



November 10, 2024 † 25th 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 - Andante by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)

Words of Welcome

***Hymn** — no 679

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end.

Amen.

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy, **we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus.**

Amen.

These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are † forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation.

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.**

***Kyrie** – page 203, from *ELW, Setting 10*

***Hymn of Praise** — page 204, from *ELW, Setting 10*

***Prayer of the Day**

P: O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Temple Talk - Annalise Rivas & Carl Bruihler - Stewardship

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from the first book of Kings — 1 Kings 17:8-16

This chapter begins the story of Elijah. God sends a drought on Israel because of the sins of King Ahab. This passage depicts God's saving acts not only on behalf of Elijah, but also on behalf of those who are associated with the prophet, even a foreigner, the widow of Zarephath.

8 The word of the LORD came to [Elijah,] saying, 9 “Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” 10 So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” 11 As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” 12 But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” 13 Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.” 15 She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. 16 The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

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

Psalm: Psalm 146- *the psalm will be read responsively today by whole verse*

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD, O my soul!

2 I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

3 Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

**4 When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.**

5 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

**6 who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

7 who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.
**8 The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**
9 The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
**10 The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

A Reading from Hebrews — Hebrews 9:24-28

The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.

24 Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. 25 Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; 26 for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

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

***Gospel Acclamation** — page 205, from *ELW, Setting 10*

***Gospel — Mark 12:38-44**

After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.

The Gospel of Mark, the 12th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

38 As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, 39 and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! 40 They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

41 He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. 42 A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. 43 Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. 44 For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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

Sermon —

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** — no. 790

“Day by Day”

***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**

AM: Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Renew your church, O God. Make us servants to one another for the sake of the gospel. Instill a heart for service and a passion for justice in our bishops, deacons, pastors, and lay leaders. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, O God. Sustain the earth and seas and all that is in them. Kindle in us a reverent awe for all creatures great and small, and strengthen us in our pursuit of climate justice. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew the nations, O God. Heal our nation's veterans from the unseen wounds of war. Tend to their trauma and soothe burdened consciences. Guide leaders of the world to end conflicts especially in Ukraine, the Holy Land and Sudan, and pursue peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your people, O God. Protect those in our communities who are vulnerable or ill, especially those we name now in the silence of our hearts... Accompany persons who are unemployed or underemployed, children who are in foster care, and those who live alone. Watch over and uphold them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Renew this congregation, O God. Give us clarity in our mission and boldness in our witness. Bless our ministries that attend to basic needs of any who lack sufficient resources, that all may live with dignity. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Happy are those whose help was in you. We give thanks for all your faithful ones who praised you as their God all their life long. As we eagerly wait for you, inspire us by their lives of service. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Sign of Peace- P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** Please offer one another some sign of Christ's peace.

Offering - Day by Day (Blott en dag) by Egil Hovland (1924-2013)



***Offering Prayer**

AM: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name.

Amen.

we SHARE the meal

***Great Thanksgiving & Preface** — page 206, from *ELW, Setting 10*

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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise..... (*Here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:*) we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, Holy, Holy** — page 207, from *ELW, Setting 10*

***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.

As God's saints, 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: Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving Holy Communion continuously today.*

“Lamb of God” — page 208, *from ELW, Setting 10*

Hymn — no 638 -

“Blessed Assurance”

Hymn —no 629

“Abide with Me”

Prayer After Communion

P: Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

we go in peace

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 439

“Soon and Very Soon”

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: The Ancient One, enthroned,
the Crucified One, now risen,
the Indwelling One, poured out,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

AM: Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

Thanks be to God.

***Postlude** - Impromptu op. 90/4 by Franz Schubert (1768-1827)

Acknowledgments

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Assisting Minister: Sharon Malm
Musician: David Fienen

Ushers: John Nadeau, Graham Menning
Bread Baker: Lynn Kidder
Audio/Video: Brett Petersen, Laird Bly

Communion Preparers: Cheryl & Bill Kautt
Communion Servers: Cindy Nadeau, Sharon Domeier
Acolytes: Henry Menning, Loic Bly

Announcements

- Fellowship committee will provide coffee and treats after service.
- The Roemhildts have donated the flowers at the altar in honor of our veterans past and present.
- Beginning Handbell rehearsal starts today at 11:15. Grades 5 through Adult can come and no experience is necessary. All are welcome to a new experience.
- The Church Council of First Lutheran Church in St. Peter voted on October 30 to call for a special meeting of the congregation. The date for this special meeting of our congregation has been set for November 17. The purpose of this meeting is to vote on calling an ordained Deacon to be our Church Musician and Director of Christian Education. No other business shall be transacted at this meeting.
- Wednesdays at First: 5:30pm Dinner Starts, 6:00 Children's Music in the Chapel, 6:30 Worship in the Sanctuary, 7:00 Education in the Classrooms, 7:00 Bell Choir, 7:30 Youth Group (1st Wednesdays). Please spread the word and invite a friend to come!
- The FLC Nominating Committee is looking for members who are interested in serving the congregation in various elected positions. We are looking for: 1 member to serve on the Church Council (3-year term), 2 members for our Synod Assembly (June), 1 member to serve on the Nominating Committee (2-year term), and 2 members for our Conference meeting (February). If you are interested, please let Amy Pehrson (amyrpehrson@gmail.com) or the church office know. Elections will take place at the congregational meeting in December.
- **Volunteers Needed:** We are looking for cooks, servers, and clean up crew for our Wednesday meals in November. Contact Rachel Szybnski with any questions rszybnski@gmail.com
- You are invited to attend the 2024 Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Thankoffering worship service led by the Rev. Betsy Hoium and the students of Gustavus Adolphus College Campus Ministry. This in-person Thankoffering service will take place tonight at Christ Chapel on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College at 6:30 pm. Women of the ELCA interim executive director, Jennifer Hockenbery, will also attend.
- Veterans Day is tomorrow. The office will be closed and there will be no Adult Bible Study.
- "Is the Bible True?" – final in a series this Wednesday at 7 pm. The topic: "Arguing With the Presenter or Should Women Be Allowed to Lead?" Steve Kidder will be presenting.

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, Dale Rettke, Dorothy Lutz, Jan Holte, Byron Larson, Lenore Schnobrich, Judy Fienen, David Ribar, Harvey Kane, Erika Schuldt and Laurie Dietrich.

