

# Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

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## OUR PURPOSE

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PEOPLE, PEOPLE TO FAITH, FAITH TO LIFE

## OUR MISSION

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST, WE AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH SEEK TO SHARE GOD'S WORD, TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE, AND TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD, PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST TO ALL PEOPLE.

## OUR VISION

A WORLD EXPERIENCING THE DIFFERENCE GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE IN CHRIST MAKES FOR ALL PEOPLE AND CREATION.

## November 19, 2023 – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

### WELCOME

*Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.*

**PRELUDE**      *I Owe the Lord a Morning Song*      **CLC Choir**      **Christian Yoder, Director**

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God,  
the one who forms us,  
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,  
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility,  
confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,  
**you have revealed the ways of justice,  
yet we fail to follow you.**  
**We are overwhelmed  
by the world's violence and suffering.**  
**We are afraid to risk what we have  
for the sake of others.**  
**For the harm we have caused,  
known and unknown, forgive us.**  
**For the unjust demands we place on others  
and your creation, forgive us.**  
**For the ways we turn away  
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**  
**Lead us back to you  
and set us on the right path;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**  
**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.  
God's compassion is beyond compare.  
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.  
In ✝ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.  
**Amen.**

## Kyrie

(tune: *My Father, How Long*)

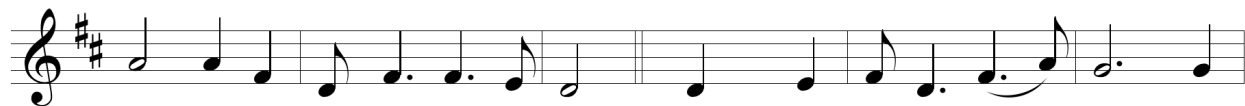
Leader sings parts marked "A"

Congregation sings parts marked "C"

A: We — pray for peace, O Lord, make plow-shares of our swords, make plow-shares of our  
swords, hear us when we cry to you. C: Lord, have mer-cy on — us, have  
mer-cy on us, Lord, have mer-cy on — us, hear us when we cry to you.



A: Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un - til we see your



face, hear us when we cry to you. C: Christ, have mer-cy on — us, have



mer-cy on us, Christ have mer-cy on — us, hear us when we cry to you.



A: De - fend your Church, O Lord, and root it in — your word, and root it in — your



word, hear us when we cry to you. C: Lord, have mer-cy on — us, have



mer-cy on — us, Lord, have mer-cy on — us, hear our cry. A - men.

## GATHERING SONG

### *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (ELW 674)*



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:  
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,  
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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## 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.

**Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

### **FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

A reading from Zephaniah.

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
“The LORD will not do good,

nor will he do harm.”

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD’s wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then

let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### *Lord of Light (ELW 688)*



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may  
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance  
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,  
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions  
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:  
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:  
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

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## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Ever living and ever loving God,  
We thank you for your loving presence with us.

Come, Holy Spirit,  
take and transform our societies—  
that broken people find healing; that lonely people find love;  
that bitter people find peace; that fearful people find hope.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
take our world's leaders and governments and bring renewal—  
that communication can be open;  
that relationships between hostile people and hostile nations will evaporate;  
that a hunger for justice addresses the hunger for food felt by so many.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill your church—  
that our worship will be ever more pleasing to you;  
that prayers will change our minds instead of trying to get you to change yours;  
that our lives will make a real difference to real people in the real world.  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill our lives with your presence—  
so that more and more every day, all that we do and say and hope  
will be an act of worship to you and an expression of love to others,  
to the glory of your name.  
**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** *If You Love me, Keep My Commandments* CLC Choir Christian Yoder, Director



## OFFERING SONG



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.



We do not wor - ship as we ought But on - ly as we're a - ble.  
What once was com - mon, dai - ly food Be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.  
Lord, by your grace, now come to us As hum - bly we a - dore you.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of power, God of plenty,  
all things belong to you.  
We bring your gifts to the table,  
that all might be fed.  
Form us into the body of your Beloved,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

(tune: *Shady Grove*)

Verses (sung by leader)



1. Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the scrip - tures do re - cord, I -
2. High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes flow - ing through the hall, while
3. O what a sight it was to see and O what a sound to hear. The



sa - iah to the tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.  
six - wing - ed an - gels flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.  
tem - ple door - posts shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

Refrain (sung by all)



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's



glo - ry fills the whole wide earth, God of pow - er and might.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

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

...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

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(All are invited to the Lord's table. To receive communion come forward at the direction of the ushers and take a place at the altar rail. You may stand or kneel as you wish. You will first receive the bread and then may choose to receive either red wine or white grape juice by small glass, or by sipping wine from the chalice. If you choose a small glass you will place it in the empty tray carried by the acolyte. After receiving the bread and wine you will return to your seat.)*

## COMMUNION

Agnus Dei

(tune: *The Suffolk Miracle*)



1. O Lamb of God, \_\_\_\_\_ to earth you came \_\_\_\_\_ To  
2. O Lamb of God, \_\_\_\_\_ the on - ly Son, \_\_\_\_\_ To

save us all \_\_\_\_\_ from grief and shame. \_\_\_\_\_ Shorn of your life, \_\_\_\_\_ up -  
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. \_\_\_\_\_ You save the world \_\_\_\_\_ from

on the tree \_\_\_\_\_ You hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty. \_\_\_\_\_  
all its sin. \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, give to us your peace. A - men. \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

The God of glory,  
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,  
and the Spirit who lives in you,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG****When in Our Music God is Glorified (FREDERICKTOWN) (ELW 850)**

1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,  
2 How oft, in mak - ing mu - sic, we have found  
3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song,  
4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night  
5 Let ev - 'ry in - stru - ment be tuned for praise;

and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,  
a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,  
in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,  
when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the light?  
let all re - joice who have a voice to raise;

it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:  
as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found  
borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue:  
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:  
and may God give us faith to sing al - ways:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: FREDERICKTOWN, Charles R. Anders, b. 1929

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERVING TODAY:** *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Asst/Lector: Chris Snoddy; Live Stream: Doug Debrick; Time with Children: Puppets; Ushers: Bruce Kuhre, Dan Snoddy, Nick Claussen; Greeter: Solveig Spjeldnes; Acolyte: Eliza; Tray Server: Jim Sillery*