

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church & Preschool September 15, 2024

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Mark Selbo

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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: Oh, Worship the King, ELW #842

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

Oh, worship the King, all glorious above.
Oh, gratefully sing God's power and love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days.
Pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

The earth with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, your power has founded of old;
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it has cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Your bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail:
Your mercies, how tender, how firm to the end;
Our maker, defender, redeemer and friend.

Oh measureless might, ineffable love;
while angels delight to hymn you above;
The humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
with true adoration shall sing to your praise.

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, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the
glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel
we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING – Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

RESPONSIVE READING – Psalm 116:1-9

I love the Lord because he has heard my voice and my supplications.

**Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord,
“O Lord, I pray, save my life!”

Gracious is the Lord and righteous;
our God is merciful.

The Lord protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.

Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death,
**my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
I walk before the Lord in the land of the living.**

READING – James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will face stricter judgment. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue – a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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 8:27-38

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

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

SERMON – “A Costly Confession”

SONG: O Jesus, I Have Promised, ELW #810

(Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal)

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer, to shield my should from sin.

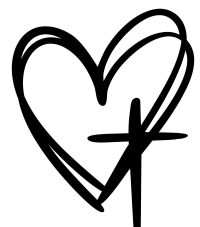
Oh, let me hear your speaking in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
Now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.

Oh Jesus, you have promised, to all who follow you
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
Oh, give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

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.



All Welcome at Communion
Single-serve kits in first tray
Bread and wine next
Choose as you feel comfortable

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 receive Communion or you may request a blessing. You are also welcome to remain in your seat to pray. Welcome!

Today we will offer both single-serving Communion kits as well as a traditional distribution of bread and wine. Please choose as you feel comfortable.

Single-serving kits are available in the first tray. Select a sealed cup and bring it back to your seat to open and partake. Once at your seat, peel back the top layer to find the wafer, and then the bottom seal to drink. An usher will offer a basket to collect the empty container.

If you would like Traditional Communion, select an empty cup from the second tray and come forward to Pastor, who will place a piece of bread into your open hand. The assistant will then pour wine into your cup. Your empty cup may be placed in the trays at each side as you return to your seat. 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: Sent Forth by God's Blessing, ELW #547

Printed on bulletin insert or in hymnal

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face –

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.

With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.

Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

DISMISSAL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Thank you – God’s Work. Our Hands.** – On Sunday, September 8 we packed 26 Birthday Cake Celebration Kits and more than 20 bags of canned goods, each with a new can opener. Items were delivered to St. Joe’s pantry, Sue’s Pantry, and individuals in need. Thank you for your assistance!
- **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)
- **Scouting!** – Children/families ages Kindergarten through high school have an opportunity to build skills and have fun through Scouting. Please share that Interested families can reach out to Holly or Bill Jones (jonesbill@earthlink.net) to learn more. For boys and girls, who can start at any age. Thanks for supporting Scouting America Troop 273!
- **PreSchool Underway** – Please keep the children, families and staff of Christ Lutheran PreSchool in your prayers.
- **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 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** – 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)
- **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.