

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FIRST'S FRUITS



SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP

October 2, 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** — "Take My Life and Let It Be"

Setting by Ron Mallory  
Handbell Choir

**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.

Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Sunday School Presentation of Bibles & Blessing:

O God, everything you do is wonderful, and I know it well. **Teach us your ways, O God.**

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light on my path. **Teach us your ways, O God.**

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." **Teach us your ways, O God.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. Almighty God, you give wisdom and knowledge. Help us to study diligently and to grow in all that is good. Support all who teach and all who learn, that together we may know and follow your ways; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

# Hearing & Responding to Scripture

## A Reading from the book of Habakkuk— Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not listen?  
Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?  
Why do you make me see wrongdoing  
and look at trouble?  
Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.  
So the law becomes slack  
and justice never prevails.  
The wicked surround the righteous—  
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.  
I will stand at my watchpost,

and station myself on the rampart;  
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,  
and what he will answer concerning my  
complaint.  
Then the Lord answered me and said:  
Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.  
For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.  
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come, it will not delay.  
Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their faith.

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

## Psalm 37:1-9 — Spoken responsively by verse

Do not fret because of the wicked;  
do not be envious of wrongdoers,  
**for they will soon fade like the grass,  
and wither like the green herb.**  
Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.  
**Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your  
heart.**  
Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.

**He will make your vindication shine like the  
light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.**  
Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.  
**Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.  
Do not fret — it leads only to evil.**  
For the wicked shall be cut off,  
but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.

## A Reading from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy — 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,  
To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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

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

**\*Gospel** — Luke 17:5-10

The Gospel of Luke, the 17th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** — "Rekindle the Gift of God Within You"

Pastor Chris Culuris

**\*Hymn** — no. 635

"We Walk by Faith"

## \*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.

We pray for your holy church in every place and for those who serve following the example of Christ. Help them to live by faith and walk by the light of your gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For parts of the world ravaged by natural disaster especially Puerto Rico, Cuba and Florida: relieve those affected by floods, wildfires, droughts, earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For every nation and for those entrusted with authority: grant our leaders self-discipline in all things, and inspire them with love for your people. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For victims of violence, abuse, and neglect: heal those who have been harmed and protect those who are vulnerable. For all who are sick, grant them healing and your peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this and every congregation: rekindle your gifts within your people, and inspire councils, committees, and individuals to plan and work together that all may know your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving that you have abolished death, and for the saints who have died especially our departed loved ones. Bring us all to eternal life with you. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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*

"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. 517

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your 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. 810

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

### \***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** — Prelude in c minor (BWV 549)

J.S. Bach

### Acknowledgements

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### Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Substitute Music Leader: Sophie Martinez

Audio/Video: Rachel Ribar, Ivy McHugh

Musicians: Handbell Choir

Communion Preparers: Shirb & John Sylvester

Communion Servers: Cindy and John Nadeau

Greeters: Cathy Wills, Sam Szybnski/Malcolm McHugh

Reader: Larry Kiewel

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson, Bill Kautt

Acolytes: Paul Szybnski, Aaven Twaddle

Bread Bakers: Marilyn Kochsiek, Shirb Sylvester

Fellowship Servers: Szybnski/McHugh/Confirmation Families

### Announcements

- Please join us in the Dining Hall for our **First Forum** following worship today. Dave Pedersen will update us on the work our Minnesota Valley Conference is doing with our South African Partnership.
- **FLC's Got Talent!** Join us for a fun and festive night next Sunday, October 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Dining Hall. We have all sorts of talented children, youth, and adults - all ages participating and all ages are welcome to attend! Let's come together and have some FUN! Invite your friends and neighbors! If you are dropping off art or food, the doors will be open by 6:00 p.m., and tables will be set up and ready for your creations!
- Happy 62nd Wedding Anniversary to **Dorthy & Paul Lutz!**
- **Flowers for the Altar** are given by Sharon Malm in honor of her mother Naoma Berkeland who would be 116 years old this week!
- **Refreshments** after the service will be furnished and served by our Confirmation Families!
- **Worship Assistants are needed!** We have a lot of gaps in the upcoming schedule especially for communion preparers and servers. Communion will be served every Sunday going forward. Contact the office if you want to learn more about how to get involved as a worship assistant.

### 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 in Ukraine and around the world; for all affected by natural disasters, especially the people of Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Florida; and for healing and wholeness in the lives of all who are ill.