

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

September 24, 2023

17th Sunday After Pentecost

Rev. Joleen Gleasman

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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: Let the Whole Creation Cry, ELW #876

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
Sun and moon, lift up your voice; Night and stars in God rejoice.

Servants striving for the Lord, prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law, to the glorious circle draw;
All who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"

Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts in this worship take their parts;
From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll;
"Holy, Holy, Holy One; Glory be to God alone!"

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

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING – Jonah 3:10 to 4:11

Jonah is angry that the Lord has compassion...

When God saw what *(the people of Nineveh)* did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened. But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord, “Isn’t this what I said, Lord, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”

But the Lord replied, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left – and also many animals?”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 145:1-8

I will exalt you, my God the King;

I will praise your name for ever and ever.

Every day I will praise you

and extol your name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

his greatness no one can fathom.

One generation commends your works to another;

they tell of your mighty acts.

They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty –

and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

They tell of the power of your awesome works –

and I will proclaim your great deeds.

They celebrate your abundant goodness

and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and compassionate,

slow to anger and rich in love.

READING – Philippians 1:21-30

(Paul & Timothy write to the people at Philippi:) For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved – and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1-16

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

(Jesus tells the Parable of the Workers:) “For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ ‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered. He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

SERMON – Rev. Joleen Gleasman

SONG: If You But Trust in God to Guide You, ELW #769

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

If you but trust in God to guide you with gentle hand through all your ways,
you'll find that God is there beside you when crosses come in trying days.
Trust then in God's unchanging love; build on the rock that will not move.

What gain is there in anxious weeping, in helpless anger and distress?

If you are in your Savior's keeping, in sorrow will he love you less?

For Christ who took for you a cross will bring you safe through every loss.

The Lord our restless hearts is holding, in peace and quietness content.
We rest in God's good will unfolding, what wisdom from on high has sent.
God, who has chosen us by grace, knows very well the fears we face.

Sing, pray and keep God's ways unswerving; offer your service faithfully.

Trust heaven's word; though undeserving, we'll find God's promise truth to be.

This is our confidence indeed: God never fails in time of need.

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;

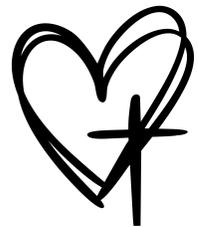
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

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 or greeting –

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: Lead On, O King Eternal!, ELW #805

Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.

Lead on, O King eternal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.

Lead on, O King eternal; we follow not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning where'er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted over us; we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

DISMISSAL

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