

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 30, 2023

9th Sunday after Pentecost



ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!

Gospel in Action: Caring for all God's children, we shall serve God through worship, learning, and sharing.

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Interim Pastor: Rev. Laura Kuntz

Office Administrator: Heather Nordman

Organist: Randi Smarsh Custodians: Bill Higgins and Beth Lecorchick



ORDER OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The congregation is invited to stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors. Righteous God,

C: We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

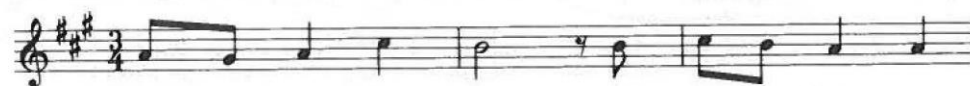
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

WE WALK BY FAITH 806



1., 5. We walk by faith, and not by sight: No
2. We may not touch his hands and side, Nor
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief, And
4. That when our life of faith is done In



gra - cious words we hear Of him who spoke as
fol - low where he trod; Yet in his prom - ise
may our faith a - bound; To call on you when
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you



none e'er spoke, But we be - lieve him near.
we re - joice, And cry "My Lord and God!"
you are near, And seek where you are found:
as you are In full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.
Tune: SHANTI, CM; Mary Haugen, b. 1950, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*



In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord, have mer-cy,




Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)


Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant:



Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:



God. A - men.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

NOW THE FEAST AND CELEBRATION

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy, to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

Verse 1

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and u - nit-ed us
to be one great peo - ple of God. **D.C.**

Verse 2

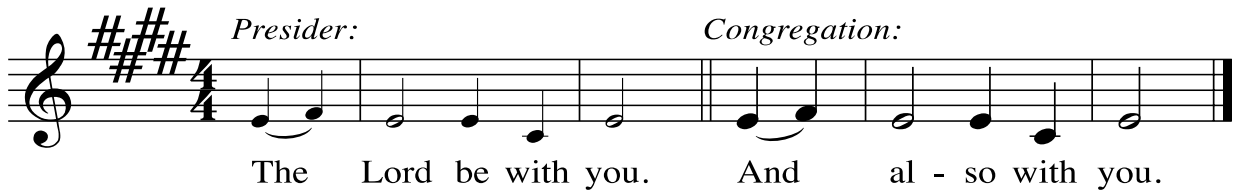
2. Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. **D.C.**

Verse 3

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to make us
peo-ple of God; to make all things new. **D.C.**

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
© 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

SALUTATION



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The congregation is invited to sit.

FIRST LESSON 1 Kings 3:5-12

L: The first lesson is from 1 Kings, the 3rd chapter.

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

L: The word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 119:129-136

TONE



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REFRAIN



When your word is o - pened, it gives



light and un - der - stand - ing.

Psalm 119:130

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹²⁹Your de-¹crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with¹ all my heart.
- ¹³⁰**When your word is opened¹ it gives light;
it gives understanding¹ to the simple.**
- ¹³¹I open my¹ mouth and pant
because I long for¹ your commandments.
- ¹³²**Turn to me and be gra-¹acious to me,
as you always do to those who¹ love your name. R**
- ¹³³Order my footsteps¹ in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion¹ over me.
- ¹³⁴**Rescue me from those¹ who oppress me,
and I will keep¹ your commandments.**
- ¹³⁵Let your face shine up-¹on your servant
and teach¹ me your statutes.
- ¹³⁶**My eyes shed¹ streams of tears,
because people do not¹ keep your teaching. R**

SECOND LESSON Romans 8:26-39

L: The second lesson is from Romans, the 8th chapter.

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes

for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: The word of the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

The congregation is invited to stand.

GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord!**

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” ³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.” ⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P: The gospel of the Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

The congregation is invited to sit.

