



**14th Sunday after Pentecost**

**Sunday September 3, 2023**

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

## Welcome to Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

**Welcome!** If you are 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 of the gospel.

**Notes about our worship service:** You can follow along with the service by looking at the screen in the front of the worship space. 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 Evangelical Lutheran Worship books (ELW) **Setting 3** for liturgical music. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Ask before giving a handshake or hug.

### PRELUDE

"A Moment of Peace "

John Tumer

"I Love Thee, My Lord"

Hugh S. Livingston Jr.

### 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

"Come, Follow Me"

ELW#799

## **GREETING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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 assembly is seated.*

## **FIRST READING Jeremiah 15:15-21**

<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 merry-makers, 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, <sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalms 26:1-8**

L: <sup>1</sup>Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

**C: <sup>2</sup>Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

L: <sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

**C: <sup>4</sup>I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

L: <sup>5</sup>I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

**C: <sup>6</sup>I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

L: <sup>7</sup>singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**C: <sup>8</sup>LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.**

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

<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: 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 16th chapter (verses 21-28)

**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.**

*Following the reading the assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

Pastor Matt Helfrich

## 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

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

*A brief silence.*

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,

**receive our prayer.**

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,

**receive our prayer.**

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 (*especially*). Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain. 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,

**receive our prayer.**

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,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor (*especially*). Nurture us in faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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.  
**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

"In the Singing"

ELW#466

### 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

“Let Streams of Living”

ELW#710

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE:

“Recessional”

Richard Wagner

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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](mailto:dossy2@att.net)) and for bell: Bill Kaepfel (314-378-6308, [kaepfel@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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. **Bell choir** will meet Thursdays at 6pm starting Sept. 14. Vocal choir will meet Sundays at 8am starting Sept. 10.
4. The **September Lunch Bunch** will meet at 11:30 Thursday, Sept. 14, at Chimi's Fresh Mex in Florissant Meadows Shopping Center, 520 N. Hwy 67 63131 (Lindbergh) . For reservations contact Judy Holmes at 314-355-1125 or [mickey.holmes@att.net](mailto:mickey.holmes@att.net). All are welcome.
5. **FIFTY PLUS TO TOUR BUTTERFLY HOUSE SEPTEMBER 20** - tour the Sophia M. Sachs Butterfly House with 50+ on Wed., Sept. 20, at 11:00. The Butterfly House is located at 15050 Faust Park in Chesterfield. A group rate of \$4 per person can be obtained if there are at least 15 people. Our hosts, Sheila and LeVaughn Smart, plan to write a check for the group, so please pay the \$4.00 in advance to the Smarts, Judy Holmes, or Joyce Wolf. The sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by September 3. There will be carpooling from church, leaving at 10:15. The tour will begin at 11:00 and last about an hour. Following the tour, the group will go to the Mellow Mushroom Restaurant at 15525 Olive Blvd. for lunch. All are welcome.
6. New pictures from God's Helping Hand are posted at the doorway to the Conference Room, taken on Saturday the 19th. Showing their GiveAway of back to school supplies, and clothing. Our donations are posted above. THANKS TO ALL.
7. **Sharing in Mission and Ministry – Great Rivers Collaborative** The Holy Spirit guides our congregation to perform amazing mission and ministry using the resources with which we have been blessed. Recently, leaders from several area ELCA churches gathered to discuss how the gifts within individual congregations could be used in conjunction with gifts in other congregations to provide



even greater mission and ministry. From these conversations, the Great Rivers Collaborative (GRC) was formed. The GRC member congregations are Atonement, Living Christ, Good Shepherd, Shepherd of the Hills, St. Philips, Unity, and Zion. The GRC Committee already has several ideas and will share them with you soon. We encourage you to participate as you are able in upcoming GRC events! Our first event will be a combined Reformation Service at Unity on the afternoon of October 29th . Watch for more details in announcements and The Communicator. If you have questions or ideas, please contact Randy Henning or Laurie Brown.

8. **NO EXERCISE CLASS Sept 5 & 7**

9. **CVT meeting Sept 11@ 6:30pm**

**September 3, 2023**

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Bill Kaepfel

Lector: Gary Brown

Zoom: Gary & Laurie Brown

Musician: Greg Ott

Ushers: Randy Henning/Dave Endorf

Greeter: Levaughn & Sheila Smart

Altar Guild: Maureen Buchek & Marjorie Becker

**September 10, 2023**

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett

Lector: Laurie Brown

Zoom: Rod Wallace

Musician: David Eggers

Ushers: Jim/Doris Stoenner

Greeter: Judy Holmes

Altar Guild: Cathie Lehr & Joyce Meyer