

# Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool

## October 8, 2023

### 19th Sunday After Pentecost

### Rev. Gail Heidtke

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Member of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
(ELCA – [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))



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## 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: Thy Word**, *by Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith*

*(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)*

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

When I feel afraid – Think I've lost my way – Still you're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear – As long as you are near; Please be near me to the end...

***Thy Word is a lamp...***

I will not forget Your love for me and yet – My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus be my guide, and hold me to your side. I will love you to the end...

***Thy Word is a lamp...***

## **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**

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **READING – Isaiah 5:1-7 (*The Song of the Vineyard*)**

I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard:

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.

“Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?”

“Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briars and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.”

The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

*The Word of the Lord.* Thanks be to God.

## **RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 80:7-15**

Restore us, God Almighty;

**make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.**

You transplanted a vine from Egypt;

**you drove out the nations and planted it.**

You cleared the ground for it,

**and it took root and filled the land.**

The mountains were covered with its shade,

**the mighty cedars with its branches.**

Its branches reached as far as the Sea,

**its shoots as far as the River.**

Why have you broken down its walls

**so that all who pass by pick its grapes?**

Boars from the forest ravage it,

**and insects from the fields feed on it.**

Return to us, God Almighty!

**Look down from heaven and see!**

Watch over this vine, the root your right hand has planted,

**the son you have raised up for yourself.**

## **READING – Philippians 3:4b-14**

*(Paul writes to the people at Philippi:)* If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

*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 21:33-46**

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

(*Jesus said:*) “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “*The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes*”?

“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

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

**SERMON – Rev. Gail Heidtke**

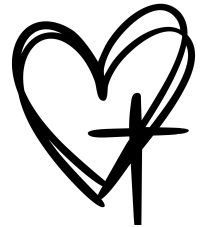
## **SONG: God's Word is Our Great Heritage, ELW #509**

*(Printed on bulletin insert)*

God's Word is our great heritage, and shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age, shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way; In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while time shall last, your church may hold it fast,  
throughout all generations!

## **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: O Word of God Incarnate, ELW #514**

O Word of God incarnate; O Wisdom from on high;  
O Truth unchanged, unchanging; O Light of our dark sky:  
We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,  
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The church from you, dear Master, received the gift divine;  
and still that light is lifted o'er all the earth to shine.  
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,  
mid mists and rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ to you.

Oh, make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold  
to bear before the nations your true light, as of old;  
oh, teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace,  
till, clouds and darkness ended, they see you face to face.

## **DISMISSAL**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Encampment Collection – Laura Johnson here today to pick up items TODAY! 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. Thank you.
- 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](mailto:tcalabrese98@gmail.com)).