Give my ev'rything.**

**To only my Maker, my Father, my Savior,
Redeemer, Restorer, Rebuilder, Rewarder -
To only a God like you
Do I give my praise.**

(Verse 3 - Music Ministers)

**Only the God who left his throne above,
He came to live with us,
Came to be one of us;
To only the One
Who stopped to heal that blind man,
Took the time to save that one lost lamb;
To only the King who wore that crown of thorns
So I could wear the crown of life;
And to only the One who conquered sin and death
So we could be set free,
So we could stand here and sing.**

(Bridge - Music Ministers / All)

Only a God like you,

Only a God like you,
Only a God like you.

Only a God like you,
Only a God like you,
Only a God like you.

**Only a God like you,
Only a God like you,
Only a God like you.**

**Only a God like you,
Only a God like you,
Only a God like you.**

**(Ending - All)
To only my Maker, my Father, my Savior,
Redeemer, Restorer, Rebuilder, Rewarder -
To only a God like you
Do I give my praise.**

**** DISMISSAL**

Assisting Minister

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
**Created, saved and gifted by god,
we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ. Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“W + 2” = WORSHIP PLUS TWO

**MAKE A COMMITMENT NOT ONLY TO WORSHIP EACH WEEK,
BUT ALSO TRY TO FIND A WAY TO SERVE IN THE CONGREGATION
AND SEEK OUT A WAY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.**

YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258

Monday, August 10, 2026

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.

Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs

Friday, August 14, 2026

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Saturday, August 15, 2026

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.