

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

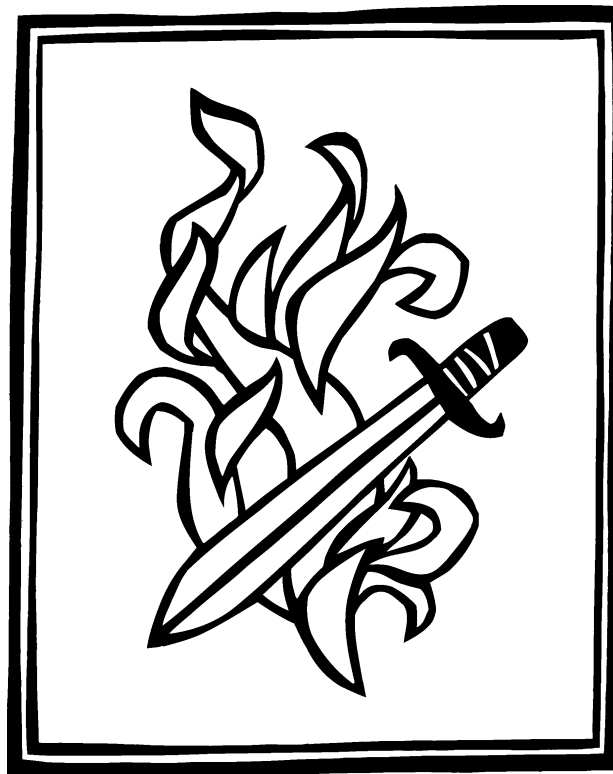
August 17, 2025 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

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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: Pat Cambridge; Time with Children: Puppets!; Ushers: JoAnn Ball, Dan Snoddy; Greeter: Mark Sunderman; Acolyte: Eliza; Livestream: Sam Hanson*

INTRODUCTION

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (ELW 858)



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Erneueren Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

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, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

A reading from Jeremiah.

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 82

- ¹ God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
- ² **"How long will you judge unjustly,
and show favor to the wicked?**
- ³ Save the weak and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;
- ⁴ **rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**
- ⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- ⁶ **Now I say to you, 'You are gods,
and all of you children of the Most High;**
- ⁷ nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,
and fall like any prince.' "
- ⁸ **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

A reading from Hebrews.

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain

a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

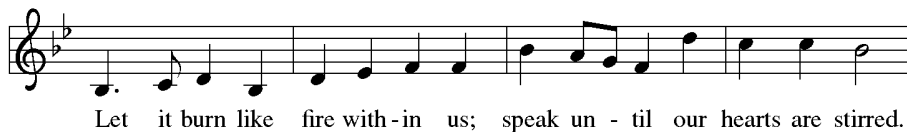
³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

