

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

May 21, 2023 – Seventh Sunday of Easter/Pledge Sunday

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

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INTRODUCTION

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

WELCOME

PRELUDE "In God, My Faithful God" Luther Songbook: Arr. Christian Yoder, Men's Ensemble

CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
by whose hand we are given new birth,
by whose speaking we are given new life.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are welcomed, restored, and supported
as citizens of the new creation.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Holy God,
holy and merciful,
holy and mighty,
you are the river of life,
you are the everlasting wellspring.

In mercy and might you have freed us from death
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.

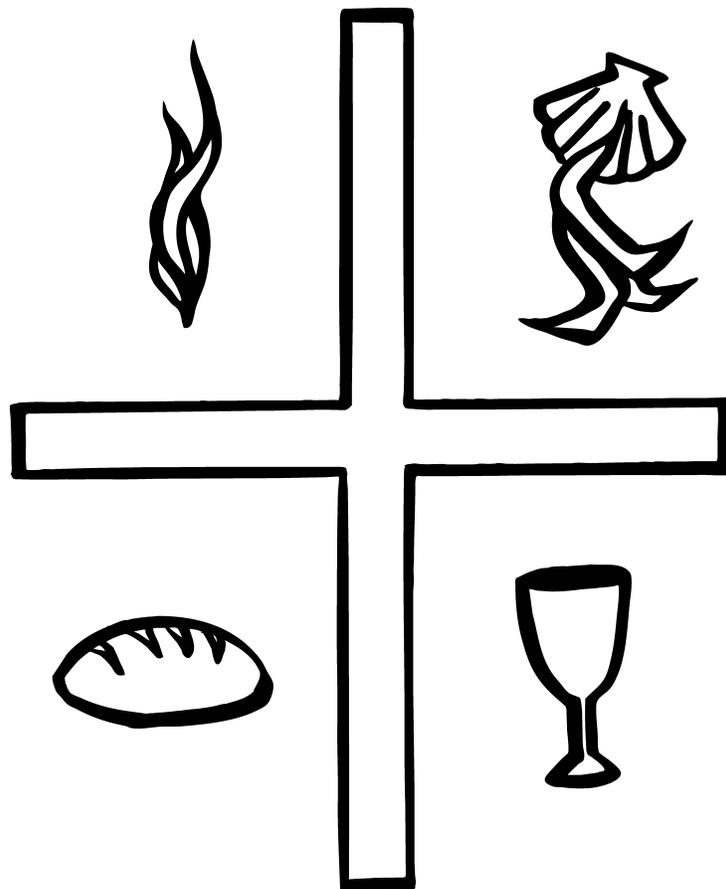
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,
and in them we are born anew.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes,

for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.
Empower our witness to your resurrection.
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

Satisfy the world's need through this living water.
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.
Where despair prevails, grant hope.
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.
We ask this through Christ,
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.
Amen.



GATHERING SONG

Father Most Holy (ELW 415)

1 Fa - ther most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful, and ten - der; Je - sus, our
2 Trin - i - ty bless - ed, u - ni - ty un - shak - en; good - ness un -
3 Mak - er of all things, all thy crea - tures praise thee; all for thy
4 Lord God Al - might - y, un - to thee be glo - ry, one in three

Sav - ior, with the Fa - ther reign - ing; Spir - it of com - fort,
bound - ed, ver - y God of heav - en, light of the an - gels,
wor - ship were and are cre - at - ed; now, as we al - so
per - sons, o - ver all ex - alt - ed! Glo - ry we of - fer,

ad - vo - cate, de - fend - er, light nev - er wan - ing.
joy of those for - sak - en, hope of all liv - ing.
wor - ship thee de - vout - ly, hear thou our voic - es.
praise thee and a - dore thee, now and for - ev - er.

Text: Latin hymn, 10th cent.; tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.
Music: CHRISTE SANCTORUM, Paris *Antiphoner*, 1681
Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

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 of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14

A reading from Acts.

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from 1 Peter.

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)



GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service (ELW 712)*



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
Text © Oxford University Press

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

You are free, Lord, and your Ascension has set you free:
free from the constraints of human existence, outside the limitations of time and space;
free to be here with us now, in our worship and fellowship;
and free to be with us always;
for in your freedom you have bound yourself to us with a promise:
**“Lo! I am with you always
even to the very end of time.”**

We pray, Lord, for those who need to feel you close,
who need the assurance of your love and the encouragement of your Spirit.
Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are persecuted, who are discriminated against or who are mocked because of their faith, race or class; for being part of the LGBTQ community, because of age or ability.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are imprisoned, who are tortured, who are exiled, because they have fought, struggled and spoken out for the rights of their people.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are destitute, who are hungry, who are refugees, because of the selfishness and apathy of the world.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are feeling fed up, who are uncomfortable or in pain, who are afraid, because they are ill in body, mind or spirit.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who grieve and who are angry, who feel lost and alone, because grief is so unpredictable, they need you more than ever to lean on now that their person is no longer there with them.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for those caught up in war, and violence, and hatred;
At this 75th anniversary of the Palestinian displacement, we pray for peace in Palestine and Israel and for the restoration of Palestinian homelands.
And we pray for the people in Sudan, Ukraine, Senegal and Somalia, especially the innocent victims of these evils.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Be with us all, Lord: in all our daily struggles as we seek to follow you.

