

August 14, 2022

Time After Pentecost

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

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

Gathering in God's Presence

To maintain a worshipful atmosphere, today's musicians
kindly ask you to hold applause until after the postlude.



Prelude — “He Watching over Israel” from *Elijah*

Setting by Felix Mendelssohn
MSU Marshall Reunion Choir

*He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish, he will quicken thee.*

-Psalm 121:4 & Psalm 138:7

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 927, from *All Creation Sings*

“Christ Is the Life”



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,
2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.
who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark-ness of the womb.
whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre.
cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans - form - ing burn - ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,
Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,
Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,
Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



whose la - bor brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
whose prom - ise in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
for out from fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
and thus for - ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of
God and of one another.

Merciful God,
**we confess that we have not followed your path
but have chosen our own way.
Instead of putting others before ourselves,
we long to take the best seats at the table.
When met by those in need,
we have too often passed by on the other side.
Set us again on the path of life.
Save us from ourselves
and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.**

Hear the good news!
God does not deal with us
according to our sins
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.
In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are
forgiven.
You are free to love as God loves.
Amen.

*Greeting & Kyrie — pg. 165, front of hymnal, from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Setting Six

*Canticle of Praise — pg. 167, front of hymnal, from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Setting Six

*Prayer of the Day

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

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth.
Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants
and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the book of Jeremiah — Jeremiah 23:23-29

23Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? 24Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the Lord. 25I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" 26How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? 27They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. 28Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. 29Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody — "The Lord Is My Shepherd" (based on Psalm 23)

Setting by Alan Pote
MSU Marshall Reunion Choir

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews — Hebrews 11:29-12:2

29By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. 30By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. 31By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

32And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—33who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. 35Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. 36Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. 37They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—38of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

39Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, 40since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

12:1Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, 2looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation — from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Setting Six

“Alleluia”

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Gospel — Luke 12:49-56

The Gospel of Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 49“I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! 50I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! 51Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! 52From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; 53they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

54He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. 55And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. 56You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “By Faith We...”

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** — no. 713

“O God of Every Nation”

Reception of New Members

Affirmation of Baptism — p. 234, front of hymnal

***Prayers of Intercession**

Trusting in God’s extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters. Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by racist discrimination, ableist discrimination, and all people discriminated against based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Arise, O God, and sustain this assembly. We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. In our joy and in our tears, be near us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, 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.**

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Please use a sign of peace such as a bow, an elbow tap, a wave, a verbal greeting, and/or a peace sign!

Offering

Music at the Offering

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Setting by John Rutter

MSU Marshall Reunion Choir

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 580

“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”

***Blessing**

God almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; God's holy angels accompany you. God the Creator, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, cause Grace to be mighty upon you. **Amen.**

***Choral Benediction** — “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Setting by John Rutter
MSU Marshall Reunion Choir

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
to shine upon you and be gracious, and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
And give you peace, Amen.*

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Love your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude** — “Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit”

Setting by William L. Dawson
MSU Marshall Reunion Choir

*Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray;
yes ev'ry time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart I will pray.*

*Up on the mountain my Lord spoke; out of his mouth came fire and smoke
I looked all around me, looked so fine till I asked my Lord, "is all this mine?" [Refrain]*

*Jordan's River, it's chilly and cold; it chilled the body but not the soul.
There ain't but one train upon this track; it runs to heaven and right back. [Refrain]*

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat
Audio/Video: Rachel Ribar, Tobias Twait
Musicians: 1972 SW Minnesota State University Concert Choir (Marshall, MN)

Greeter: Cindy Nadeau
Reader: Barbara Wilkinson
Ushers: John Nadeau

Announcements

- We extend a big welcome to our newest members of First Lutheran Church! Everyone is invited to stay after worship for a reception in the Dining Hall - please introduce yourself to someone you don't know!
- We welcome and thank the 1972 Southwest Minnesota State University Concert Choir (Marshall, MN) for today's special music. The Choir, under the direction of Dr. Mark Aamot, presented over 40 concerts during a nine-week tour of Europe during spring 1972. The Choir is celebrating the 50th anniversary of their tour this weekend. Thank you for your music this morning! You can say thank you to the group by finding them in the Dining Hall during our time of fellowship following the service.
- *The Song Goes On: A Commentary on our Christian Vocation* Join in a worship hymn festival of music, scripture, reflection, and prayer on August 28. Many FLC musicians and friends will be participating in this special service: the Handbell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Brass Ensemble, and more! Please invite your family and friends!
- Flowers for the altar are given today by Emil and Carolyn Trnka in honor of their 50th Anniversary! Also at the altar are flowers given by Kris and Steve Larson in honor of our choir today!
- Volunteers are needed for the Day of Hope at Minnesota Square Park on August 27. Please contact Betsy Paul if you can fill any of the following time slots to sit at the FLC table:
12:45-2:45
2:30-4:30
4:15-6:15
6:00 -8:00 pm (The more the merrier! Multiple volunteers are welcome!)

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom and Deb Johnson, Abigail Christenson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Nancy Maag, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie, Nancy Timm, and Betty Gustafson.
- We pray for lasting peace in Ukraine and on the streets of America; the families of those affected by recent floods, fires, and other disasters; and in the hearts of all who have been affected by violence .