

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

August 7, 2022 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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INTRODUCTION

Jesus says, “It is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” It is God’s promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the “little flock” of which we are a part in today’s assembly. Faith, God’s baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

WELCOME AND PRELUDE *(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)*

A Morning Song (by Chris Yoder and sung by the Men’s Ensemble)

I owe the Lord a morning song of gratitude for morning light;
For all the mercies He has shown, He kept me safe another night
Awake my soul, and with the sun your daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull thoughts and joyfully rise to pay your morn-ing sacrifice.
Lord, I my vows to You renew. Disperse my sins as morning dew;
Guard my first springs of thought and will; and with Yourself my spirit fill. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

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

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

Set us again on the path of life.

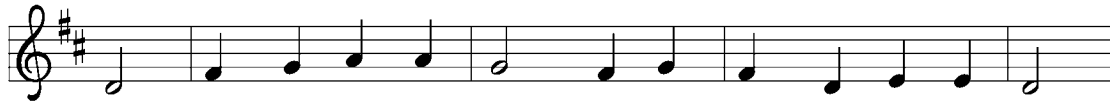
**Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors.**

Amen.

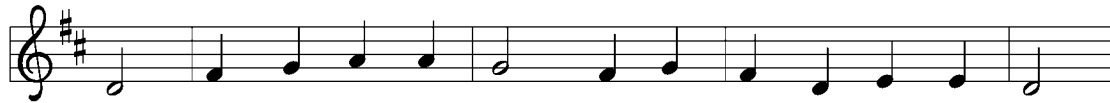
Hear the good news!
 God does not deal with us according to our sins
 but delights in granting pardon and mercy.
 In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
 You are free to love as God loves.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (ELW 241)



- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
- 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
- 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
- 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite
 Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

A reading from Genesis.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22

- ¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!
Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!
- ¹³**The LORD looks down from heaven,
and sees all humankind.**
- ¹⁴God sits firmly enthroned and watches
all who dwell on the earth.
- ¹⁵**God fashions all their hearts
and observes all their deeds.**
- ¹⁶A king is not saved by the size of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.
- ¹⁷**The horse gives vain hope for victory;
despite its great strength it cannot save.**
- ¹⁸Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,
- ¹⁹**to deliver their lives from death,
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**
- ²⁰Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,
our helper and our shield.
- ²¹**Surely, our heart rejoices in you,
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

²²Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we place our hope in you.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

A reading from Hebrews.

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

All My Hope on God Is Founded (ELW 757)

1 All my hope on God is founded
who will all my trust renew,
who through change and chance will guide me,
only good and only true.
God unknown, God alone,
call my heart to be thine own.

2 Mortal pride and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray our trust;
what with care and toil we fashion,
tow'r and temple, fall to dust.
But thy pow'r, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tow'r.

3 Great thy goodness, e'er enduring;
deep thy wisdom, passing thought;
splendor, light, and life attend thee,
beauty springing out of naught.
Evermore from thy store
newborn worlds rise and adore.

4 Still from earth to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of God's own Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**
**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

O Loving God, as we struggle to have faith, we pray your Spirit will inspire us to truly believe and understand the words from Hebrews, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things not seen." We yearn to trust like Abraham and Sarah, instead of worrying about things we cannot control. Help us put our faith into action, to do good works, and to work for justice. Stir us to listen for your call in our daily lives and to respond by forgiving, serving, telling the good news, and living according to your will. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Creator God, thank you for the abundance you provide. Lead us to share with others instead of building bigger barns, to rely on You instead of ourselves, and to realize our treasures are in relationships, not possessions. Help us recognize the ways we waste our resources and destroy your Creation. Open our senses to appreciate the beauty and wonder of nature. Guide us to be careful stewards of your world, teaching us to reduce our consumption and preserve the water, air, plants, and animals. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Calming God, we fervently pray your peace will spread throughout our broken, violent world. We beseech you to grant wisdom and courage to all the world's leaders so they will lay down