Be with us all, Lord: in our periods of doubt and despair, and in our times of happiness, health and loving.

Be with us all, Lord: until that time when in your Kingdom our joy will know no end. **AMEN.**

PEACE

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

GENEROSITY MOMENT

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

"In Heaven Above"

**Norwegian Folk Tune: Arr. Christian Yoder
Men's Ensemble, Baritone Soloist: Chad Huebner**

OFFERING SONG

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 Weckman, 2019
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

Hymn To Joy
8787 D

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.

We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through 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,
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:



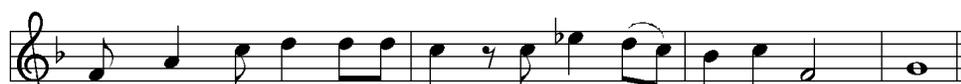
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, living, and loving God,
 we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth...
...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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

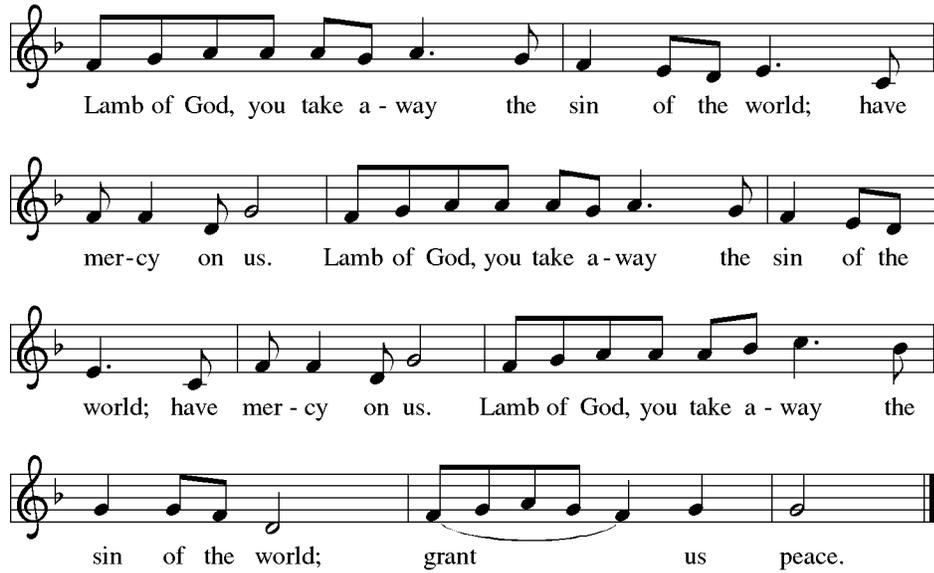
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and know Christ,
broken and poured out for you.

COMMUNION

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

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
With your word and this meal of grace,
you have nourished our life together.
Strengthen us to show your love
and serve the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of all,
who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead,
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit
to live in the new creation.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake (ELW 799)



1 "Come, fol - low me," the Sav - ior spake, "all in my way a -
 2 "I am the light; I light the way, a god - ly life dis -
 3 "I teach you how to shun and flee what harms your soul's sal -
 4 Then let us fol - low Christ, our Lord, and take the cross ap -



bid - ing; de - ny your-selves, the world for - sake, o -
 play - ing; I bid you walk as in the day; I
 va - tion; from ev - 'ry guile your heart I free, from
 point - ed, and, firm - ly cling - ing to his word, in



bey my call and guid - ing. Oh, bear the cross, what -
 keep your feet from stray - ing. I am the way, and
 sin and its temp - ta - tion. I am the ref - uge
 suf - f'ring be un - daunt - ed. For those who bear the



e'er be - tide; take my ex - am - ple for your guide."
 well I show how you should so - journ here be - low."
 of the soul and lead you to your heav'n - ly goal."
 bat - tle's strain the crown of heav'n - ly life ob - tain.

Text: Johann Scheffler, 1624–1677; tr. Charles W. Shaeffer, 1813–1896, alt.
 Music: MACHS MIT MIR, GOTT, Bartholomäus Gesius, 1555–1613; adapt. Johann Herman Schein, 1586–1630

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

Thanks be to God.

SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Asst/Lector: Mike Cleland; Livestream: Kay Cleland; Greeter: Anne Sparks; Ushers: Wanda Weinberg, Andrew Kirsop; Time with Children: Puppets!; Acolyte: Dessa; Children's Church: Tammy Thompson, Rachel Prange*