

Pentecost 14

September 14, 2025

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 19 (Year C)

In our sinfulness and rebellion, we humans are prone to wandering away from God. However, as St. Paul proclaimed to his son in the faith, Timothy, Christ came to save the lost and sinful so that all might know his love and mercy. Like sheep who are easily led astray, God will shepherd us back into the fold of his mercy. He will seek those who are lost — even leaving the flock to do so — just so that one stray will be rescued.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Ezekiel 34:11-24**God Will Shepherd His People**

In response to those who were called to shepherd his people, but didn't, God declared through the prophet that He would be the judge between sheep and sheep, rams and goats. He would rescue those that have been scattered and be their shepherd himself.

Psalms 119:169-176**Gone Astray Like a Lost Sheep**

The psalmist sang of God's deliverance in a time when he had gone astray from the Lord like a sheep lost and alone. Now, he said, he will never forget the Lord's commandments and asks that God would seek him.

Second Lesson: 1 Timothy 1:(5-11) 12-17**Christ Came to Save Sinners**

In Paul's letter to his young friend Timothy, he reminds him that Christ came for the lost and sinners so that they might be saved — identifying himself as the foremost of sinners. Christ's perfect patience is displayed in those who believe.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 15:1-10**The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin**

As tax collectors and sinners gathered around Jesus, the judgmental grumblings of the religious leaders prompted him to tell three stories of those who were lost. The two that show up in the scope of this reading concern a lost sheep sought by a shepherd and a lost coin searched for in the dark of night. Both the sheep and the coin were one among many, but Jesus emphasizes that each was important and worth the effort to locate and restore to its place.

Suggestions for the Day:

- * The liturgical color is green.
- * The Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise may be used during Ordinary Time.
- * Use the Apostles' Creed
- * With children, talk about how you've lost two different things. One is something very important to you. The other is something rather insignificant but you simply want to find it because it bothers you that you do not know where you put it. Ask the kids if they've ever lost something and spent a good deal of time searching for it. After discussing this, ask them, "Do you think God looks for us because he's annoyed that he can't find us? Or is it because we are precious to him?"

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Amazing Grace	448	---	744	779	199	199
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing	499	---	686	807	227	227
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	526	---	802	834	40	40
Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak	403	---	---	676	267	267
Chief of Sinners Though I Be	306	---	611	609	187	187
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	481	---	711	789	205	205
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	456	---	709	502	198	198
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	290	---	---	587	186	186
Softly and Tenderly	---	734	---	608	177	177
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation	367	747	909	645	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone
(CCLI# 4768151)
Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)
(CCLI# 7019974)
Jesus, We Love You
(CCLI#7030268)
Sinking Deep
(CCLI#6605236)
Come As You Are
(CCLI#7017790)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.