

August 7, 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



Prelude — “God of Our Fathers”
“Swing Down, Chariot”

Setting by Leon Tietz
Traditional
Riverblenders

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 638

“Blessed Assurance”

***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.

Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the book of Genesis — Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

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

Psalm 33:12-22 — Spoken responsively by verse

¹²Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.
**¹³The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.**
¹⁴From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth —
**¹⁵he who fashions the hearts of them all,
and observes all their deeds.**
¹⁶A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
**¹⁷The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.**

¹⁸Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
**¹⁹to deliver their soul from death,
and to keep them alive in famine.**
²⁰Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and shield.
**²¹Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.**
²²Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

A Reading from Hebrews — Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

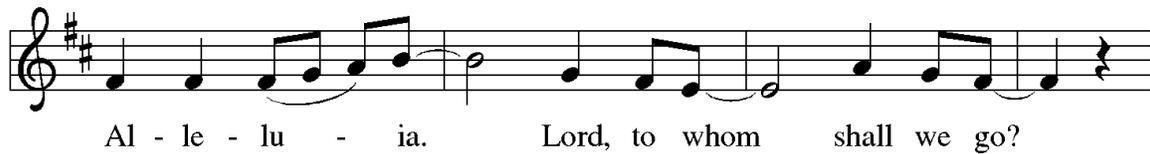
⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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

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

“Alleluia”



***Gospel** — Luke 12:32-40

The Gospel of Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 32“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

35“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; 36be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. 37Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. 38If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

39“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Members of the Flock: A True Story and a Truth Story”

Pr. Carl Bruihler

***Hymn** — no. 771

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”

***Affirmation of Faith** — Apostles’ Creed

Let us affirm our faith together using the words of 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 power of 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 God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

Let your lovingkindness be upon your church. Fill all who proclaim the gospel with your Spirit. Equip your flock to speak your word of promise and hope in the midst of fear and uncertainty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your creation. Dwell among us and sustain our earthly home. In places of famine, provide nourishment. In places of plenty, fashion us to be good stewards of your bounty. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your world. Be our helper and our shield in places torn by strife and violence. Raise up courageous leaders to govern with compassion and justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon your children. Look upon all who wait for your steadfast love. Console those who grieve and embrace those who cry out to you. Help us to trust your promise and not be afraid. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let your lovingkindness be upon this community. Fashion our hearts to strive for the way of peace. Strengthen the outreach ministries of this congregation and all who care for those in need. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With thanksgiving we remember all who have died in faith and now rest in you. As they placed their hope in you, so strengthen us to trust in your promise of new life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

"Have No Fear, Little Flock"

Hymnal Setting
Vocal Quartet

Sharing the Meal

***Great Thanksgiving & Preface** — *page 172, front of hymnal, from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Six*

***"Holy, Holy, Holy"** — *page 173, front of hymnal, from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Six*

*Words of Institution and Prayers

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.

In the name of the resurrected Christ, we pray together: **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 Communion**

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who love God
and who want to love God more.

So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little.
You who have been here often
and you who have not been for a long time or ever before.
You who have tried to follow and all of us who have failed.
These are the gifts of God for the People of God.
Come, not because the Church invites you;
It is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here.

The table is ready. Come.

Distribution of Communion

“Lamb of God” — *page 174, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Six*

Hymn — no. 488

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

Communion Blessing and Prayer

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Departing to Serve God’s World

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 808

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song as I Journey”

***Blessing & Dismissal**

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

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Guest Pastor: Carl Bruihler

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Shanon Nowell

Musicians: Riverblenders; Vocal Quartet - Sharon Malm, Dawn Wenner, Ellis Jones, Harvey Kane

Usher: Harry Hunt, Aileen Bipes

Greeter: Michelle Doose

Reader: Mary Spear

Communion Preparers: Nancy Thorkelson and Cheryl Kautt

Communion Servers: Bob Stenson, Shirleen Sylvester, Patricia and Patrick Duenwald

Bread Bakers: Shirleen Sylvester and Marilyn Kochsieck

Announcements

- Thank you to the Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus for providing our prelude music today!
- Flowers for the altar are in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Marilyn and Doug Miller.
- Join us for a special summer educational and worship opportunity! On Wednesdays, August 10 and 17, you are invited to our final two summer Bible Studies led by Pastor Chris from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall and worship at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel.
- Please make sure to join us as we welcome 11 new members into our congregation next Sunday, August 14th! If you would like to join our church, or know someone who does, please contact Pastor Chris or Angela.
- Next Sunday, we will welcome the 1972 Southwest Minnesota State University Concert Choir (Marshall, MN) for special music throughout worship. 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, and we are hosting! We are saying thank you by serving them a light lunch following the service.
- Our last outdoor service for the summer will be August 21. Come and enjoy the outdoors and worship with us!
- Hymn Festival Coming Soon: Join in a worship of music, scripture, reflection, and prayer on August 28: *The Song Goes On*. Many FLC musicians and friends will be participating in this special service: the Handbell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Brass Ensemble, and more!

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, on the streets of America, the families of those affected by flooding in Kentucky, and in the hearts of all who have been affected by violence .