

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool
October 1, 2023
18th Sunday After Pentecost
Rev. Gail Heidtke

Website: ChristLutheranVH.org

Twitter: @ChristLuthVH

Facebook: /ChristLutheranVH

Church: 847-367-5787
ChristLutheranVH@aol.com

Preschool: 847-367-5791
CLCPreschool@aol.com

Member of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
(ELCA – www.elca.org)



All Are Welcome – All the Time!

You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to participate in any part of worship. If you wish to take communion, we ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus. His body and blood were given and shed for you.



Christ Lutheran Church & PreSchool is a community committed to the work of equity and inclusion, bringing justice and support for all of God's beloveds. We welcome those who are seeking God's love and grace for the first time or as a life-long believer. We welcome because Jesus shows us how to welcome, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, economic resources, relationship status, health challenges or anything else that too often divides us. It is in our welcome which we commit ourselves to being an anti-racist space, a space where we seek daily to deepen our work of inclusion in the life of our church. Our unity is in Christ. All are welcome here.

SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

– Silence for reflection –

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways,
assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you,
and all who call out to God shall be saved.

In Jesus, God comes to you again and again
and gathers you under wings of love.

In + Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven.

God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

Amen.

SONG: Lord, I Lift Your Name on High, ELW #857

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

Lord, I lift your name on high. Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life. I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.

(REPEAT)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING – Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The Lord talks to Ezekiel about sin...

The word of the Lord came to me: “What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel: ‘The parents eat sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?”

“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child – both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?”

“Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 25:1-9

In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame,
but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths.

Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;
according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.

He guides the humble in what is right
and teaches them his way.

READING – Philippians 2:1-13

(Paul & Timothy write to the people at Philippi:) Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

– *Please stand as you are able* –

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (SUNG) – ELW 172

Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Halle, halle, halle – lujah.
Halle, halle, halle – lujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah!

THE GOSPEL – Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John’s baptism – where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’ – we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON – Rev. Gail Heidtke

SONG: He Leadeth Me, LBW (green hymnal) #501

(Printed on bulletin insert)

He leadeth me! O blessed thought; O words with heavenly comfort fraught;
Whatever I do, where'er I be; Still 'tis Christ's hand that leadeth me.

**He leadeth me! He leadeth me! By his own hand he leadeth me.
His faithful follower I would be, For by his hand he leadeth me**

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom; Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom;
By waters still, o'er troubled see; Still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. **He leadeth...**

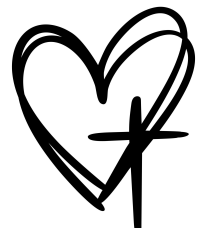
Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mind; Nor ever murmur or repine;
Content, whatever lot I see, since it is thou that leadest me. **He leadeth...**

And when my task on earth is done; When by thy grace the victory's won;
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since thou in triumph leadest me.

He leadeth me...

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 the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead. 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.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(on separate sheet)*

Merciful God... Receive our prayer.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

– Please share a socially distanced sign of peace



GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks & praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *(not printed/Presider's book on altar)*

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 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION AT THE FRONT

All are welcome to receive the Real Presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. You do not need to be a member of this church or Lutheran to receive the sacrament. We ask that you desire a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who are interested will be invited by an usher to come up the center aisle to the front to select a single-serving Communion kit from the tray, or to receive a blessing. Then return to your seat via the side aisle to open the kit and partake in Communion. An usher will offer a basket to collect the container. **All are welcome.**

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SONG: Blest Be the Tie that Binds, ELW #656

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.
4. From sorrow, toil and pain, and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Panera Bread PreSchool Fundraiser – Tues., Oct 3 from 4 to 8p at Vernon Hills location. Check website for flier to present on ordering to earn credit.
- Pumpkin Decorating – Sat., Oct. 7 from 10a to noon. The community is invited to activities designed especially for your youngest friends. Free event – please bring an item for the food pantry. Please invite your friends and neighbors.
- Encampment Collection – First delivery of items October 8. Items go directly to homeless encampment near Pastor Padraig. Blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, feminine products, Mariano's gift cards (store closest to encampment). Collection will continue all winter.
- Sanctuary Support – Delivering sleeping mats, small suitcases, OTC medicines to asylum seekers living in Police Stations and community centers in Chicago, a Sanctuary City. Collecting through mid-October.
- Sue's Pantry – Looking for small sizes of flour, cooking oil, sugar. Also anything needed to keep a home and family clean – dish soap, laundry detergent, body wash, shampoo.
- BSA Troop 273 Cookout – Boys and girls and their families interested in learning about scouting are invited to a free cookout on Saturday, October 21 from 2:30 to 6 p.m. at the Deerpath Park/Warrington Shelter. More information including RSVP links are on our website.
- Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273! Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa Calabrese (tcalabrese98@gmail.com).