



# July 2, 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

**Prelude** — “Prelude in D-flat Major (Raindrop)”

Setting by Fryderyk Chopin  
David Fienen, piano

In our **Gathering Hymn**, we proclaim that “we have no mission but to serve” and “to care for all, without reserve.” In our service to others, we are called to welcome all whom we encounter.

**\*Words of Welcome**

**\*Gathering Hymn** — no. 729

“The Church of Christ, in Every Age”

**\*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.

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

# we LISTEN and RESPOND

## A Reading from Jeremiah — Jeremiah 28:5-9

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

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

## Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 — *spoken responsively by half verse*

Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing;  
**from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.**  
For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;  
**you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**  
"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
**I have sworn an oath to David my servant:**  
'I will establish your line forever,  
**and preserve your throne for all generations.'**"  
Happy are the people who know the festal shout!  
**They walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.**  
They rejoice daily in your name;  
**they are jubilant in your righteousness.**  
For you are the glory of their strength,  
**and by your favor our might is exalted.**  
Truly, our shield belongs to the Lord;  
**our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

## A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans — Romans 6:12-23

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. 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 10:40-42

The Gospel of Matthew, the 10th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*In this place, we strive to be a community “where love can dwell” and “where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone.” How do you show welcome to other people here at church? In your work? In the community?*

**Sermon**

Pastor Chris Culuris

**\*Hymn** — no. 641

“All Are Welcome”

**\*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.

We pray for the church. For wisdom to heed the voices of prophets in our midst who cast a vision of God’s promised future. For courage to welcome people whom society rejects. For resolve to serve all in need. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation. For the Minnesota River and all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams. For lands experiencing scorching heat, drought, or wildfires. For conservation organizations and environmental activists. For scientists working on clean energy solutions. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our nation and all nations. For presidents, governors, and legislators. For judges, juries, district attorneys, and public defenders. For military personnel. For first responders and those they serve. Guide us in ways of freedom that promote the common good. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. For exiles, immigrants, refugees, and those seeking asylum. For victims of harassment, torture, or abuse. For those who are ill. For any near death and for all who grieve. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for children. For their safety at home and in childcare settings. For their flourishing at summer programs and camps. For the many people who care for them including parents and grandparents; childcare workers and teachers; coaches, counselors, and mentors; pediatricians and psychologists. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the saints and prophets who have received the free gift of God, which is eternal life in Christ Jesus. May their lives of humble service inspire us in faith. 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*

“Ground (from *Suite in c minor*)”

Setting by William Croft  
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 receive communion at the rail this morning; feel free to kneel or stand. See the back page for today's communion hymn - feel free to carry your bulletin and sing while you're in line!*

### **\*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** — (see back page of bulletin)

**"God, We Gather as Your People"**

### **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**

*"We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed." Where will you show the joyful, welcoming inclusion of Christ during the week ahead?*

### **Announcements**

**\*Sending Hymn** — no. 551

**"The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve"**

### **\*Blessing & Dismissal**

P: The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed the Father, the Son  $\text{✠}$  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** — "Impromptu Opus 90/4"

Setting by Franz Schubert  
David Fienen, piano

### **Acknowledgements**

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### **Worship Assistants**

Pastor: Chris Culuris  
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat  
Audio/Video: Brett Petersen  
Musicians: David Fienen, pianist

Greeter: Judy Fienen  
Reader: Julie Johnson

Communion Preparers: Nancy Thorkelson, Grace Timm  
Communion Servers: Julie Johnson, Judy Fienen  
Bread Bakers: Cheryl Kautt

## Announcements

- We're looking for people to march in the 4th of July parade! Please come to help decorate our church's float from 6:30 - 8:30pm tomorrow. We'll meet at 8:15am on July 4th to ride down to the parade together.
- We are looking for someone to host three Green Lake Bible Camp staffers who will be running our VBS program this summer. They each need a bed to sleep on and a place to shower. We're also looking for two-three volunteers to work with the staffers to guide the little ones from activity to activity. Please contact Pr. Chris if you can help!
- Stop in the office to buy Moondog tickets. \$10 includes admission and a meal ticket!

## 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, Alana Gage, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz and Sarah Smith.

- We pray for the family of Theresa Gault who died on June 15.

## **Communion Hymn** — no. 1038, from *All Creation Sings*

“God, We Gather as Your People”



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.  
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we  
that they nev - er have a rea - son to  
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your  
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.  
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.  
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.