



October 6, 2024 † 20th 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 - Children’s Choir

Words of Welcome

*Hymn — no. 641

“All Are Welcome”

***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.**

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

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

*Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Stewardship Video- "Ripples of Generosity"

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from the book of Genesis — Genesis 2:18-24

Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).

18The LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner."
19So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. 20The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. 21So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. 22And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. 23Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."
24Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

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

Psalm 8- *the psalm will be read responsively today by whole verse*
You crown us with glory and honor. (Ps. 8:5)

1O LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!—
2**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.
3When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
4**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,**
human beings that you should care for them?
5Yet you have made them little less than divine;
with glory and honor you crown them.
6**You have made them rule over the works of your hands;**
you have put all things under their feet:
7all flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts of the field,
8**the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,**
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.
9O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

A Reading from Hebrews — Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

1Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

2:5Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. 6But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?

7You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
8subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, 9but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

10It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, 12saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

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

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

***Gospel — Mark 10:2-16**

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

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

2Some Pharisees came, and to test [Jesus] they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” 3He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” 4They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” 5But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. 6But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ 7‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, 8and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. 9Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

10Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. 11He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; 12and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

13People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. 14But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. 15Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” 16And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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

Children's Sermon - Rachel Szybnski

Sermon —

Pastor Chris Culuris

*Hymn — no. 656

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

*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.

God of our ancestors, we give thanks for the church in all times and places. Bless the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and our companion churches in the Vryheid Circuit. May we support one another as we journey together in faith. Help us to listen for the prophets of this age who bear messages that stir the church toward renewal and justice. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of every creature on earth, direct our lives toward the renewal and sustaining of cattle, birds of the air, animals of the field, and those who share our homes. Reveal the ways we can work alongside creation for the health and well-being of all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we give thanks that you are mindful and benevolent to even us, mere mortals. Accompany us when hardness of heart gets in the way of justice between people and nations. Endow leaders with minds for justice and hearts for compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Restoring Lord, grant healing and wholeness to those who are sick and suffering from natural disasters especially the people of the southeastern part of the United States. Work through medical professionals to diagnose, ease pain, and give life to all who seek their wisdom and experience. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Unifying God, humans were created for relationship with the earth, its creatures, and one another. Forgive us when division threatens companionship, mutual support, and unity among us. May your love inspire us to build supportive communities of faith where all are cherished. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, you prepare a place in the kingdom through Christ's death and resurrection. We give thanks for the saints who have taken their place at your heavenly banquet (*especially William Tyndale, translator and martyr, whom we commemorate today*). 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 - Bell Choir



***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 752, *sing 3 times*

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

Hymn — ACS 1064, *see back page*

"Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom"

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. 840

"Now Thank We All Our God"

***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** - *Now Thank We All Our God*, arranged by Rachel Steffensmeier

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Assisting Minister: Liz Power-Hawkins
Musician: Kim Beecher
Reader: Ivy McHugh

Ushers: Bruce Hawkinson, Natalie Twait
Bread Baker: Patsy Rossow
Audio/Video: Rachel Ribar, Paul Szybnski

Acolytes: Aaven Twaddle, Max Szybnski
Communion Preparers:
Communion Servers: Sharon Domeier

Announcements

- The McHugh, Twait and Twaddle Confirmation families will be serving coffee hour after today's service.
- 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! Pulled pork or chicken sandwiches will be served this Wednesday.
- The St. John's Boys' Choir is coming this Saturday, October 12, 7:00pm, at First Lutheran Church in St. Peter for a concert of music in collaboration with Great River Resonance, the premier handbell choir based in St. Cloud, MN. The repertoire will feature the choir accompanied by handbells, and GRR will also perform solo pieces that will highlight various techniques employed by handbell ensembles. Tickets (\$5 – \$20) and details available at www.sjbchoir.org.
- 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!
- Please join us in worship next Sunday, October 13th, for Celebration Sunday, as we conclude the fall Stewardship Campaign. We thank all our members for returning their 2025 pledge cards on or before that date. Your generosity has a ripple effect!
- "Is the Bible True?" Pastor Steve Kidder would like you to join him in wrestling with that question Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. Last week we talked about how the Bible was created. This week we will consider "Theological Perspectives OR, Was the World Created in Six Days?"
- Pr. Chris will be away at our Synod's Fall Theological Conference this afternoon through Tuesday.
- 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.

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.

Earth Is Full of Wit and Wisdom



1 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, sound - ing God's de - light - ed laugh,
2 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom, wo - ven in - to har - mo - ny.
3 Earth is full of wit and wis - dom: pen - guin, pla - ty - pus, and snail,



from the ti - ny ro - ly - po - ly to the tree - top - tall gi - raffé.
Ev - 'ry crea - ture has a pur - pose, ev - 'ry flow'r and bum - ble - bee.
cac - tus, sea slug, oak, and al - gae, from the mi - crobe to the whale.



All cre - a - tion sings in won - der; e - ven rocks and trees re - jice
Spi - der, hu - man, red - wood, geck - o, mon - key, chick - en, mouse, and snake
In this great and strange cre - a - tion, with a breath God gives us birth:



as they join the ring - ing cho - rus: ech - oes of our Mak - er's voice.
live with - in a sin - gle fab - ric: cloth that on - ly God could make.
born of soil to live as stew - ards, called to love and serve the earth.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version

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