



20th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday October 15, 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 the table of Jesus Christ - not our table, nor this congregation's table, nor our denomination's table. 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 also follow along with the service on the screen in the front. 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 a variety of resources to select music and other parts of the service. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Ask before giving a handshake or hug.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

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 be humbled before God, confessing our sin.

Silence 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.

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

“Christ, Whose Glory ”

ELW#553

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.. **Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM Resting in your arms

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

L: ¹The LORD^l is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C: ²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

L: ³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

C: ⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

L: ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: ⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING Philippians 4:1-9

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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 22nd chapter (verses 1-14)

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets

and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Following the reading the assembly is seated.

SERMON Pastor Matt Helfrich

HYMN OF THE DAY “Now We Join Celebration” ELW #462

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

Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land, that all followers of Christ share the mind of Christ and strive to live together in peace, staying firm in the Lord. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For green pastures and still waters and all the beauty of the natural world (*local natural areas may be named*), that creation flourishes and humankind lives in right relationship with all you have made. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For the nations of the world and all who hold positions of authority, that they govern in accordance with God's vision of justice, providing shelter and refuge to all in need, striving toward the goal of peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For all experiencing valleys of illness and grief, that they be healed and comforted and find rest in the presence of the Good Shepherd who walks beside them. (*We pray especially for . . .*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For this community of believers, that wherever there is conflict or discord, the love of Christ may keep us united and make us mindful of all that is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and excellent. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for the beloved saints who now rest in your mercy (*especially Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church*), that their faithful witness guides your church until the day we join them at your heavenly feast. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Offering Prayer

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 power and 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.

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

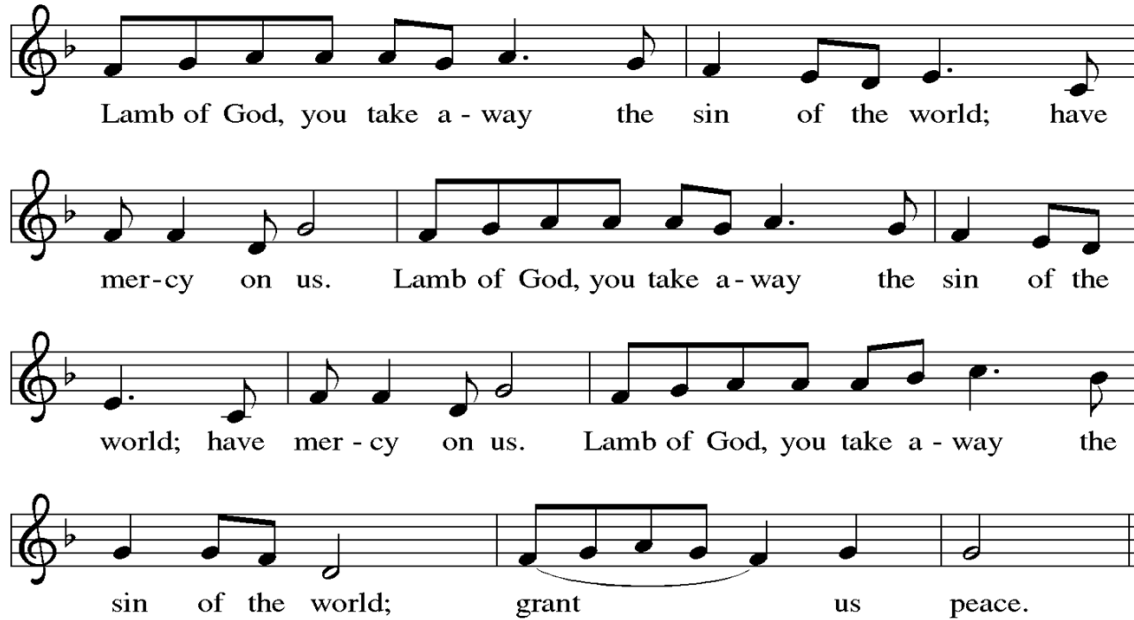
P: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

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

“At the Lamb’s High Feast”

ELW#362

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER

L: 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.

C: Amen.

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

BENEDICTION

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

“God Love the World”

ELW#323

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Reformation Sunday Oct. 29. Please wear red or dress like a monk in a brown hooded robe.**
2. **FIFTY PLUS IS HAVING AN OKTOBERFEST!** The Fifty Plus group will gather at 10:30 Wednesday, **October 18**, in the lower-level social hall at church. There will be trivia and games before lunch. A German style meal of brats, sauerkraut, German potato salad, desserts, beer, soda and pretzels will be served about noon. Member fees for 50+/- are \$10. If you haven't paid member fees yet, the cost is \$10 for the year (this also covers the meal). The sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by October 1. Please sign up for yourself and for a friend or 12!
3. **SAVE THE DATE: Trunk r Treat Saturday, October 28. We need volunteers. Please see the sign-up sheet or talk to Marilyn Wiley.**
4. **Great Rivers Collaborative** - Leaders from several area ELCA churches are collaborating to share the gifts within our collective congregations to provide even greater mission and ministry. The **Great Rivers Collaborative** (GRC) was formed to do just that. GRC member congregations are Atonement, Living Christ, Good Shepherd, Shepherd of the Hills, St. Philips, Unity, and Zion. The GRC Committee has several ideas to share in the near future. 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 **October 29th @ 4pm**. Watch for more details in The Communicator. If you have questions or ideas, please contact Randy Henning or Laurie Brown.
5. **A sample of Thanksgiving food** is on display in the Great Room today, along with copies of the Food List. If you are giving a Gift Card, see Bob Fayman, please.
6. **MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT** - In thanksgiving for the ways that God works through Living Christ through generosity and joyfully giving of time, talents, and resources. Gary Brown, and friends, constructed and installed the Lending Library. Books are available to Living Christ members as well as our surrounding community. Thank you, Gary.

October 15, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Bill Kaepffel

Lector: Terry Calderwood

Zoom & Slides: Rod Wallace

Musician: Greg Ott

Ushers: Dave Endorf & Glenn Albers

Greeter: Gloria Broderick

Altar Guild: Cathie Lehr & Joyce Meyer

October 22, 2023

Preaching/Presiding: Pr. Matt

Assisting Minister: Randy Henning

Lector: Dave Endorf

Zoom Slides: Gary & Laurie

Musician: David Eggers

Ushers: Doris & Jim Stoehner

Greeter: Levaughn/Sheila Smart

Altar Guild: Karen Haynes & Sheila Smart

Joyful Giving Note - Lutheran Church of the Living Christ needs your help in ensuring its future ministry. Please include the church in your will and/or other estate plans. You may want to at least tithe (give 10%) of your estate to the Lord. Remember to include the church's name and address along with the amount of your bequest. Should you wish, the pastor will provide you with the name of a caring and capable professional who can assist you.