

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST'S FRUITS



## SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP

**October 16, 2022**  
**Season of Stewardship**

*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

**Prelude** — “Spirit Song”

John Winber

**Words of Welcome**

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who is eager to forgive  
and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**  
Dear friends, together let us acknowledge  
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy and forgiveness,  
**we confess that sin still has a hold on us.**  
**We have harmed your good creation.**  
**We have failed to do justice,**  
**love kindness, and walk humbly with you.**

**Turn us in a new direction.**  
**Show us the path that leads to life.**  
**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and**  
**friend. Amen.**

Beloved of God:  
your sins are forgiven † and  
you are made whole.  
God points the way to new life in Christ,  
who meets us on the road.  
Journey now in God's abiding love  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**\*Greeting & Kyrie** — pg. 3, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

**\*Canticle of Praise** — pg. 4, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

**\*Prayer of the Day**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

# Hearing & Responding to Scripture

## A Reading from the book of Genesis— Genesis 32:22-31

The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

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

## Psalm 121 — Spoken responsively by verse

I lift up my eyes to the hills —  
from where will my help come?  
**My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.**  
He will not let your foot be moved;  
he who keeps you will not slumber.  
**He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**  
The LORD is your keeper;

the LORD is your shade at your right hand.  
**The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**  
The LORD will keep you from all evil;  
he will keep your life.  
**The LORD will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.**

## A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy — 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

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

\***Gospel Acclamation** — pg. 7, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

\***Gospel** — Luke 18:1-8

The Gospel of Luke, the 18th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a

widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

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

**Sermon** — "Continue to Steward Your Faith"

Pastor Chris Culuris

\***Hymn** — no. 725

"When the Poor Ones"

\***Affirmation of Faith** — 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**

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

For all the baptized, that they become skilled in compassion and grace and equipped to share the good news with all. Grant your followers persistence in proclamation and prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For air and sky, clouds and sun, that they provide rain to parched land and relief to flooded ground. Renew and restore our polluted atmosphere and empower us to be worthy stewards of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For judges, juries, and all who work in the judicial system, that they desire wisdom, seek truth, rule with fairness, and have the courage to do what is right. Eliminate oppression and injustice in our criminal justice system. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For all who are lonely, especially those who have newly arrived in an unfamiliar city or country, political prisoners without recourse to justice, hospital patients without visitors, and any who are ill or grief-stricken. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those in our congregation and community engaged in advocacy work, that with the persistence of the widow, they lift their voices in seeking justice on behalf of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For those who have taught us faith and now rest in your heavenly peace, that we remember and give thanks for these saints who shared the gospel through word and deed. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## Offering

*Music at the Offering*

Followed by: "As the Grains of Wheat"

page 9, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

# Sharing the Meal

## \*Great Thanksgiving & Preface

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\*"Holy, Holy, Holy" — page 10, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

## \*Words of Institution and Prayers

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.

In the name of the servant Christ, we pray together: **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 Communion

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good.

## Distribution of Communion

"Lamb of God" — page 13, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

Hymn — no. 741

"Your Will Be Done"

## Communion Blessing and Prayer

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey.

Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

# Departing to Serve God's World

## Announcements

\*Sending Hymn — no. 538

“The Lord Now Sends Us Forth”

### \*Affirmation of Christian Vocation & Dismissal

Siblings in Christ, both our work and our rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life? **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit us your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon us in our commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Together in Jesus Christ, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully. Go in peace; serve God and neighbor. **Thanks be to God!**

\*Postlude — “Bring Your Mercy”

Larry Olson and Karol Baer

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## Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Music Leader: Steve Kidder

Audio/Video: Lewis Nowell

Communion Preparers: Heather Banks

Communion Servers: Grace Timm, Nancy Thorkelson

Greeter: Jake Banks, Cole Buffington

Reader: Nancy Timm

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson, Gordon Long

Acolytes: Nihla Hoenke, Harley Samuelson

Bread Bakers: Marilyn Koscsiek

## Announcements

- First Forum will be in the dining hall directly after Worship.
- **Worship Assistants are needed!** We have a lot of gaps in the upcoming schedule especially for communion preparers and servers. Contact the office if you want to learn more about how to get involved as a worship assistant.
- Pastor Chris will be out of the office from Oct. 19 - Nov. 1. Pastor Gordon Long will be covering emergencies. In an emergency, please call the church office.
- Refreshments for our fellowship time today are provided by the Fellowship Committee.
- Flowers for the Altar are given today by Kay and Bob Moline in memory of their son in law Joe Antrim.

## Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth and Gene Roemhildt.
- We pray for the family of Lynn Kidder as they are mourning the loss of her father Lowell Mattila.
- We pray for Kathryn Christenson who is mourning the loss of her daughter Abigail.
- We pray for peace around the world; for all affected by natural disasters; and, for healing and wholeness in the lives of all who are ill.