



12th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday August 20, 2023

Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
2725 Concord Drive
Florissant, MO 63033

Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

Welcome! If you came as a guest today, we hope you leave as a friend. May this worship service surround you with the love of God through Christ and fills you with the Holy Spirit.

Invitation to Communion: We welcome all to commune at LCLC. It is not our table, nor this congregation's table, nor our denomination's table. It is the table of Jesus Christ. By his invitation there is a place for everyone. We believe that Jesus is present in the bread and wine that forgives sin, nourishes faith, and calls us to be witnesses to the gospel.

Notes about our worship service: You may also follow along with the service by looking at the screen in the front of the sanctuary. Guidance is printed in italics throughout. "P" indicates the speaking part of the presiding minister; "L" indicates a speaking part of a lay leader; "C" and parts in boldface indicate speaking parts of the whole congregation. We use ELW **Setting 3** for liturgical music. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Ask before giving a handshake or hug.

PRELUDE

"Oh For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Michael Burkhardt

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

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.

Silence for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

ELW#886

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

¹Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

⁶And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant— ⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ⁸Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 67

L: ¹May God be merciful to ¹ us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

C: ²Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

L: ³Let the peoples praise ¹ you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

C: ⁴Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.

L: ⁵Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

C: ⁶The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.

L: ⁷May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe

SECOND READING Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[*Paul writes:*] ¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ^{2a}God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they have now been

disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. ³²For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING - *Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.*

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 15th chapter (verses 10-28)

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand: ¹¹it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."
¹²Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" ¹³He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. ¹⁴Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." ¹⁵But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." ¹⁶Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? ¹⁷Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? ¹⁸But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. ¹⁹For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. ²⁰These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."

²¹Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. ²²Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." ²³But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."
²⁴He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." ²⁶He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁷She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." ²⁸Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Following the reading the assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Matt Helfrich

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

ELW #759

PROFESSION OF FAITH – *The Apostles' Creed*

**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

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.

O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm's way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, you journey with us in all of life's transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry (*especially name/s of specific ministries*). Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labors (*especially Bernard of Clairvaux, whom the church commemorates today*). Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Share God's peace in whatever way you and/or neighbors are comfortable.

Following the sharing of the peace the assembly is seated.

GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

OFFERING AND PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen

COMMUNION LITURGY

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. Hosanna in the highest!

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

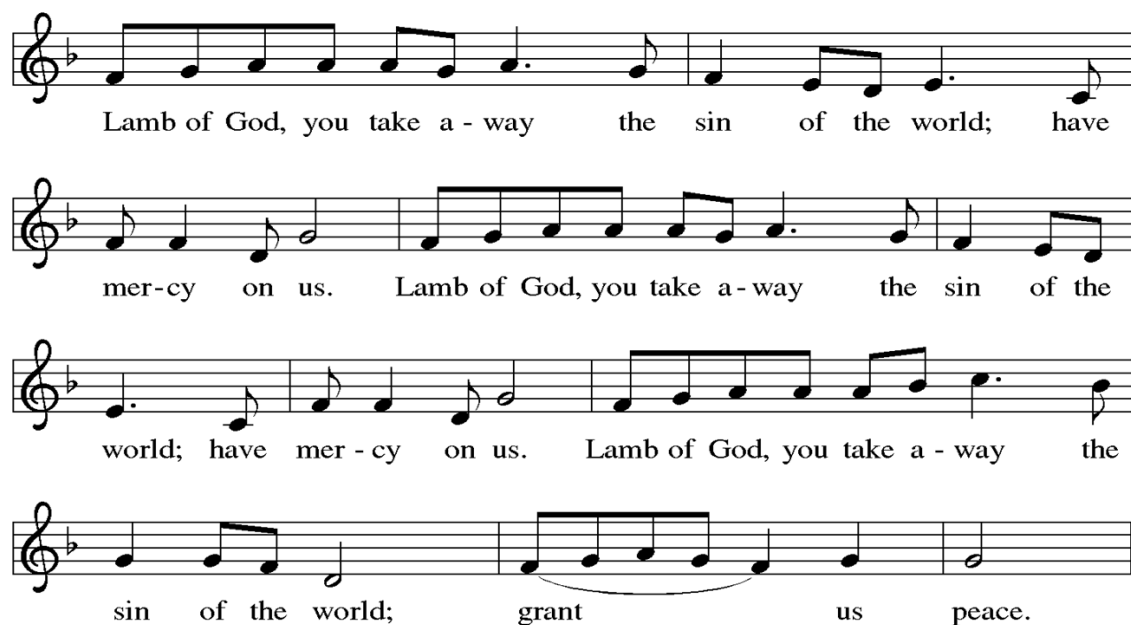
P: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Time is given for the sharing of bread and wine. Additional verbal directions will be given.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"One Bread, One Body"

ELW#496

BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you in God's grace unto eternal life.

C: Amen.

PRAYER

L: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table.
Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our
dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

**(ANNOUNCEMENTS – Please see announcements at the end of this bulletin.)*

BENEDICTION

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the most gentle voice ☩ bless, keep,
and sustain you now and to the end of the age.

C: Alleluia! Amen!

SENDING HYMN

“Rise, Shine, You People”

ELW#665

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Share the harvest. **C: Thanks be to God.**

NO POSTLUDE:

Please Stay For The Congregational Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **We are earnestly seeking new members for our vocal and bell choirs. Please contact for vocal: David Eggers (314-942-9652, dossy2@att.net) and for bell: Bill Kaepfel (314-378-6308, kaepfel@sbcglobal.net).**
2. **Car Show** - We are asking for volunteers to help with the **Car Show on September 9 10am-4pm**. Please contact Cathie Lehr or Karen Haynes. Sign Up sheet on bulletin board
3. **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** following worship **TODAY August 20th please remain in the sanctuary.**
4. **Tuesday 10:00 am Bible Study** is canceled for the month of August. We will resume in September.
5. **Bell choir** will meet Thursdays at 6pm starting Sept. 7. **Vocal choir** will meet Sundays at 8am starting Sept. 10.

August 20, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett

Lector: Dave Endorf

Zoom Slides: Rod Wallace

Musician: David Eggers

Ushers: Glenn Albers & Ann Schultz

Greeter: Jeanne Calderwood

Altar Guild: Joyce Wolf & Ann Schultz

August 27, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Randy Henning

Lector: Terry Calderwood

Zoom & Slides: Erle Craig

Musician: David Eggers

Ushers: Levaughn & Sheila Smart

Greeter: Gloria Broderick