SERMON

Pastor Laura Kuntz

The congregation is invited to stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

HE COMES TO US AS ONE UNKNOWN 801



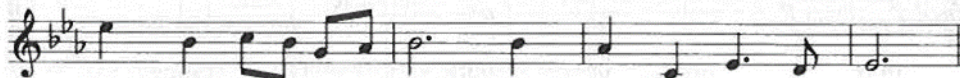
1. He	comes	to	us	as	one	un - known,	A
2. He	comes	when	souls	in	si - lence	lie	And
3. He	comes	to	us	in	sound	of seas,	The
4. He	comes	in	love	as	once	he came	By
5. He	comes	in	truth	when	faith	is grown;	Be -



breath	un - seen,	un - heard;	As	though	with - in	a
thoughts	of	day	de - part;	Half - seen	up - on	the
o - cean's	fume	and	foam;	Yet	small	and still
flesh	and	blood	and	birth;	To	bear
lieved,	o - beyed,	a - dored:	The	Christ	in	all
						the



heart of stone, Or shriv - eled seed in dark - ness sown, A
in - ward eye, A fall - ing star a - cross the sky Of
on the breeze, A wind that stirs the tops of trees, A
mor - tal frame A life, a death, a sav - ing Name, For
scrip - tures shown, As yet un - seen, but not un - known, Our



pulse of be - ing stirred, A pulse of be - ing stirred.
night with - in the heart, Of night with - in the heart.
voice to call us home, A voice to call us home.
ev - 'ry child of earth, For ev - 'ry child of earth.
Sav - ior and our Lord, Our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926, © 1984, Hope Publishing Co.
Tune: REPTON, 8 6 88 6 with repeat: Charles H. H. Parry, 1848-1918

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Almighty God, we pray for the church and all servants of the gospel. Equip rostered and lay ministers to proclaim that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Form us all into disciples. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Gracious God, we pray for the well-being of creation. Safeguard the environment, clean polluted rivers and lakes, preserve the mighty tree and the tiny mustard seed, and send advocates for sustainable practices. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Compassionate God, we pray for the nations. Instill in all who govern the ability to discern between good and evil, free those who are oppressed, and protect those facing danger. Promote peace across the world and in our towns and neighborhoods. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Merciful God, we pray for all in any need. Protect those fleeing from war, shelter any who are in poverty, clothe the naked, soothe all who grieve, and heal the sick especially those we say aloud or silently in our hearts... Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Holy God, we pray for this congregation, both those gathered today and those absent from our assembly. Grant safety to travelers and refreshment and safety for

children attending summer camps or community programs. Give direction to any experiencing life transitions. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for this community of faith and for its Call Committee. For your wisdom and love. Give us holy indifference that we may be indifferent to our own will. Through your Holy Spirit, help us to be unwilling to do anything but your will. Give us patience and guidance as we seek to know what you would like us to do. Bless all that we do, so that we can do what you bless. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The congregation is invited to sit.

OFFERING

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen
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The congregation is invited to stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

PREFACE

P: 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:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

C: 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;

772 EAT THIS BREAD

Refrain

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and

nev - er be hun - gry. Eat this bread,


drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.

Verse 1


1. I am the bread of life, the

true bread sent from the Fa - ther. *D.C.*

Verse 2




2. Your an - ces - tors ate man - na in the



des - ert, but this is the bread come down from heav - en. *D.C.*

Verse 3




3. Eat my flesh and drink my blood, and



I will raise you up on the last day. *D.C.*

Verse 4



4. An - y - one who eats this bread, will



live for ev - er. *D.C.*

Verse 5



5. If you be - lieve and eat this bread,



you will have e - ter - nal life. *D.C.*

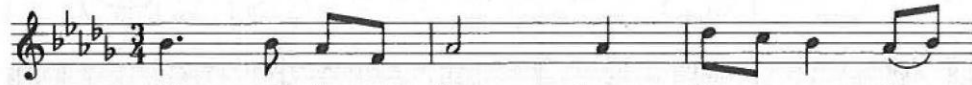
Text: John 6; Adapt. by Robert J. Batastini, b. 1942 and the Taize Community, 1984
Tune: Jacques Berthier, b. 1923
© 1984, Les Presses de Taize

