

July 31, 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



Setting by Mark Sedio
Nancy Nelson, flute

Prelude — “Be Thou My Vision”

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 705

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

***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.

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the book of Ecclesiastes — Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹²I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, ¹³applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. ¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me ¹⁹—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

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

Psalm 49:1-12 — Spoken responsively by verse

¹Hear this, all you peoples;
give ear, all inhabitants of the world,
**2both low and high,
rich and poor together.**
³My mouth shall speak wisdom;
the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.
**4I will incline my ear to a proverb;
I will solve my riddle to the music of the harp.**
⁵Why should I fear in times of trouble,
when the iniquity of my persecutors surrounds me,
**6those who trust in their wealth
and boast of the abundance of their riches?**
⁷Truly, no ransom avails for one's life,
there is no price one can give to God for it.

**8For the ransom of life is costly,
and can never suffice,**
⁹that one should live on forever
and never see the grave.
**10When we look at the wise, they die;
fool and dolt perish together
and leave their wealth to others.**
¹¹Their graves are their homes forever,
their dwelling places to all generations,
though they named lands their own.
**12Mortals cannot abide in their pomp;
they are like the animals that perish.**

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Colossians — Colossians 3:1-11

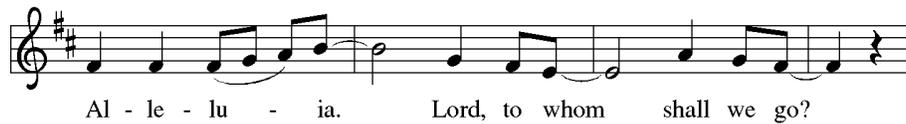
¹So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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

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

“Alleluia”



***Gospel** — Luke 12:13-21

The Gospel of Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

13Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” 14But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” 16Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ 18Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ 20But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Lessons to Learn from the Rich Fool”

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** — no. 793

“Be Thou My Vision”

***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.

O God, you are wholeness. Where there is division in your church, bring reconciliation and healing. Guide the work of theologians, Sunday school teachers, seminary professors, and all who provide instruction for the building up of your church. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are the source of all life. Where creation cries out in distress, bring relief and renewal. Bless farmers, ranchers, distributors, and all who provide our food. Nourish the land and all its habitants. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are wisdom. Where nations and communities yearn for peace, bring justice. Strengthen those who toil for the welfare of others, especially military personnel, police, first responders, and activists, and for the healing of the nations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are life. Where your people are overwhelmed with the busy-ness of life, bring encouragement. Accompany all who experience emotional, mental, or physical distress. Renew us at your table of mercy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are our treasure. Where scarcity and anxiety pervade your church, bring abundance and vitality. Guide the work of church councils and committees and give them clarity for the work of ministry in this place. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are resurrection. We give you thanks for all your saints. Inspire us by their example of faithful living to set our minds on things above and to be rich in love toward 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

“Abide with Me”

Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

Nancy Nelson, flute

Departing to Serve God’s World

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 542

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

***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.**

***Postlude** — “God of Grace and God of Glory”

Setting by David Cherwien

Nancy Nelson, flute

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat
Audio/Video: Brad Chambers
Musicians: Nancy Nelson

Reader: Cheryl Kautt
Ushers: Cindy Nadeau
Greeter: John Nadeau

Announcements

- 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.
- While Pastor Chris is away on continuing education from August 1-7, Pastor Andy Davis (Union Presbyterian, St. Peter) will be covering emergencies. If you need help, please call Angela in the office.
- Please make sure to join us as we welcome 11 new members into our congregation on August 14th! If you would like to join our church, or know someone who does, please contact Pastor Chris or Angela.

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, Gwen Powell, Nancy Maag, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie, Nancy Timm, and Betty Gustafson.
- We pray for lasting peace in Ukraine, on the streets of America, for the residents of Mankato and Janesville, and in the hearts of all who have been affected by violence .