

# Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

## August 10, 2025 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

69 Mill Street • Athens, OH • (740) 593-3144

info@clcathens.org • [www.clcathens.org](http://www.clcathens.org)

*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.*



***SERVING TODAY:*** *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Choir Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Lector: Marilyn Shealy; Time with Children: Elyce Friedman Ushers: Tim Prange, Wanda Weinberg; Greeter: Nick Claussen; Acolyte: Rachel; Livestream: Doug Debrick*

### **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

## PRELUDE

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✙ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.  
Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness,  
and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life.  
Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of ✙ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**Amen.**

# GATHERING SONG

## Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (ELW 436)



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her  
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.  
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the  
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in  
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.  
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"  
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.  
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;  
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.  
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.  
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite  
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai  
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

## 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.

<sup>1</sup> After 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." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But 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." <sup>5</sup> He 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." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: Psalm 33:12-22

<sup>12</sup> Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to be God's heritage!

<sup>13</sup> **The LORD looks down from heaven,  
and sees all humankind.**

<sup>14</sup> God sits firmly enthroned and watches  
all who dwell on the earth.

<sup>15</sup> **God fashions all their hearts  
and observes all their deeds.**

<sup>16</sup> A king is not saved by the size of the army,  
nor are warriors rescued by their great strength.

<sup>17</sup> **The horse gives vain hope for victory;  
despite its great strength it cannot save.**

<sup>18</sup> Truly, your eye is upon those who fear you, O LORD,  
upon those who wait for your steadfast love,

<sup>19</sup> **to deliver their lives from death,  
and to keep them alive in time of famine.**

<sup>20</sup> Our innermost being waits for you, O LORD,

our helper<sup>1</sup> and our shield.

<sup>21</sup> **Surely, our heart rejoices in you,  
for in your holy name we put our trust.**

<sup>22</sup> Let 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.

<sup>1</sup> Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By 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.

<sup>8</sup> By 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. <sup>9</sup> By 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. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore 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."

<sup>13</sup> All 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, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



## GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>32</sup> “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell 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. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

<sup>35</sup> “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; <sup>36</sup> be 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. <sup>37</sup> Blessed 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. <sup>38</sup> If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

<sup>39</sup> “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. <sup>40</sup> You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

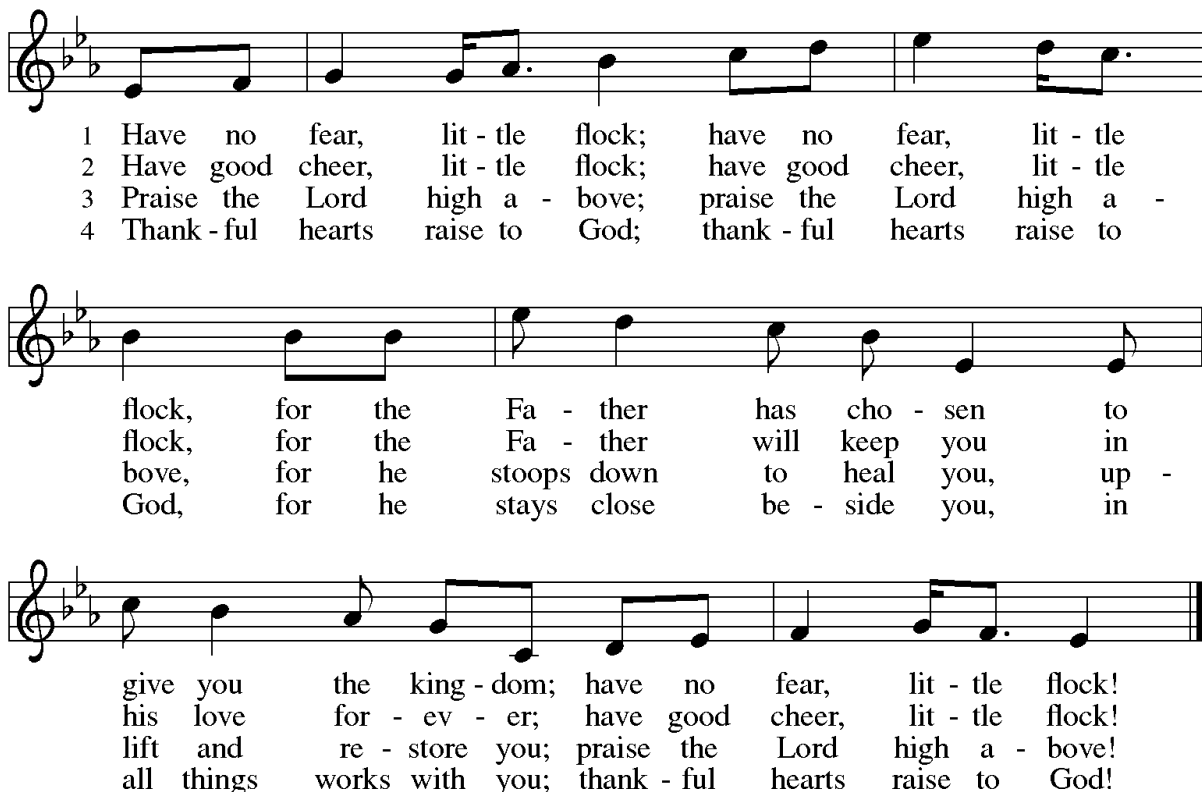
The gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

