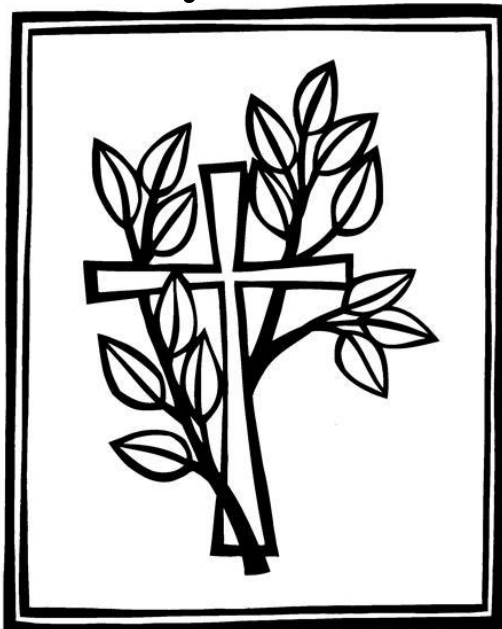


Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
September 3, 2023  
14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



**ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!**

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

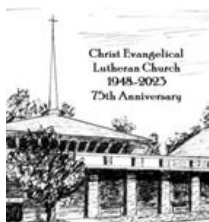
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church  
32747 Lake Road  
Avon Lake, Ohio 44012  
440-933-6263

celc.mainoffice@gmail.com      www.christlutheranavonlake.org

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

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**


# GATHERING HYMN

## 879

# For the Beauty of the Earth




1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,  
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:  
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

*Refrain*



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.  
Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

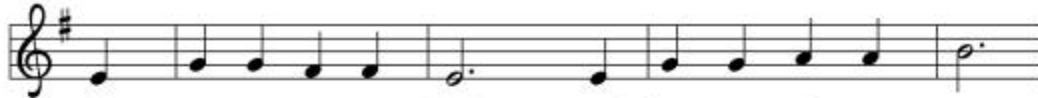
DIX  
777777

## 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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Come, let us join our cheer - ful songs with an - gels round the throne;  
2 "Wor - thy the Lamb that died," they cry, "to be ex - alt - ed thus!"  
3 Je - sus is wor - thy to re - ceive hon - or and pow'r di - vine;  
4 Let all cre - a - tion join in one to bless the sa - cred name



ten thou - sand thou - sand are their tongues, but all their joys are one.  
"Wor - thy the Lamb," our lips re - ply, "for he was slain for us!"  
and bless - ings, more than we can give, be, Lord, for - ev - er thine.  
of God who sits up - on the throne, and to a - dore the Lamb.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

## FIRST LESSON     Jeremiah 15:12-21

L: The first lesson is from Jeremiah, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. <sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. <sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. <sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. <sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. <sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## PSALM 26:1-8

### TONE



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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### REFRAIN



Your love is be - fore my eyes; I have walked



faith - ful - ly, faith - ful - ly with you.

Psalm 26:3  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.  
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<sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived <sup>1</sup>with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and <sup>1</sup>have not faltered.

**<sup>2</sup>Test me, O LORD, and try me;  
examine my heart and my mind.**  
**<sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes;  
I have walked faithfully with you.**  
**<sup>4</sup>I have not sat with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with the deceitful. R**  
**<sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers;  
I will not sit down with the wicked.**  
**<sup>6</sup>I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,  
that I may go in procession round your altar,**  
**<sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.**  
**<sup>8</sup>LORD, I love the house in which you dwell  
and the place where your glory abides. R**

## **SECOND LESSON                  Romans 12:9-21**

L: The second lesson is from Romans, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” <sup>20</sup>No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The word of the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL Matthew 16:21-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” <sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? <sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

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

COMMITMENT, DISCIPLESHIP

## Will You Come and Follow Me

798

*The Summons*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call  
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call  
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call  
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call  
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't  
your name? Will you care for cruel and  
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners  
your name? Will you quell the fear in -  
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



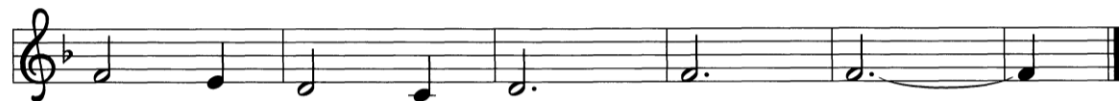
know and nev - er be the same?  
kind and nev - er be the same?  
free and nev - er be the same?  
side and nev - er be the same?  
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my  
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -  
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as  
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the  
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be  
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer  
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I  
world a - round, through my sight and touch and  
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"  
pray'r in you and you in me?"  
mean in you and you in me?"  
sound in you and you in me?"  
grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949  
Music: Scottish traditional  
Text © 1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

KELVINGROVE  
13 13 77 13



## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

A: God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain especially those we say aloud or silently in our hearts... Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

A: God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

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: Receive our prayer.**

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

**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 “What Would You Give in Exchange For Your Soul?” Frank Lee**  
**Brother, afar from your Savior today**  
**Risking your soul for the things that decay**  
**What if today, God should call you away?**  
**What would you give, in exchange for your soul?**

### *Refrain*

**What would you give, what would you give,**  
**What would you give, in exchange for your soul?**  
**What if today, God should call you away?**  
**What would you give, \*in exchange for your soul?**  
*(Slow last time through)*

**Mercy is calling you, won't you give heed?**  
**Must the dear Savior still tenderly plead?**  
**Risk not your soul, it is precious indeed.**  
**What would you give, in exchange for your soul? (Refrain)**

**More than all silver and gold of the earth.**  
**More than all jewels, you spirit is worth.**  
**God the Creator has given it birth.**  
**What would you give, in exchange for your soul? (Refrain)**

*The congregation is invited to stand.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

**C: 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

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## 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:



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.

## 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; 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.**

## LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*The congregation is invited to sit.*

## COMMUNION

# You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Gift of Finest Wheat

484



- 1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



so when you call your fam-'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.  
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n - ly food.  
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?  
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.  
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997  
Music: Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996  
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia

BICENTENNIAL  
CM and refrain

*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.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray,

C: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## BLESSING

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

## SENDING HYMN

### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

836

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!  
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,  
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.  
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed between the two staves.

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.  
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1933  
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

HYMN TO JOY  
8 7 8 7 D

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

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