

Ask the Lord  
of the harvest to  
send out laborers

MATTHEW 9:38



## June 18, 2023 Time 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!

## we GATHER

In this  
**Gathering  
Hymn**, we ask for  
the guidance of  
the Holy Spirit as  
we move through  
the world. In our  
gospel today,  
Jesus calls his  
disciples into  
ministry action,  
and we are called  
through Christ  
and the Spirit to  
the same action.

**Prelude** — “Largo” from *Xerxes*

George Frideric Handel

John Bipes, cello; David Fienen, piano

**\*Words of Welcome**

**\*Gathering Hymn** — no. 399

“O Holy Spirit, Root of Life”

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season,  
whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We  
have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

**Righteous God, we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We  
have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus,  
forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail.  
Claim the gift of God’s mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus  
Christ. **Amen.**

**\*Kyrie** — page 203, front of hymnal, from *ELW Setting Ten*

**\*Canticle of Praise** — page 204, front of hymnal, from *ELW Setting Ten*

**\*Prayer of the Day**

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

God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour  
your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings  
of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our  
Savior. **Amen.**

# we LISTEN and RESPOND

## A Reading from Exodus — Exodus 19:2-8a

[The Israelites] had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one: “Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.”

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

## Psalm 100 — spoken responsively by half verse

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands!

**Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God’s presence with a song.**

Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong;

**we are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.**

Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise;

**give thanks and bless God’s holy name.**

Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting,

**whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

## A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Romans — Romans 5:1-8

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

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

## \*Gospel Acclamation — from ELW Setting Ten

“Alleluia”



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**\*Gospel — Matthew 9:35-10:8**

The Gospel of Matthew, the 9th and 10th chapters.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Jesus instructs his disciples to “proclaim the good news” in today’s gospel, and in this hymn, we sing many examples of this: “witness to grace,” “preach the life-giving gospel,” “equip us for service.” How will you go out into the community, “reflecting Christ’s ways”?*

**Sermon**

Pastor Chris Culuris

**\*Hymn — no. 575**

“In Christ Called to Baptize”

**\*The Apostles’ Creed**

P: Let us confess our faith together:

**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**

Trusting in God’s abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

For the church here and around the world, we pray. Seek out disciples and send them out with authority to proclaim good news, bring healing where there is pain, and counter the forces of evil. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth and all its creatures, we pray. Equip farmers, farm workers, and all who labor on the land to produce a harvest. Nourish crops with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Restore lands ruined by chemical pollution and misuse. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who govern, we pray. Empower those who seek peaceful solutions to conflict and embolden those who advocate for all who are oppressed. Work through systems of government to establish justice throughout the world. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who suffer, we pray. Accompany those who feel helpless, alone, or abandoned. Embrace any who long for successful treatment for mental illness or freedom from addiction. Heal those who are sick. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For fathers and father figures, we pray. Console all who long to be fathers, children estranged from their fathers, anyone grieving the death of a father, and fathers who have lost a child. Draw near to all for whom this day stirs up difficult emotions. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all the saints, we give thanks. Receive into your eternal care all those who have died and fill us with hope that does not disappoint. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### **Offering**

*Music During Offering*  
"Adagio" from *Suite II*

George Frideric Handel  
David Fienen, piano

### **\*Offering Prayer**

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## **we SHARE the meal**

**\*Great Thanksgiving & Preface** — *page 206, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Ten*

**\*"Holy, Holy, Holy"** — *page 207, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Ten*

### **\*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.

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray: **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.**

*We will observe continuous communion this morning and sing an old 19th century hymn about the commitment we have to tell - through our words and actions - "the old, old story of Jesus and his love."*

### **\*Invitation to the Table**

P: All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good.

### **Distribution of Communion**

**"Lamb of God"** — page 208, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Ten

**Hymn** — no. 661

"I Love to Tell the Story"

### **Prayer After Communion**

P: We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## **we DEPART to serve the world**

*Each one of us is called to "rise up" as ministers in the world, following Jesus' example and instruction in seeking justice, healing, and showing love to all.*

### **Announcements**

**\*Sending Hymn** — no. 669

"Rise Up, O Saints of God"

### **\*Father's Day Litany**

To those who welcomed a new child this year—**we celebrate with you.**

To those who lost a child this year—**we mourn with you.**

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains—**we appreciate you.**

To those who experienced loss this year through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away—**we mourn with you.**

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment—**we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.**

To those who are foster dads, mentor dads, and spiritual dads—**we need you.**

To those who do not have a father but who have two moms, a single parent, or other kinds of parental figures—**we support and affirm you.**

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children—**we celebrate with you.**

To those who have disappointment, heart ache, and distance with your children—**we sit with you.**

To those who lost their fathers this year—**we grieve with you.**

To those who experienced abuse at the words or actions of your own father —**we acknowledge your experience.**

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year—**we grieve and rejoice with you.**

To those who have chosen a path without children but who nurture in many and various ways—**we accept you.**

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising—**we anticipate with you.**

We lift up all fathers, father figures, guardians, nurturers of life, and care-givers, that they may follow in the parenting ways of our God—**we say Amen!**

## \*Blessing & Dismissal

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed the Father, the Son  $\mp$  and the Holy Spirit, bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God!**

## \*Postlude — “Allegro” from *Suite II*

George Frideric Handel  
David Fienen, piano

## Acknowledgements

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“Father’s Day Litany” adapted from litany by Amy Young <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/a-litany-for-mothers.html>

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## Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Brett Petersen

Musicians: David Fienen, Pianist; John Bipes, cello

Reader/Greeter: Annalise Rivas

Usher: Tom Thorkelson

Communion Preparers: Nancy Thorkelson, Grace

Timm

Communion Servers: Sharon Domeier, Julie Johnson

Bread Baker: Michelle Doose

## Announcements

- This morning after worship, all are welcome to stay here in the sanctuary and attend the First Forum about Refugee services from LSS (Lutheran Social Services.) Barbara Wilkinson will also talk about her experience as a refugee when she was a child. Welcome Waffles will be served by the Social Justice Committee.
- Stop in the office to buy Moondog tickets for the July 9 game. \$10 includes admission and a meal ticket!
- Next Sunday, June 25th, we will worship outdoors. We could use a few people to help set up the chairs and everyone’s help to take down the chairs following worship. You may also bring your own lawn chair.
- FLC serves at The Kitchen next on Monday, June 26th. If you’d like to help serve, or donate to this cause, please contact Marilyn Kochsiek.
- Thank you to Karen Wendroth for donating three flats of flowers for the Bell Garden and the Courtyard Garden.

## Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Gene Roemhildt, Karen Smithers, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Claire Cardwell, and Ella Twaddle.