

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool
October 22, 2023
21st 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: I Know that My Redeemer Lives, ELW 619 (v 1,5,6,7)

(Printed in hymn or on bulletin insert)

I know that my Redeemer lives! What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever-living head!

He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly friend; He lives and loves me to the end:
He lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; He lives, my prophet, priest and king!

He lives and grants me daily breath; He lives, and I shall conquer death:
He lives my mansion to prepare; He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same;
What joy this blest assurance gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!

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

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created *by* you, let us live in your image. Created *for* you, let us act for your glory. Redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING – Isaiah 45:1-7

“This is what the Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I take hold of to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name.

For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen, I summon you by name and bestow on you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 96:1-9

Sing to the Lord a new song;

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, praise his name;

proclaim his salvation day after day.

Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;

he is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols,

but the Lord made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before him;

strength and glory are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations,

ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;

bring an offering and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;

tremble before him, all the earth.

READING – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers.

We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia – your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead – Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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 22:15-22

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

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap (Jesus) in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

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

SERMON – Rev. Joleen Gleasman

SONG: You Are Mine, ELW #581

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

"I will come to you in the silence; I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice; Be still and know I am here...

"I am hope for all who are hopeless; I am eyes for all who long to see.
In the shadows of the night, I will be your light. Come and follow me...

**"Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home...
I love you and you are mine."**

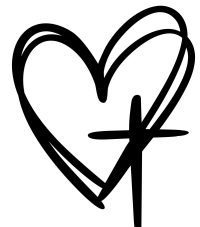
"I am strength for all the despairing; Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free; And all will know my name....

"I am the Word that leads all to freedom. I am the peace the world cannot give.
I will call your name, embracing all your pain. Stand up now walk and live!

**"Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.
Come and follow me, I will bring you home...
I love you and you are mine."**

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: Go, My Children, with My Blessing, ELW #543

(on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

“Go, my children, with my blessing; never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.

In my love’s baptismal river, I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing; you are my own.”

“Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son’s story; Here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”

“Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.

Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.

Here my Spirit’s power filled you; Here my tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

DISMISSAL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you for all who contributed to our first delivery to support those in need in Chicago. We continue to collect: Blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, hand warmers, feminine products, Mariano's gift cards (store closest to encampment).
- **Christmas for Sue's Pantry** – Holly is working with Sue's Pantry to determine how we can support the children and families with a little extra for Christmas. Information to be announced.
- **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.
- **Sanctuary Support** – Have delivered sleeping mats, small suitcases, OTC medicines to asylum seekers living in Police Stations and community centers in Chicago, a Sanctuary City. Need continues. Feel free to continue to share.
- **Love INC** – Always looking for housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Talk with Natalie.
- **COOL Ministries** – We continue to support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway.
- **Christmas Wreathes and More** – Our Partner Scouts are selling Christmas wreathes, garland and swags. And popcorn. Proceeds support activities.
- **Cub Scouts** – We are looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273, which ended over COVID. Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa Calabrese (tcalabrese98@gmail.com).
- **Decorate the Church** – Tentatively plan to put up the tree after worship on November 26. Thank you for any help.
- **Thank you to all of the pastors who partner with us:**

Oct. 22 – Pastor Joleen Gleasman

Oct. 29/Reformation Sunday – Pastor Paul Pfeffer

Nov. 5/All Saints Sunday – Pastor Mark Selbo

Nov. 12 – Pastor Mark Selbo

Nov. 19 – Pastor Joleen Gleasman

Nov. 26 – Pastor Mark Selbo

Dec. 3 – Pastor Matt Holmes

Dec. 10 – Pastor Paul Pfeffer

Dec. 17 – Pastor Mark Selbo

Dec. 24/Christmas – Pastor Gail Heidtke

For Christmas, we will have one service at 9:30a on Sunday, only