



September 10, 2023 Season of Stewardship

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



September 10, 2023

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold**.

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

we GATHER

This **prelude** is based on hymn no. 524. We begin our service reflecting on this place of worship, which sustains and motivates us to do God’s work in the world, leading to “our justice and God’s peace.”

Our **Gathering Hymn** was written specifically for this special day in our church year: **God’s Work. Our Hands.** We celebrate the 10th anniversary and sing this blessing of our hands, feet, voices, and lives on this day to remember our calling as servants!

Prelude — “What Is This Place”

Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

Words of Welcome

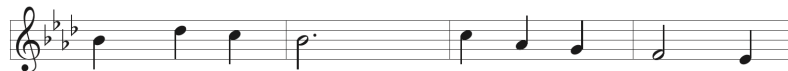
***Gathering Hymn** — no. 1000, from *All Creation Sings* “God’s Work, Our Hands”
Setting by Hal Hopson



1 God’s work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God’s work, our feet: trav - ’ling to - geth - er,
3 God’s work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread’s on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - ’ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God’s fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God’s love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God’s love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

*Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the + triune God,
who loves us into being,
calls us to community,
and inspires us to love.

Amen.

Confronted by the law and called to life in
the gospel, let us confess our sin before
God and one another.

Beloved of God, love is the fulfillment of
the law, and in Jesus, God's love for you is
made known. Through Jesus + your sins
are forgiven, and you are drawn into
God's love and life. Live fully, knowing
that God loves you. **Amen.**

God of love and community,
**we confess that we have not loved as
God has loved us.**
We look to ourselves to fulfill your law.
We seek to satisfy our own desires.
**We turn away from our neighbors
and live for ourselves alone.**
**Teach us again your statutes
and help us to love your will,
that in and through us
your beloved community is made
known.**

***Apostolic Greeting & Kyrie** — *page 120, front of hymnal, ELW Setting Two*

***Canticle of Praise** — *page 122, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Two*

*Prayer of the Day

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from the prophet Ezekiel — Ezekiel 33:7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, "As I live," says the Lord God, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Grace-filled Word for creating generous hearts. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 119:33-40 — *sung responsively by verse*



Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

**Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

**Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

**Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me.**

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans — Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Grace-filled Word for creating generous hearts. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** — *ELW Setting Two*

"Alleluia"



***Gospel** — Matthew 18:15-20

The Gospel of Matthew, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word

may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

*We sing boldly:
“we are your
heart, O Christ,
our hands and
voice, to serve
your people is our
call and choice.”
We learn from
Jesus how to
resolve internal
conflicts in our
gospel lesson so
that we may work
together to serve
our community
as one body.*

Sermon

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** — no. 546

“To Be Your Presence”

Brass Setting by Michael Burkhardt

Celebration of Holy Baptism — page 227, front of hymnal

***Prayers of Intercession**

A: Gathered into God’s embrace, let us lift our voices on behalf of a weary and wounded world.

God of love, send us out filled with your love and life. Be known in our daily living, that your love may be known through our proclamation. We give thanks today for Emma, our newly baptized sister. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of creation, remind us to be good stewards of your diverse and beautiful world. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of peace, fill the hearts of those who rule, govern and lead. Give them and us compassion to guide the peoples of this world in the ways of truth, justice, equity and peace. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of healing, visit those who yearn for your wholeness. Encourage all those who bear another’s burdens. Give wisdom and perseverance to all who work in health care professions. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

God of service, give us strength and humility. In our service to those near and far, whose needs are visible or invisible, may we find you in the faces of our neighbors. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

Everlasting God, support us in this life. As we remember those who have gone before as examples of faithful living and honor those whose faith was known only to you, inspire us to follow their example of baptismal life until we join with them in worship. God, we pray, **open our hands in love.**

Into your hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers, trusting in your mercy through the Crucified and-Risen One, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

This text was also written for God's Work Our Hands. It reflects on Jesus as servant, teacher, leader, and Day-star and encourages us to put our gifts to use in service of God's Kin-dom.

Offering

Music During Offering "Work in the Kin-dom"

Setting by Emily Bruflat

Work in the kin-dom
helping our neighbors,
people of varied races and lands.
Jesus, the servant, set an example,
healing and feeding all with his hands.

God's world is broken,
people are needy,
hungry and grieving, hurt and afraid.
Jesus, the teacher, demonstrates mercy,
showing disciples how to give aid.

Work with your neighbor;
care for creation;
Pray for your foes; form kindred anew.
Jesus, the leader, gives the commandment:
"Love one another as I love you."

