

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST'S FRUITS



SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP

## October 23, 2022 Celebration Sunday

*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** — “Adagio” from Chorale No. 3 in A Minor

César Franck

### 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. 147, front of hymnal, *ELW* Setting Four

\***Canticle of Praise** — pg. 149, front of hymnal, *ELW* Setting Four

“This Is the Feast”

### \*Prayer of the Day

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

Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

# Hearing & Responding to Scripture

## A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy— Deuteronomy 26:1-11

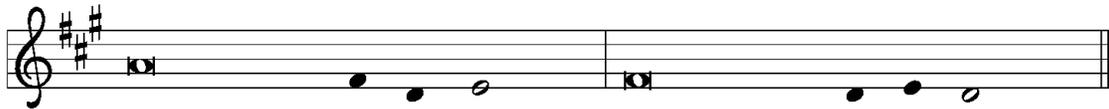
When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God:

"A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me."

You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

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

## Psalm 84:1-7 — Spoken responsively by verse.



How dear to me | is your dwelling,  
O | Lord of hosts!

**My soul has a desire and longing for the  
courts | of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living  
God.**

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the  
swallow a nest where she may | lay her young,  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my  
king | and my God.

**Happy are they who dwell | in your house!  
They will always be | praising you.**

Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,  
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.

**Those who go through the balsam valley will  
find it a | place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with |  
pools of water.**

They will climb from | height to height,  
and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.

## A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy — 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will

rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*Gospel — Luke 18:9-14**

The Gospel of Luke, the 18th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon — "It's Not About the Fruit!"**

Pastor Ted Kunze

**\*Hymn — no. 815**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

**\*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**

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God’s creation.

God of mercy, you are in the midst of us and we are called by your name. Inspire your church to serve and love all people with the unceasing grace you extend to us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, you formed a world where even the sparrow finds a home. Preserve the beauty and diversity of all creatures with whom we share the earth. Lead us to protect all living things. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of peace, you are an ever-present help in times of trouble. Rescue families and nations torn apart by violence and warfare especially Ukraine. Unite all people toward common goals of reconciliation and peace for every person. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of restoration, you call us to trust in you and not ourselves alone. Make this congregation a community of humility and repentance, ready to encounter you in love and follow in your ways. Accept the gifts we pledge today on our Celebration Sunday, and guide us to be good stewards of these resources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With grateful hearts we commend our spoken and silent prayers to you, O God; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## Offering

*Music at the Offering*

“Musette”

Wolff

George Frideric Handel, ed. and arr. by S. Drummond

## Sharing the Meal

\***Great Thanksgiving & Preface** — pg. 152, front of hymnal, *ELW* Setting Four

\***“Holy, Holy, Holy”** — pg. 153, front of hymnal, *ELW* Setting Four

### \***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 gratitude to God, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us: **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

These are the gifts of God for the People of God. Come, it is Christ who invites you to be known and fed here. The table is ready. Come.

## Distribution of Communion

“Lamb of God” — pg. 154, front of hymnal, *ELW* Setting Four  
Hymn — no. 673

“God, Whose Almighty Word”

## 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. 991, from *All Creation Sings*

“Go to the World”

1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.  
2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.  
3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;  
4 “Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,

Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,  
Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.  
the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.  
for I am with you till the age shall end,

bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.  
Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.  
As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.  
when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!”

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## 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** — “Trumpet Tune”

Arcangelo Corelli, ed. and arr. by S. Drummond Wolff

## Acknowledgements

From sundaysandseasons.com. © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and broadcast by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SASo20319.

“Invitation to Communion” Adapted from The Iona Community, *Iona Abbey Worship Book*, (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2001)

“Affirmation” Copyright © 2022 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Permission granted for local, non-sale use.

Words and music of the following hymns and worship songs under copyright are reprinted and broadcast using OneLicense #A-724285.

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” text and music by Kathleen Thomerson, copyright © 1970, 1975 Celebration

“Go to the World” text by Sylvia Dunstan, copyright © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., music by Ralph Vaughan Williams, copyright © Oxford University Press

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

## Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Substitute Pastor: Ted Kunze

Music Leader: Sophie Martinez

Audio/Video: Brett Peterson

Communion Preparers: Mary Thompson, Cheryl Kautt

Communion Servers: Sharon Domier, Cathy Wills

Greeter: Ellis Jones

Ushers: Paul Aasen, Tom Thorkelson

Bread Bakers: Marilyn Kochsiek

## Announcements

- If you forgot your estimate of giving card or your Funding First’s Fruits card, you may bring it next Sunday or turn it into Karen in the church office during the week. **Thank You for all of your faithful support!**
- *October 30: Reformation Sunday* is next week! We come together on this festival Sunday to celebrate the ongoing Reformation of the church. You are invited to wear **RED** on this special day!
- All Saints Sunday falls on the first Sunday in November each year. This year, that’s November 6th. You are invited to bring a photo or small keepsake of a loved one to display during worship, and you will have the opportunity to light a candle for them.
- Fellowship refreshments today are provided by the Fellowship Committee.
- Flowers for the Altar are given today in memory of LeRoy Ditsch by his wife Mary Lynn Ditsch and daughters Nancy Timm and Karla Drafall.
- While Pastor Chris is away, please call the church office if you have an emergency.
- Building and Grounds Clean up Day! Saturday Oct. 29, 10:00 am. to noon,

## 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 Dan Polzin who is mourning the loss of his father Ken.
- 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.
- We pray for the family of Arlene Hilding who passed away on October 14 in New Prague.
- We pray for the victims and their families of the Raleigh, NC mass shooting.