

**Offertory - *My Jesus, I Love Thee***

**Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below.  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, our gifts are small next to all that you have given us. Take our gifts, LORD, and make them holy, so that they may help to feed the hungry, grow the church, and share your Light with a world lost in darkness. Amen.

**Closing Hymn**

*How Firm a Foundation*  
v. 1, 3, 5 #361 Presbyterian Hymnal

**Benediction**

**Song of Sending**

*They'll Know We are Christians*  
v. 1 #429 Celebration Hymnal

Pastor: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

**The Postlude**

The People of God Gathered to Worship As  
**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WEST SALEM**

**September 14, 2025**  
**14th Sunday After Pentecost**

**Prelude – *I Will Sing Of The Mercies***

**Welcome**

**Prayer Requests**

**Minute For Missions**

**Choral Call to Worship**

**Opening Hymn**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*  
v. 1, 3, 5 #473 Presbyterian Hymnal

**Prayers of the People and the LORD'S Prayer**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **Passing of the Peace**

Let us greet one another as forgiven sinners  
with the peace of Christ:

*“May the Peace of our LORD Jesus Christ be with you!  
And also, with you.”*

## **Hymn of Illumination**

*Open Our Eyes, LORD*  
v. 1 #633 Celebration Hymnal

## **First Scripture Reading**

**John 3:13-17** - See Insert

## **A Moment with the Children – God Loves The World**

## **Anthem – Grace**

## **Second Scripture Reading**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-24** - See Insert

## **Prayer Of Illumination**

**Sermon – Love Confuses Everyone Pastor Dan McCurdy**

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Holy God, Merciful Savior, we come to you in a time of fear and doubt. You have filled us with the power of your Holy Spirit, but often we fail to live and walk as those you have empowered. We chase the “wisdom” of the world, because we do not understand your wisdom. We have done things you bid us not to do, and we leave undone the things you call us to. Help us live into the Spirit, and be the bright lights on the hill you call us to be, and hear us as we lift our silent confessions up to you.**

## **Moment of Silent Confession**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

## **Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
And to the Holy Ghost.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.  
World without end. Amen, Amen.**

## **Affirmation of Faith**

*(The Apostles Creed)*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.**

## **Presentation of Tithes, Offerings, and Gifts**

The Gifts of God are all around us, our lives and our homes, our talents and our joys, our family and friends, and the greatest gift of all was the Salvation promised, the life of Christ seeking to end our division from God and each other. When we give, we do not do so to purchase anything... for the gifts of God were already given. Instead, we give in imitation of our LORD, offering what we have to support others, and to be ourselves the gift that God gives the World, so let us worship God with our Giving.

## **First Scripture Reading**

**John 3:13-17**

**<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.**

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

**1 Corinthians 1:18-24**

**<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

**Nursery Available – 4k and under only  
Not staffed**

September 14, 2025 Worship Team	
<b>Liturgist</b>	Elsa Wolbrink
<b>Musicians</b>	Caroline Sells
<b>Sound Room</b>	Carter Hill
<b>Choir &amp; Handbells Director</b>	Vicki Arndt
<b>Usher</b>	Kelly Crusan

**Tithes and Offerings**

Donations can be mailed to:

**Presbyterian Church of West Salem**

**PO Box 861**

**West Salem, WI 54669**

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***Tabitha Circle  
Resumes September 15<sup>th</sup>  
11:30am-2:30pm  
Bring A Lunch***

***Exercise Group  
Tuesdays and Fridays  
9:00 to 10:00 am  
Fellowship Hall***

***The ongoing mission of The Presbyterian Women is to support the Salvation Army and WINN (What I Need Now) collecting needed items (lists are on tables and Lamplighter). All items can be placed in the purple tote at the back of the sanctuary. Money donations are accepted as well.***

**Support the West Salem Food Pantry  
Please bring food and home donations  
and place them in the shopping carts  
between the entryway doors.**

**Community Dinner  
Wednesday, September 24th  
5-6pm**

**Community Dinner Update**

**Our dinner has been a big part of our church mission the past 20 years and a few people have shown interest in continuing it but don't want to be solely in charge. If you are one of those, please contact Pastor Dan or Diana Engel. We would like to schedule a time to meet sometime in September.**

**Sunday Schools will resume on  
September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 am**

**Youth Choir rehearsals will begin on Sunday, September 28th following worship in the Chapel area. This is for all youth 3rd to 8th grades. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki Arndt.**

**Blood Drive  
September 29<sup>th</sup>  
11:30am-4:30pm  
Fellowship Hall**

**2026 Fall Stewardship Letters  
have been sent out.  
Pledge box is on table  
at back of sanctuary  
Please return pledge cards  
By October 12th**