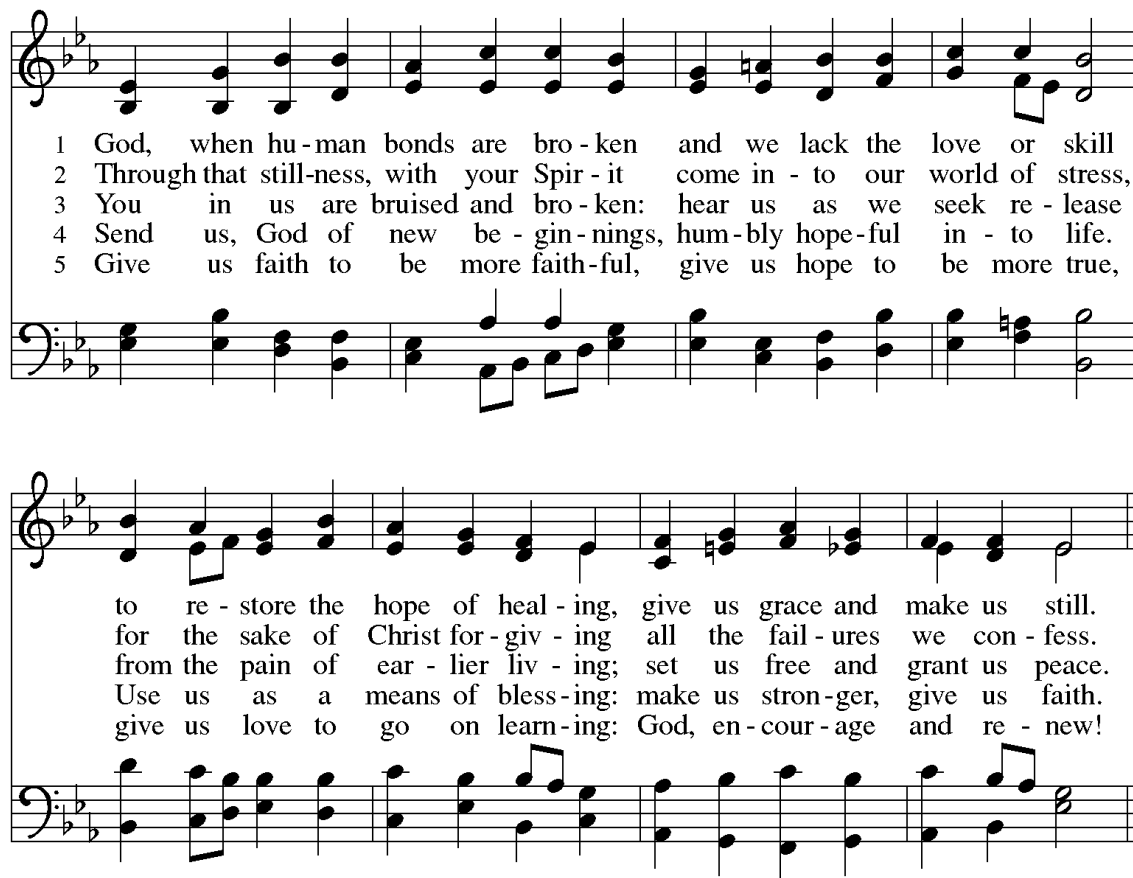
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken (ELW 603)



1 God, when hu-man bonds are bro-ken and we lack the love or skill
 2 Through that still-ness, with your Spir-it come in-to our world of stress,
 3 You in us are bruised and bro-ken: hear us as we seek re-lease
 4 Send us, God of new be-gin-nings, hum-bly hope-ful in-to life.
 5 Give us faith to be more faith-ful, give us hope to be more true,

to re-store the hope of heal-ing, give us grace and make us still.
 for the sake of Christ for-giv-ing all the fail-ures we con-fess.
 from the pain of ear-lier liv-ing; set us free and grant us peace.
 Use us as a means of bless-ing: make us stron-ger, give us faith.
 give us love to go on learn-ing: God, en-cour-age and re-new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We are a world that needs you, God.

When powers struggle for dominance,
and war, oppression and abuse result;
When groups of people oppose one another
simply because of ideology, religion or race;
We need a God who is bigger than ourselves,
and our personal interests, to be with the people especially right now
in Gaza and Ukraine who so desperately need help.
Lord be with us. **And hear our prayer**

When people are disregarded and ignored
because of poverty, geography or disease;
When compassion and justice is withheld to some
because of sexuality, race or gender;
We need a Savior who is more compassionate than we are,
who includes even those we might exclude.
Lord be with us. **And hear our prayer**

When resources are mismanaged and abused,
and the world and its creatures are destroyed;
When motivation is scarce and creativity is in short supply
to address the challenges that we face;
We need a Spirit who is more powerful and more creative
than we could ever be, to encourage us and to show us
what we need to do.
Lord be with us. **And hear our prayer**

Hear now these prayers we offer to you, either silently
or aloud, for those who are known to us...
Lord be with us. **And hear our prayer**

Lord God, Loving Savior, Empowering Spirit,
we offer you these prayers
because we need you so desperately.
Captivate us, call us and fill us with your love,
that we may be carriers of your promise of eternal life
to this world that you (and we) love so dearly.
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

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing (ELW 886)

1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;

the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

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

Go in peace! Live by the Spirit!

Thanks be to God.