

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool September 1, 2024

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Melissa Dailey (they/them)

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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: Restore in Us, O God, ELW #328

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love:
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

O Spirit, wake in us, the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives, like springtime bud and flow'r.

Bring us, O Christ, to share, the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

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 our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us
from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that
arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING – Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

(Moses commanded:) “So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I
am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that
the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to
what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of
the Lord your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them and perform
them, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they
hear all these statutes, will say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning
people!’ For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is
whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as
just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch
yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let
them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children
and your children’s children.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right

and speak the truth from their heart;

who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends

nor heap shame upon their neighbors;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised

but who honor those who fear the Lord;

who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest

and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

READING – James 1:17-27

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave birth to us by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, for human anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act – they will be blessed in their doing. If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

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

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders, and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash, and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds. So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, *‘This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.’*

“You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, debauchery, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

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

SERMON – Rev. Melissa Dailey

SONG: Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil, ELW #512

(On bulletin insert or in hymnal)

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on my way.

Lord, let my heart; Lord, let my heart; Lord, let my heart be good soil. *(Repeat)*

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.

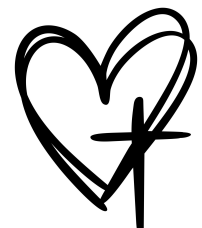
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,

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.



THE 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.

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: For the Beauty of the Earth, ELW #879

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth, over and around us lies:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.

For the wonder of each hour, of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
Christ, our God to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony, linking sense to sound and sight:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of human love, brothers, sisters, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above: for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.

For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n:
for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely give'n:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.

DISMISSAL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **God's Work Our Hand's – NEXT SUNDAY!** Assembling Birthday Cake Celebration Kits after worship; to be delivered to our local pantries for families to be able to celebrate.
- **PreSchool Underway** – Please keep the children, families and staff of Christ Lutheran PreSchool in your prayers.
- **Caring Hands** – Saturday, September 21 from 9a to noon – reach out if you would like patterns for prayer shawls or comfort blankets (CaringHandsVernonHills@gmail.com)
- **Thank you to our Lawn Team** – Bill, Holly, Theresa, Bob, Tom, Kathy and others. Reach out if you would like to help. Thank you.
- **Support for Anelly** – Our ministry partner Anelly, a young mother of two who has supported refugees in Chicago, has a recurrence of cancer and is facing a variety of challenges. Please lift her in prayer and consider supporting the Meal Train with meals or donations. (HollySJ@earthlink.net)
- **Encampment Collection** – Thank you to all who contribute to our deliveries to the Chicago homeless encampment near Pastor Pdraig'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** – Call for toilet paper! Also flour, cooking oil, sugar. And 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://loveinclakecounty.org/>)
- **COOL Ministries** – We support the COOL pantry in Waukegan and Vernon Township Pantry with non-perishables. Collection bins in hallway or give online. (CoolMinistries.org)
- **Scouting America Troop 273** – Thank you for supporting our partner Scouts as they have supported us. Children/families ages Kindergarten through high school are encouraged to reach out to Holly or Bill Jones (jonesbill@earthlink.net), who have been busy reaching out to families with younger children in an effort to relaunch the Cub Scout Pack!
- **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.