



October 13, 2024 † 21st Sunday after Pentecost Celebration Sunday

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, What A Morning

John Lehvak

Words of Welcome

*Hymn — no. 532

“Gather Us In”

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing. *A brief silence.*

**Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves.
We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.
Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins
are forgiven.

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.**

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

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

***Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Stewardship Temple Talk- Carl Bruihler & Annalise Rivas

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from the book of Amos — Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

6 Seek the LORD and live,
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

7 Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

10 They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

11 Therefore because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

12 For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.

13 Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

14 Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.

15 Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

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

Psalm 90:12-17 -the psalm will be read responsively today by whole verse.

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

12 So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

13 **Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants.**

14 Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

15 **Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us and as many years as we suffered adversity.**

¹⁶Show your servants your works, and your splendor to their children.

¹⁷**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

A Reading from Hebrews — Hebrews 4:12-16

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

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

***Gospel — Mark 10:17-31**

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

The Gospel of Mark, the 10th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord**

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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

Sermon —

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** — no. 705

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

***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: Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

Compassionate God, embolden the church to seek all who are lost, clothe those who are naked, and mend what is broken. May we be generous bearers of your eternal love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining God, as we approach harvest time, we pray for farmers, field workers, and those who process crops. Keep us mindful of environmental threats to the nourishing food that feeds the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Steadfast God, inspire world leaders to share resources and work collectively to end global poverty, starvation, and preventable disease. Direct us to seek justice and equity, that all may live in peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for those who are afflicted, homeless, and suffering, especially all victims of the two recent hurricanes in the southeastern United States. Deliver the strength of your love and compassion to all who need it today. Inspire us to respond to the needs of our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, we give thanks for the first nations and tribes who inhabited this land especially the Dakota and Objiewe. We lament the harm done by colonization. Call us to deeper appreciation and care for the languages, rituals, and history of all Indigenous people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Ever-living God, we rejoice to be heirs of the eternal life made real in Jesus' death and resurrection. We give you thanks for the saints of all times and places, first and last, who still inspire us to faithful living. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **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 - Have Thine Own Way, Lord

George C Stebbins



***Offering Prayer**

AM: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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 beloved children, 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: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

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

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

Hymn — no 821 - 2 times

“Shout to the Lord”

Hymn — no 492

“Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”

Prayer After Communion

P: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

we go in peace

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 625

“Come, We That Love the Lord”

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: God all mighty, God most merciful ☩ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

Amen.

AM: Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude** - Shout to the Lord

Darlene Zschech

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Assisting Minister: Nancy Timm
Musician: Kim Beecher

Ushers: John Nadeau, Laird Bly
Bread Baker: Marcia Kunze
Audio/Video: Brett Petersen, Timothy Culuris

Acolytes: Nihla Hoenke, Jaxton Hoenke
Communion Preparers: Banks Family
Communion Servers: Heather and Aaron Banks

Announcements

- Our Stewardship Committee will be serving coffee and cake for today's fellowship time.
- Altar flowers are given in celebration of Garrett and Betsy Paul's 45th Wedding Anniversary.
- Recently the southeastern part of the United States has been devastated by two hurricanes. If you would like to go online and donate to Lutheran Disaster Response please use this link:
<https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>
- **The church will be closed Oct. 14th in observance of Indigenous People Day. No Bible study on Monday.**
- 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! Sloppy Joe sandwiches will be served on Wednesday, Oct. 23. **There will be no activities here at church on Oct. 16th due to the MEA break.**

- Pr. Chris will be away on vacation from Oct. 15 - 21. Please call the church office if you have an emergency.
- Currently FLC has 27 households contributing through direct giving from a bank account. This method is easy to set up. Karen will get you a form if you are interested. We also happily accept checks or cash, envelope offerings, and we have a few options for credit card giving. Please call Karen in the office at 507-934-3060 with questions. Thank you!
- Pastor Chris has a new cell phone number: 507-341-0475
- The FLC Nominating Committee is looking for members who are interested in serving the congregation in various elected positions. We are looking for: 3 members for Council (three-year term), 2 youth members for Council (one-year term), 3 members for Synod Assembly (June), and 6 members for 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.
- "Gather Us In" 2024 Equipping Congregations Day. Saturday Nov. 2nd at Peace Lutheran Church, New London from 8:30 - 3 p.m. Registration is \$30 and lunch will be provided. Check out www.swmnelca.org.
- Scandian Grove Lutheran Church will have their Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 2nd. Serving from 11 - 3 p.m.

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.

- Please pray for the families and friends of: Terri Bartlett, Steve Michaelson, Emil Trnka & Patricia McLain who have died recently.

