Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry September 25, 2022 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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INTRODUCTION

Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those "at our gate," visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.

WELCOME (PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)

PRELUDE Sanctus (Schubert) CLC Women's Ensemble

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does. God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.

Beloved of God:

your sins are forgiven + and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Kyrie

(tune: My Father, How Long)

Leader sings parts marked "A"



HYMN OF PRAISE

Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956 Music: CRÜCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947 Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

A reading from Amos.

^{1a}Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,

⁴Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall;

⁵who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on instruments of music;

⁶who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!

⁷Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

²I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;

the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD shall reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 6:6-19

A reading from 1 Timothy.

⁶Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; ⁷for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; ⁸but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹²Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

The holy gospel according to Luke.

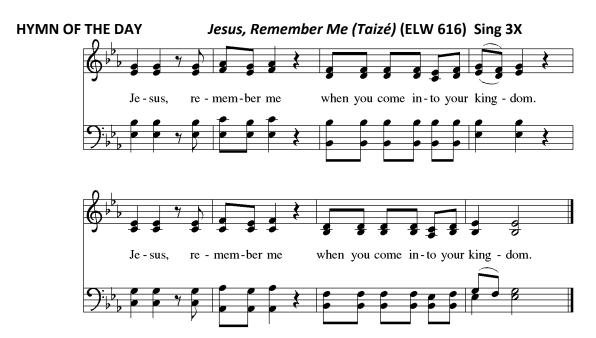
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 19"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' 27He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community
Music: REMEMBER ME, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Dear God, you are truly the same yesterday and today and forever. Thank you for watching over us this week and for bringing us together here this morning. We are each blessed in so many ways. Please help us to share our blessings with our neighbors here in Athens and around the world. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of Comfort, many people are dealing with problems caused by weather, earthquakes, disasters and other emergencies we hear about in the news every day. Others are dealing with problems in their own lives that we may know nothing about. We ask you to help them as they face these challenges, and to help us as we show them love, provide them with comfort, and give them hope so that we can all say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper. I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of Love, as we go through our daily lives, help us to be guided by Christ's example so that we might be kind and caring to everyone we meet. And please help us to remember that while we are all different in so many ways, we are all Your children because You made us in Your image. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, so many people live in danger and in fear in our world. Please be with everyone whose lives are filled with danger of any sort. We ask you to help our leaders around the world to work for peace instead of conflict. Please protect those who serve in the military, comfort military families, and bless our veterans. We ask you to also bless all refugees and help them to find comfort, respect, and acceptance. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of Compassion, we ask you to comfort those experiencing grief and loss and to relieve those who are suffering. Please also bring strength to those who are hospitalized, confined to homes, or undergoing tests. We pray for healing for anyone who is ill in mind, body, or spirit. Restore to wholeness those who are struggling with addictions. Bless our shut-ins and help us to bring them joy. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

God of Comfort, be with those to whom death draws near and those who have lost loved ones. Bring peace and comfort to all who mourn; knowing with the conviction of our faith that because you so loved the world that you gave your Chosen Son, who died and rose again, we too will have eternal life. **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.

PEACE

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

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

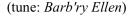
Giving is easy online through our website at https://www.clcathens.org/give There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

OFFERTORY

Lift Thine Eyes (Mendelssohn)

CLC Women's Ensemble

Offertory Hymn, "Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring"





- 1. Ac cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring To place up on your ta ble.
- 2. The vines were plant ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure.
- 3. Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares We lift in pray'r be fore you.



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God,
You bless us with gifts of guidance, new life,
growth in grace, and fruitful labor.
Accept the first fruits of time and toil,
field and orchard we offer here.
Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture
and the care of your creation;
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

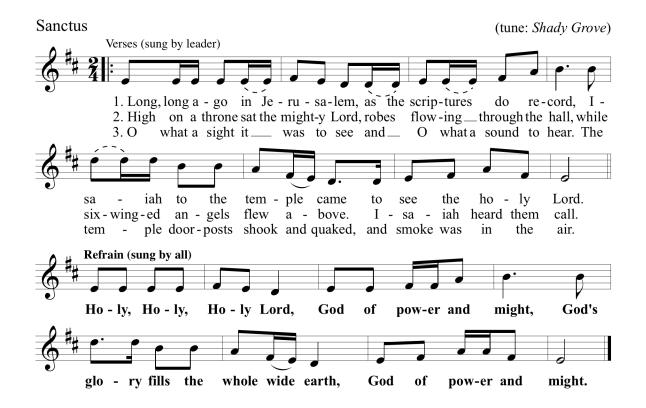
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Through your Son, you taught us that true riches

are to be found in loving you rather than earthly treasure.
For your glory,
and to give us the fullness of life and salvation,
Christ emptied himself upon the cross and was raised in power to sit at your right hand.
And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in adoring song.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,

you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,

and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners

and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,

his life given for us

and his rising from the grave,

we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:

strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,

and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

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 in heaven,

hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

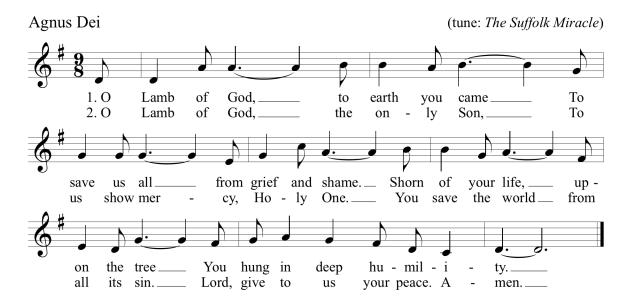
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your Church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever.

Amen.

COMMUNION

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



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this lifegiving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace.
And may the holy Trinity, + one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

Amen.



Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. composite Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561 Text st. 1 © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress; text sts. 2-4 © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

Thanks be to God.

SERVING TODAY: Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Asst/Lector: Ellen Peterson; Time with Children: Cheryl Huebner; Livestream: Kay Cleland; Greeter: Linda Batey; Ushers: Sue Ellen Miller, Marilyn Shealy; Acolyte: Meena Juedes

CLC Women's Ensemble Director- Christian Yoder

Linda Batey, Patricia Cambridge, Karen Chikosky, Elyce Friedman, Cheryl Huebner, Lucy Juedes, Beth McKinley, Ellen Peterson, Marilyn Shealy, Chris Snoddy, Jane Unger, Donnalee Yoder

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