God's work is waiting,
our hands are ready;
here in the kin-dom we must align.
Jesus, the Day-star, guide our path onward,
give us the spark to let our light shine!

*Offering Prayer

A: Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world. **Amen.**

we SHARE the meal

***Great Thanksgiving & Preface** — page 129, front of hymnal, ELW Setting Two

***"Holy, Holy, Holy"** — page 130, front of hymnal, ELW Setting Two

*Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

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.

We remember Christ - our example of good stewardship - who taught us to pray: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Invitation to the Table

P: Jesus invites you to this table with no exception. Come, eat and live.

Distribution of Communion

"Lamb of God" — page 135, front of hymnal, ELW Setting Two

Hymn — no. 656

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

We will receive communion at the rail this morning - you will be guided forward by the ushers. We first sing a hymn of unity and remember that we are bound "in Christian love," followed by a tried and true hymn of stewardship.

Hymn — no. 685

“Take My Life, that I May Be”

Hymn — no. 482

“I Come with Joy”

Prayer After Communion

P: Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. **Amen.**

*We are called to
“rise,
transformed, and
choose to follow
after Christ” as a
testimony to our
“living faith.” How
has your faith
transformed your
heart for service?*

we are SENT to serve the world

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 548

“Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen”
Brass Setting by David Cherwien

***Celebration of Vocation**

P: Let us celebrate and recommit to our Christian vocation.

We are called to proclaim the good news:

God is at work!

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work.

When we offer a helping hand, God is praised.

When we share our abundance, God is known in the world.

God is at work in us!

In our service today, and in our daily lives,

let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

God is at work through our hands!

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, + bless you this day, that you may be God’s hands and heart and voice at work in the world. **Amen.**

A: Go in peace. You are God’s hands at work in the world! **Thanks be to God!**

***Postlude** — “Now Thank We All Our God” Setting by Doris Gazda and Larry Clark
Trumpet Ensemble

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Brett Petersen

Musician: Trumpet Ensemble - Sarah Chambers, Doug, Schuldt, Kristine Schuldt

Assisting Minister: Sharon Malm

Greeter: Shanon Nowell

Reader: Nancy Timm

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson

Communion Preparers: Nancy Thorkelson, Grace Timm

Communion Servers: John & Aileen Bipes, Nancy Timm

Bread Bakers: Mike & Diane Stewart

Announcements

- Today we welcome into the Lord's family, Emma Reed Wilmes, through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Emma's parents are Jordan and Ashley Wilmes. Her sponsors are Jacey and Max Welp. Welcome to our family of faith!
- Flowers for the altar are given today by Annalise Rivas in memory of George Rivas Sr.
- Today is the 10th anniversary of "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday! Following worship, you are invited to join us cleaning up at the Union Street Shelter or, remain here to pack hygiene items for LSS or, join with the Green Committee to learn about ways to care for God's creation.
- Monday Adult Bible Study resumes on September 11. Everyone is welcome. Morning Prayer will be offered in the chapel at 9:30am. Classes will be held in the Conference Room starting at 9:45am. The focus is on Hebrews - "A New and Better Way" written by Bishop Herb Chilstrom. Class leaders will be Bob Stenson and Will Friert.
- You are all invited to the third annual FLC's Got Talent on Sunday, September 17 at 7:00 p.m. This is a favorite event featuring lots of wonderful talent! Visual artists: you do not need to sign up in advance. There will be display tables around the room. Bring your artwork between 6:30 and 7:00 and fill out a card with your name and a description of your artwork to share with the community! Finally, if you'd be willing to bring a snack to share, please contact Emily!
- Do you have a student entering 5th through 12th grade this fall? We are starting up a Youth Chime Choir, directed by Sarah Chambers! We will kick off rehearsals on Wednesday, September 20 at 5:30pm before orientation begins at 6:30pm. This will be a fun opportunity for youth to make music and build relationships - talk to Sarah or Emily for more information!
- Orientation for Faith Formation and Confirmation will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 20th. We will meet at 6:30pm in the Dining Hall. A parent or guardian is asked to come with their student. Classes begin Sept. 27th at 6:30pm.
- Rally Day for Sunday School is Oct. 1st. Classes will begin on Oct. 8th. Students Pre-K through 4th Grade are welcome to come learn, sing, and have fun!

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Gene Roemhildt, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Claire Cardwell, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, Carol Peterson, Sarah Smith, Gretchen Bray, Bob and Kay Moline.