



Service of Worship for the Lord's Day September 6, 2026 Ordinary 23

*those able, please stand. Prayers written by Pastor Joseph.

PRELUDE "Softly and Tenderly" Mark Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP *adapted from Psalm 149*

Leader: Praise the LORD!

People: Sing to the LORD a new song!

Leader: Praise God's name with dance!

People: Because the LORD is pleased with his people,

Leader: The faithful celebrate with glory,

People: That will be an honor for all God's faithful people.

All: Let us worship God!

HYMN 401 Here in This Place

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION *adapted from Romans 13*

Guide: Heavenly Father, you are our redeemer, who cancels our debts and holds us only to the obligation to love one another.

People: Your commandments point us toward love, towards living as faithful neighbors. Your love, reflected in our lives on this earth, fulfills the Law.

Guide: We know your love is within and among us. We know our salvation is nearer than when we first had faith. Yet we don't behave appropriately.

People: We plan ways to indulge our selfish desires and engage in fighting and obsession. Forgive us, O God. Rid us of the actions that belong to the darkness and teach us to put on the weapons of light.

- Silent Confessions -

Guide: Lord God, we belong to you, and live in your light. Help us to set aside selfish desires and clothe us in the grace of Jesus Christ, so all might see your steadfast love displayed in our lives.

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL *from John 3*

Guide: God didn't send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

CHORAL RESPONSE *(in unison)*

#582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

FAMILY SERMON Pastor Joseph

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reader: Heavenly Father, if you had only forgiven our sins, that would have been enough, but you have also given us the gift of Holy Scripture. As we read its words, speak your Word to us, that we might feel your presence and know your will. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 119:33-40

Reader: LORD, teach me what your statutes are about, and I will guard every part of them.

People: Help me understand so I can guard your Instruction and keep it with all my heart.

Reader: Lead me on the train of your commandments, because that is what I want.

People: Turn my heart to your laws, not to greedy gain.

Reader: Turn my eyes away from looking at worthless things. Make me live by your

way.

People: Confirm your promise to your servant - the promise that is for all those who honor you.

Reader: Remove the insults that I dread because your rules are good.

People: Look how I desire your precepts! Make me live by your righteousness.

Reader: This is the Word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God!

Matthew 17:1-8

Reader: Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and brought them to the top of a very high mountain. He was transformed in front of them.

People: His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light.

Reader: Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus. Peter reacted to all of this by saying to Jesus,

People: "Lord, it's good that we're here. If you want, I'll make three shrines, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Reader: While he was still speaking, look, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice from the cloud said,

People: "This is my Son whom I dearly love. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!"

Reader: Hearing this, the disciples fell on their faces, filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid."

People: When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

Reader: This is the Word of the LORD.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

SERMON "Listen to Him!" Pastor Joseph

HYMN #692 Spirit, Open My Heart

OFFERTORY "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" David Cherwien

***OFFERING** (in unison) “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”
*God, Whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store,
Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, Costly cross, grave’s shattered door:
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ’s ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.*

DEDICATION (unison)

All: We give you but thine own, great God, whatever that gift may be. Use these offerings in the sight of all your people so that we might do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, as your disciples. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation to the table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with You.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God...

Therefore we join our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever praise your name, saying,

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Holy God, we thank you for...

We ask all this in the name of your son our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying, **“Our Father, who art in heaven...”** (The Lord’s Prayer p. 35 debts/debtors)

Affirmation of Faith: From “A Brief Statement of Faith”

Pastor: Beloved of the LORD, to whom do we belong, and in whom do we trust?

All: In life and in death we belong to God. Through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve.

Pastor: We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

All: Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world.

Pastor: God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

All: With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Words of Institution

Communion

Prayer After Communion

Vision & Mission

Pastor: The mission of Erin Church is to belong to the diverse family in Christ;

People: to love and accept all as God's children;

Pastor: to become disciples who embody and share the gospel;

People: and to serve our church and beyond.

All: Unified in Christ, we actively seek to create harmony in a diverse community through compassion, mutual respect, and love.

CLOSING HYMN 726 Will You Come and Follow Me

BENEDICTION Pastor Joseph

DOXOLOGY (in unison) #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

***Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

POSTLUDE "Prelude in Classic Style" Gordon Young

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Last week was listening, this week is anticipating. Specifically we are anticipating the end of everything broken and wrong in the world and the restoration of the full goodness of all creation. Where have you seen compassion in the world? How is God's mercy and faithful love already breaking through in our life together?

MONDAY Psalm 121

TUESDAY Exodus 13:1-10

WEDNESDAY Proverbs 2:1-12

THURSDAY I John 3:11-16

FRIDAY Genesis 45:1-20

SATURDAY Matthew 18:21-35

SUNDAY Psalm 103:1-13