their weapons, set aside their hatreds, and find compromise. Bring safety and hope to anyone who lives in fear every day. Protect those who serve in the military, comfort military families, and bless our veterans. We pray all refugees will find comfort, respect, and acceptance wherever they live. Teach us to be peacemakers. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Holy God, we pray for the ELCA and its members who gather this week in its Churchwide Assembly. Inspire the celebration of God's varied works throughout the church. Instill your peace in the midst of the work you have called us to and the deliberations that will take place. Shape the work of the church according to your will for the whole world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Sustaining God, we are grateful for all the blessings our lives, especially our talents, freedoms, and relationships. We pray for the insight to discern and the courage to use our talents for your kingdom's work. Bless all pastors, bishops, lay leaders, and our congregation. We also rejoice with those who are celebrating anniversaries, birthdays, and other joyous occasions. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Compassionate God, we pray for everyone affected by storms, floods, and natural disasters. Bring comfort, hope, and healing to the people and the earth. Restore to wholeness anyone who is ill in mind, body, or spirit. Give strength and health to anyone struggling with addictions and long-term diagnoses, such as dementia or depression. Bless our shut-ins and help us bring them joy. Grant wisdom and skill to all medical personnel, researchers, and caregivers. Help us feel your presence in our suffering. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Merciful God, listen now as we offer other prayers, either silently or aloud.....
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Comforting God, we pray for Luther Haseley and family after the death of his sister and John Laughlin and family after the death of his mother. We also pray for those who are dying. Rest your peace, strength, and hope on everyone in grief and mourning. Remind us of the promise of eternal life with you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE

John Laughlin and family as they mourn his mother
Luther Haseley and family as they mourn his sister

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

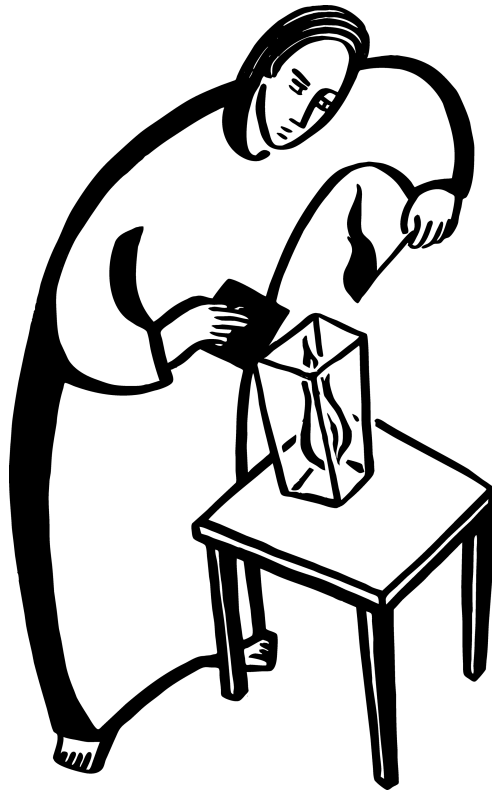
There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

O For a Thousand Tongues (Arranged by Chris Yoder and sung by the Men's Ensemble)

O, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise
The glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace.
Hark! ten thousand harps and voices Sound the note of praise above;
Jesus reigns and heav'n rejoices, Jesus reigns, the God of love.
See, He sits on yonder throne; Jesus rules the world a-lone.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-u-ia! Al-le-u-ia! A-men

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of Your name.
King of Glory reign forever, Thine an everlasting crown;
Nothing from Your love shall sever, those whom Thou has made Thine own.
Happy objects of Your grace, Destined to behold Your face.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-u-ia! Al-le-u-ia! A-men

He breaks the power of canceled sin, He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me.
Savior has-ten Thine appearing; Bring, O bring the glorious day,
When the awful sum-mons hear-ing Heav'n and earth shall pass a-way.
Then, with golden harps we'll sing, Glory Glory to our King.
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-u-ia! Al-le-u-ia! A-men



OFFERTORY

Rich in Blessings

1. Man - y years of faith - ful wor - ship, Rich in bless - ings from a - bove,
 2. Here in A - thens our good ci - ty, Here we keep our wit - ness clear,
 3. Hear our pipes and hear our voic - es As we con - tem - plate our place,
 4. True to Lu - ther and Mel - anch - thon, Set for what the fu - ture brings,

5
 Man - y years of deep re - flec - tion On the Gos - pel's Word of Love.
 Here in Ap - pal a - chian foot - hills We preach Je - sus with - out fear.
 Lis - ten while we tune our hearts to hear God's words of love and grace.
 Hap - py in our past tra - di - tions, O - pen to our world's new things.,

9
 In our lives of will - ing ser - vice, Thanks to God who guides our way.
 U - ni - ver - si - ty and coun - ty, This our par - ish, this our role.
 Praise to God who, rich in bless - ings, Gives this world its glo - rious glow.
 On - ward, up - ward, in - ward, out - ward, Je - sus guide us in our ways.