## HYMN

### *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!

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of love, have mercy and listen to our prayers.

We pray for peace in the whole world and peace among all peoples.

God of love. **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all those who govern, give them wisdom and compassion.

God of love. **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who work for justice and freedom from oppression

God of love. **Hear our prayer**

We pray for rain, sun and harvest, and food to feed the hungry

God of love. **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all who know affliction, despair and danger

God of love. **Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who suffer in grief, pain and sorrow

God of love. **Hear our prayer**

We pray for all our family, friends and neighbors who need our prayers and your help, who we name now, either silently or aloud...

God of love. **Hear our prayer**

God, fill our hearts with your Holy Spirit, sustain us with your power and strengthen us in our work in the world as we share your love with others. We pray in 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



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,  
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good  
and the harvest is plentiful.  
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth  
and our labor,  
that we may work for the good of all;  
through 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.**

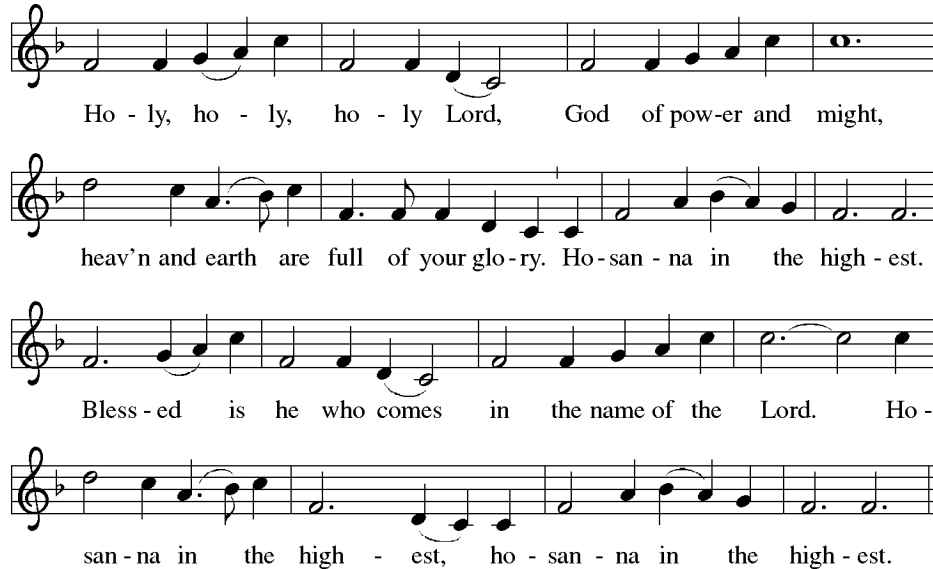
## PREFACE

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:

### **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.  
When sin had scarred the world,  
you sent your Son to heal our ills  
and to form us again into one.  
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 acts of healing,  
his body given up,  
and his victory over death,

we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:

as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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**

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

**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**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Loving God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✠ bless you and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

*When in Our Music God Is Glorified (ELW 851)*



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



ra - tion leaves no room for pride, it is as  
men - sion in the world of sound, as wor - ship  
love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, borne wit - ness  
e - vil strove a - gainst the light? Then let us  
joice who have a voice to raise; and may God



though the whole cre - a - tion cried:  
moved us to a more pro - found  
to the truth in ev - 'ry tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!  
sing, for whom he won the fight:  
give us faith to sing al - ways:

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924

Text © 1972 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### DISMISSAL

The service has ended. **The ministry begins!**

Go in peace! Live by the Spirit!

**Thanks be to God.**