

**Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool
June 16, 2024 – Father's Day**

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Gail Heidtke

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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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SHARING OF PRAYER CONCERNS

By Kathy Davis, who will provide updated Prayers of Intercession

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

– Silence for reflection –

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done and what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ have mercy on us.

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may
delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit that Christ may live in our hearts. **Amen.**

SONG: Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty, ELW #533 (vs 1-3)

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

Open now, thy gates of beauty; Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty, waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with solace, light and grace!

Gracious God, I come before thee; Come thou also unto me;
Where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou; Let it be thy temple now!

Here thy praise is gladly chanted; Here thy seed is duly sown;
Let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be, fruitful unto life in me.

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

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into
yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in
need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING – Ezekiel 17:22-24

Thus says the Lord God:

I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar; I will set it out.
I will break off a tender shoot from the topmost of its young twigs;
I myself will transplant it on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel I will transplant it,
and it will produce boughs and bear fruit and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live;
in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree;
I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish.
I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High,

to declare your steadfast love in the morning
and your faithfulness by night,

to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

They are planted in the house of the Lord;
they flourish in the courts of our God.

In old age they still produce fruit;
they are always green and full of sap,

showing that the Lord is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

READING – 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

(Paul and Timothy write to the church in Corinth:)

So we are always confident, even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive due recompense for actions done in the body, whether good or evil.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for the one who for their sake died and was raised.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!

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 – Mark 4:26-34

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

(Jesus) also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

SERMON – Rev. Gail Heidtke

SONG: Great Is Thy Faithfulness, ELW #733

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.
There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changes not, thy compassions, they fail not.
As thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

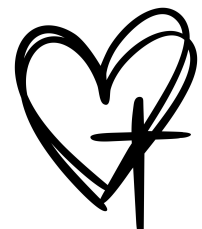
Summer and winter and springtime and harvest;
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. ***Great is thy faithfulness...***

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! ***Great is thy faithfulness...***

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 greeting or 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. *For those worshipping at home, please consider joining in Holy Communion by taking a bit of bread or cracker and a sip of wine or juice.* **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: Faith of Our Fathers, ELW #813

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal,

Faith of our fathers, living still, in spite of dungeon, fire and sword.
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy, when'er we hear that glorious word.
Faith of our fathers, holy faith; We will be true to you till death.

Faith of our mothers, daring faith; Your work for Christ is love revealed;
Spreading Gods word from pole to pole, making love known and freedom real.
Faith of our mothers, holy faith; We will be true to you till death.

Faith of our sisters, brothers, too; who still must bear oppression's might,
Raising on high, in prisons dark, the cross of Christ still burning bright.
Faith for today, O living faith; We will be true to you till death.

Faith born of God, oh, call us yet; Bind us with all who follow you.
Sharing the struggle of your cross, until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith; We will be true to you till death.

DISMISSAL

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

This Father's's Day, we give thanks
for all father figures in our lives.
We lift up all who celebrate
and all for whom this day is difficult.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Caring Hands** – Meetings break for summer, but work continues – reach out if you would like patterns (CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com)
- **Thank you to our Lawn Team** – Bill, Holly, Theresa, Bob, Tom and others. Reach out if you would like to help. Thank you.
- **Thank you to Wharton Paving!** Owner and friend Kelly patched, repaired and restriped our parking lot this summer at a greatly reduced cost. What a blessing!
- **Support for Anelly** – Our ministry partner Anelly, a young mother of two who has supported the refugees and asylum seekers in Chicago, has a recurrence of cancer, which has put a huge strain on her family. Please lift her in prayer and consider supporting the Meal Train with meals or donations. (Reach out to HollySJ@earthlink.net to connect.)
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contribute to our deliveries to the Chicago homeless encampment near Pastor Padraig's house. We continue to collect blankets/sleeping bags (new or gently used/clean), socks, feminine products, hygiene items and Mariano's gift cards (store closest to camp).
- **Sanctuary Support** – For asylum seekers living in Chicago shelters. Wishlist includes diapers, formula, coats, children's clothes (baby to teen), children's/adult cold medicines, Advil,/Tylenol, shoes, jackets, strollers, book bags, suitcases, storage bins with lids.
- **Sue's Pantry** – Request for toilet paper! Also 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.
- **Love INC** – Housewares, nonperishables and volunteers. Want to learn more? Have a child or family in need of a bundle of clothes or housewares? Give the details to Natalie she will get us covered! (Thanks, Natalie.) (<https://loveinlakecounty.org/>)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan as well as Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online. (CoolMinistries.org)
- **BSA Troop 273 (now Scouting America)** – Thank you for supporting our partner Scouts as they have supported us. **Looking to restart Cub Scout Pack 273!** Children/families ages Kindergarten through 4th grade are encouraged to reach out to Theresa (tcalabrese98@gmail.com).
- **Prayer concerns?** Please consider reaching out so that our network of Prayer Warriors can pray. You may remain anonymous. Please email ChristLutheranVH@aol.com with your request. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Team, please send an email.
- **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.** Your presence in worship is very important. Thank you for being part of this community of faith. If you would like to support the efforts of this community, we welcome donations, which can be provided by credit card or Paypal through the link at the bottom of our webpage, ChristLutheranVH.org. Thank you.