13
 Through the tur - moil, times of strug - gle, Bring - ing us to joy to - day.
 Our vo - ca - tion, rich in bless - ings, To reach out to one and all.
 Peace and mer - cy, hope and glad - ness, Stay with us as on we go.
 Rich in bless - ings, peace, and friend - ship, Make our lives true hymns of praise.

Text: Geoge Wekman, 2019
 Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

Hymn To Joy
 8787 D

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance:
you have set before us a plentiful harvest.
As we feast on your goodness,
strengthen us to labor in your field,
and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all,
in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.
And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,
with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san-na in the high-est, ho-san-na in the high-est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise...
...Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy.
Come to the banquet.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.

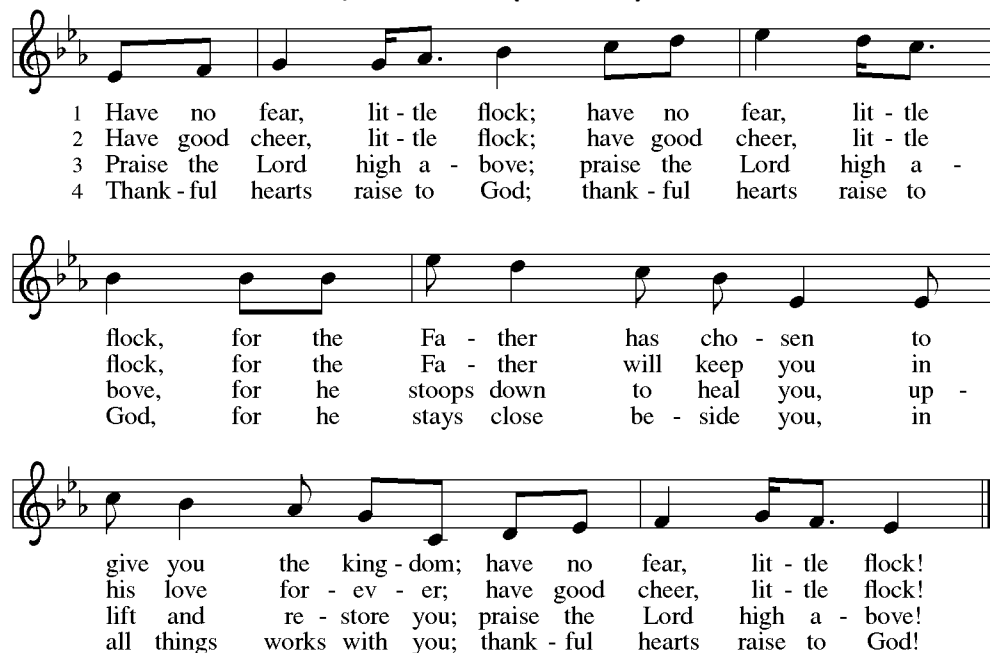
This we pray in the name of Jesus.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of peace,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show you the path of life
this day and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *Have No Fear, Little Flock (ELW 764)*



1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -
4 Thank - ful hearts raise to God; thank - ful hearts raise to

flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -
God, for he stays close be - side you, in

give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!
all things works with you; thank - ful hearts raise to God!

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4
Music: LITTLE FLOCK, Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930
Text and music © 1973 Concordia Publishing House.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
Thanks be to God.

SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Asst/Lector: Jane Unger; Time with Children: Kay Cleland; Livestream: Marilyn Shealy; Greeter: Tammy Thompson; Acolyte: Dessa Thompson-Kelleher; Ushers: John Deno, Rod Sauer*