774 YOU SATISFY THE HUNGRY HEART

Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart With



gift of fin - est wheat; Come give to us, O

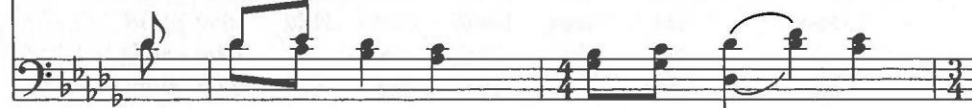


sav - ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

Verses



- | | | | | |
|---------|------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. As | when the shep - | herd | calls his sheep, | They |
| 2. With | joy - ful lips | we | sing to you | Our |
| 3. Is | not the cup | we | bless and share | The |
| 4. The | mys - t'ry of | your | pres - ence, Lord, | No |
| 5. You | give your - self | to | us, O Lord; | Then |



know	and heed his	voice;	So	when you	call your
praise	and grat - i -	tude.	That	you should	count us
blood	of Christ out -	poured?	Do	not one	cup, one
mor -	tal tongue can	tell:	Whom	all the	world can -
self -	less let us	be,	To	serve each	oth - er



fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - jice.
 worth - y, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
 loaf de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in your name In truth and char - i - ty.

D.C.

Text: Omar Westendorf, b. 1916, © 1977, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
 Tune: BICENTENNIAL, CM with refrain; Robert E. Kreutz, b. 1922, © 1977, Archdiocese of Philadelphia; Harm. by John Ferguson, b. 1941,
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The congregation is invited to stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

THANKS BE TO YOU

Congregation:

1. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:
 2. From of old you loved and sought us:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the
 Thanks be to you for ev - er! Truth and jus - tice

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for ev - er!
 you have taught us: Thanks be to you for ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your
 love, re - mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of

life with us. 3. Praise to you, O
 God of mer-cy: Thanks be to you for ev-er!
 Rais-ing high the weak and low-ly: Thanks be to you for
 ev-er! Thanks be to you for ev-er!

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

BLESSING

Presider: May God bless and keep us.
 May God's face shine on us and be gracious.
 May God look on us with favor and ☩ give us peace.

Presider: — give us peace. *Congregation:* A - men.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

SENDING HYMN

HALLELUYA 780

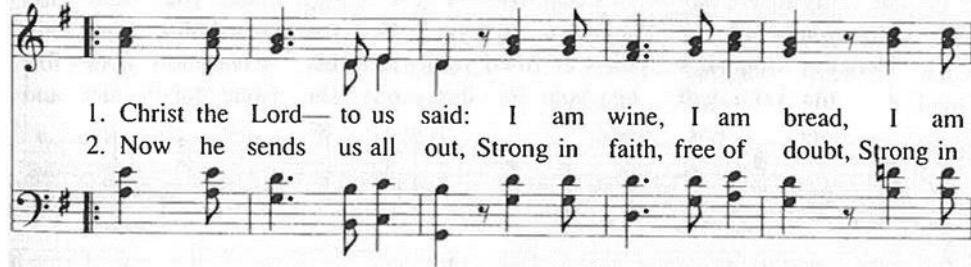
Refrain

Hal - le - lu - ya! We sing your prais - es, all our
 hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - ya! We sing your

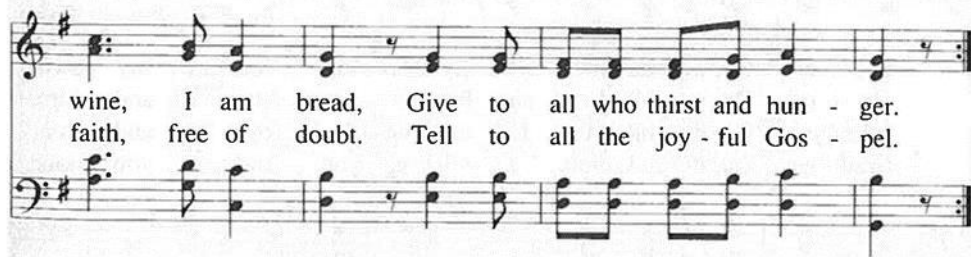


prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

Verses



1. Christ the Lord—to us said: I am wine, I am bread, I am
 2. Now he sends us all out, Strong in faith, free of doubt, Strong in



wine, I am bread, Give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
 faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful Gos - pel.

Note: The refrain and each verse are always sung twice.

Text: South African
 Tune: South African
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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

C: Thanks be to God.

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