



August 25, 2024 ✝ 14th Sunday after Pentecost

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!

“God’s Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people.”

P: Indicates the presider throughout the service. AM: Indicates the Assisting Minister throughout the service.

we gather

Prelude - MY LORD Amazing Grace - Peaceful Easy Feeling

Words of Welcome

***Hymn — All My Trials** – traditional

All my trials LORD, soon be over

1. If religion was a thing that money could buy
The rich would live and the poor would die
All my trials, LORD, soon be over

Too late my kindred, too late, but never mind
All my trials, LORD, soon be over

2. I had a little book, it was given to me
And every page spelled liberty...

3. Think you people, don’t you cry
My LORD condemned not, nor do I...

Too late my kindred, too late, but never mind
All my trials, LORD, soon be over

4. See, the land across the sea
And the people crying, “Come set us free”...

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

***Apostolic Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***Song of Praise - Lord, I Lift Your Name On High - ELW 857 - Rick Founds**

LORD, I lift Your Name on high. LORD, I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life. I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the Cross, my debt to pay
From the Cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
LORD, I lift Your Name on high

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Temple Talk: Wednesday Night Meals- Rachel Szybnski

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from the book of Joshua — Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

1Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 2aAnd Joshua said to all the people, 14"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the

River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

16Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; 17for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 18and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:15-22 - Psalm will be spoken responsively by whole verse

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous. (Ps. 34:15)

15The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God’s ears are open to their cry.

16**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

17The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

18**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

19Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

20**God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

21Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

22**O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians — Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

10Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. 11Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. 15As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. 19Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Song - Open the Eyes of My Heart - Paul Baloche**

Open the eyes of my heart LORD, open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You; I want to see You. (repeat)
To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love, as we sing Holy, Holy, Holy,
I want to see you.

***Gospel — John 6:56-69**

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”
The Gospel of John, The 6th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] 56“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” 59He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

60When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” 61But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? 62Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 65And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

66Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” 68Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon —

Pastor Chris Curluris

***Hymn — O Jesus, I Have Promised - ELW 810 - John E. Bode**

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end
Remain forever near me, my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side
Nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
But, Jesus, then draw nearer to shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still
Above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will.
Now speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
Now speak and make me listen, O Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you

That where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
Oh, give me grace to follow my master and my friend.

***The Apostles' Creed**

P: Together let us profess our faith:

**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 - *Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying* - ELW 752 - Ken Medema**
(Before prayers sing twice/ After each petition sing once)

LORD, listen to Your children praying
LORD, send Your Spirit in this place
LORD, listen to Your children praying
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those who we name now in the silence of our hearts... Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of new life, protect students and teachers as they prepare for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

Offering - We Are One - John Ylvisaker



***Offering Prayer**

AM: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

we SHARE the meal

***Great Thanksgiving —**

P: The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Words of Institution and The 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.

Moved by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us saying: **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: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Distribution of Communion - *please remain seated as we will be using the communion kits today*

Song - One Bread, One Body - ELW 496 - John Foley

(Refrain)

One bread, one body, one Lord of all;
One cup of blessing, which we bless,
And we, though many throughout the earth,
We are one body in this one Lord.

Verse 1 – Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more

Verse 2 – Many the gifts, many the works, one in the LORD of all

Verse 3 – Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all

Prayer After Communion

P: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

we go in peace

Announcements

***Sending Hymn — Let's Go Out** - Larry Olson

Let's go out into the world and make it a loving place to live
Let's go out into the world and tell everyone the Savior lives

Let's go out (**let's go out**); Let's go out (**let's go out**)
...and make it a loving place to live
Let's go out (**let's go out**); Let's go out (**let's go out**)
...and tell everyone the Savior lives! **Let's go out!**

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

AM: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude - Sweet Home**

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Assisting Minister: Nancy Timm
Musicians: Steve Kidder, Ella Twaddle, Ivy
McHugh and Galen Bly

Ushers: Mike Stewart
Audio/Video: Shannon Nowell

Communion Preparers: Kristy Larson
Communion Servers: Annalise Rivas & Diane
Stewart

Announcements

- Green committee will be serving coffee hour after today's service.
- Adult Bible Study starts Monday, Sept 9th at 9:30 in the Chapel and 9:45 in the Conference room. The study will be on the Gospel of John and will be led by Bob Stenson and Will Friert.
- Volunteers are needed for Ushers and Communion Servers and Prep. Please see the sign up sheet in the Gathering Area under the Bell Tower.
- Our Church Council is looking to contact land developers to explore options for selling the empty East lot that FLC owns. NOTE: The Council cannot sell this portion of the church's property without the congregation's approval, which would need to happen at a special congregation meeting.

Prayers

We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Karen Wendroth, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, Gretchen Bray, Jim Wendroth, Terri Bartlett, Dale Rettke, Dorothy Lutz, Jan Holte, Byron Larson, Lenore Schnobrich, Judy Fienen, David Ribar, Harvey Kane, and Laurie Dietrich.

