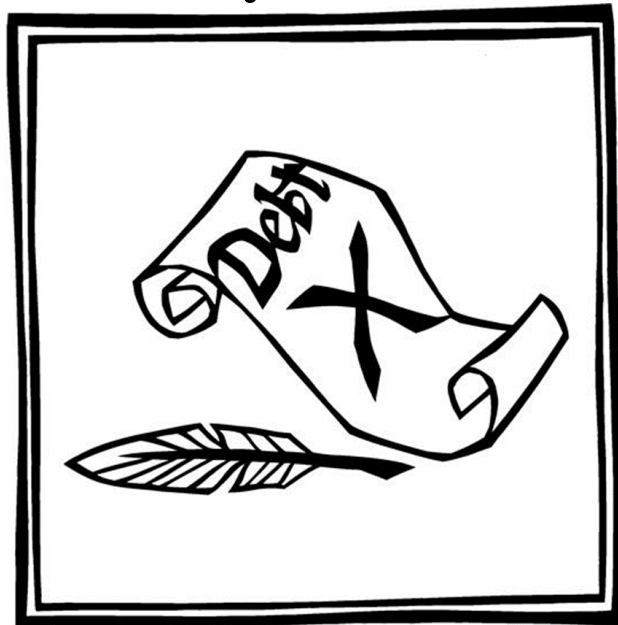


Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
September 17, 2023
16th Sunday after Pentecost



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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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

864

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



- 1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
- 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
- 3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;
- 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
 God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
 but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.
 Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005
 Music: John Goss, 1800–1880

PRAYE, MY SOUL
 8 7 8 7 8 7

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 Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The congregation is invited to sit.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

FIRST LESSON **Genesis 50:15-21**

L: The first lesson is from Genesis, the 50th chapter.

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers said, “What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?” ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷‘Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.’ Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

L: The word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

PSALM 103:[1-7] 8-13

TONE



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REFRAIN

LORD, you are full of com - pas - sion and mer - cy,
of com - pas - sion and mer - cy.

Psalm 103:8
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Bless the LORD, ¹O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's ¹holy name.
- ²**Bless the LORD, ¹O my soul,**
and forget not ¹all God's benefits—
- ³who forgives ¹all your sins
and heals all ¹your diseases;
- ⁴**who redeems your life ¹from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast ¹love and mercy; R
- ⁵who satisfies your desires ¹with good things
so that your youth is renewed ¹like an eagle's.
- ⁶**O LORD, you provide ¹vindication**
and justice for all who ¹are oppressed.
- ⁷You made known your ¹ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- ¹dren of Israel.
- ⁸**LORD, you are full of compas- ¹sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in ¹steadfast love; R

⁹you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**
¹¹For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**
¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD. **R**

SECOND LESSON Romans 14:1-12

L: The second lesson is from Romans, the 14th chapter.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: The word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

The congregation is invited to stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

605



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
 Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
 Text © Oxford University Press

DETROIT
 C M

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: We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy especially those we say aloud or silently in our hearts... Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

C: Receive our prayer.

A: We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. 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.

A: 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

“Come Christians, Join to Sing”

Choir

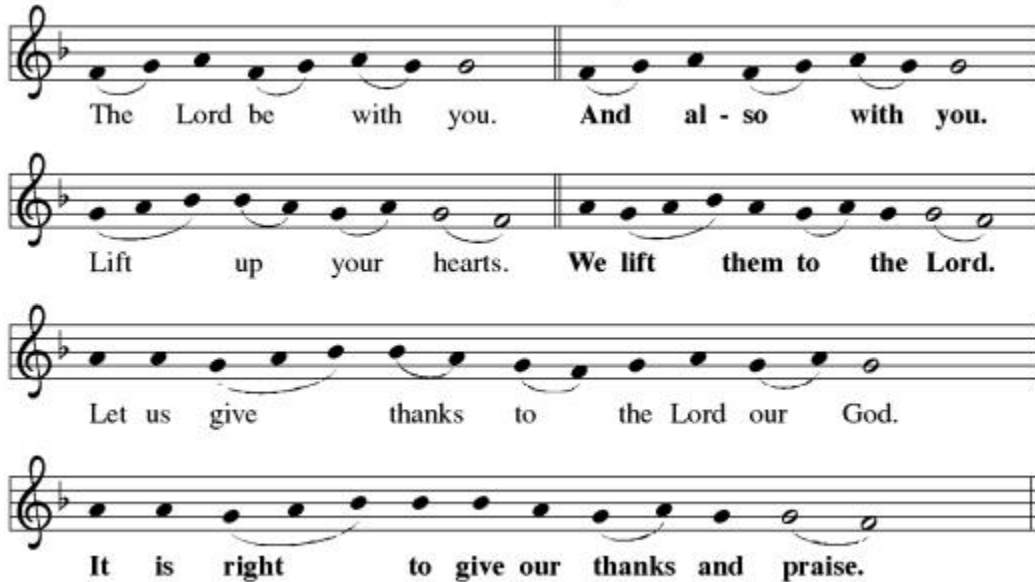
The congregation is invited to stand.

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



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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

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

When We Are Living

HOPE, ASSURANCE

Pues si vivimos

639



1 *Pues si vi - vi - mos,* *pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,*
1 When we are liv - ing, it is in Christ Je - sus,
2 'Mid times of sor - row and in times of pain,. . . .
3 A - cross this wide world, we shall al - ways find



y si mo - ri - mos *pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.*
and when we're dy - ing, it is in the Lord. . . .
when sens - ing beau - ty or in love's em - brace,
those who are cry - ing with no peace of mind;



Sea que vi - va - mos *o que mu - ra - mos,*
Both in our liv - ing and in our dy - ing,
wheth - er we suf - fer, or sing re - joic - ing,
and when we help them, or when we feed them,



so - mos del Se - ñor, *so - mos del Se - ñor.*
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.
we be - long to God, we be - long to God.

Text: st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger, b. 1942;
st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George Lockwood, b. 1946
Music: Spanish traditional

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR
Irregular

Spanish text, sts. 2-3 © 1983 Abingdon Press and tr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company

Morning Has Broken

556

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black - bird has
2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing, born of the

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - 'ry

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, admin. David Higham Associates
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

BUNESSAN
5554D

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

867

In Thee Is Gladness



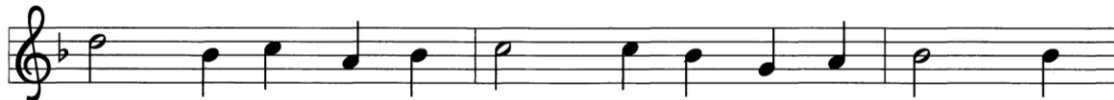
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
2 Je-sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for

pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,
 glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him

to thee are cleav - ing; naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
 and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
 Music: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, 1556-1622

IN DIR IST FREUDE
 PM

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

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