

Come to me,  
all you that  
are weary

MATTHEW 11:28



## July 9, 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 Jesus, we can find a “resting place” from our weariness. In this paraphrase of Jesus’s words from both the **Prelude and Gathering Hymn**, how many ways does he describe himself?*

**Prelude** — “KINGSFOLD”

Setting by Valerie Floeter  
Ben Bruflat, trumpet

**Words of Welcome**

\***Gathering Hymn** — no. 611

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

\***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.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

# we LISTEN and RESPOND

## A Reading from Zechariah — Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the nations;  
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my  
covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the  
waterless pit.  
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of  
hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you  
double.

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

## Psalm 145:8-14 — *spoken responsively by half verse*

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Lord, you are good to all,  
**and your compassion is over all your works.**

All your works shall praise you, O Lord,  
**and your faithful ones shall bless you.**

They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom  
**and speak of your power,**

that all people may know of your power  
**and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.

**You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

The Lord upholds all those who fall  
**and lifts up those who are bowed down.**

## A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans — Romans 7:15-25a

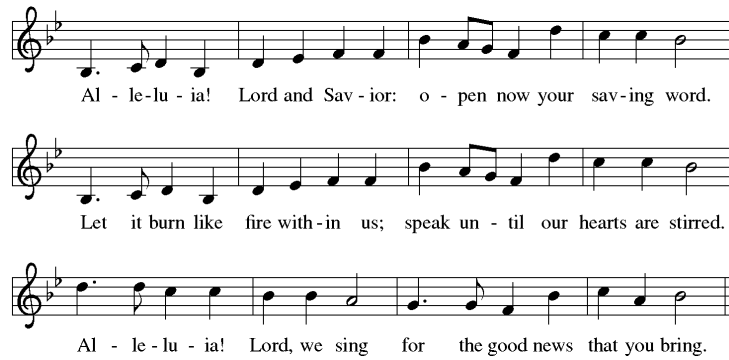
I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ 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 11:16-19, 25-30

The Gospel of Matthew, the 11th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

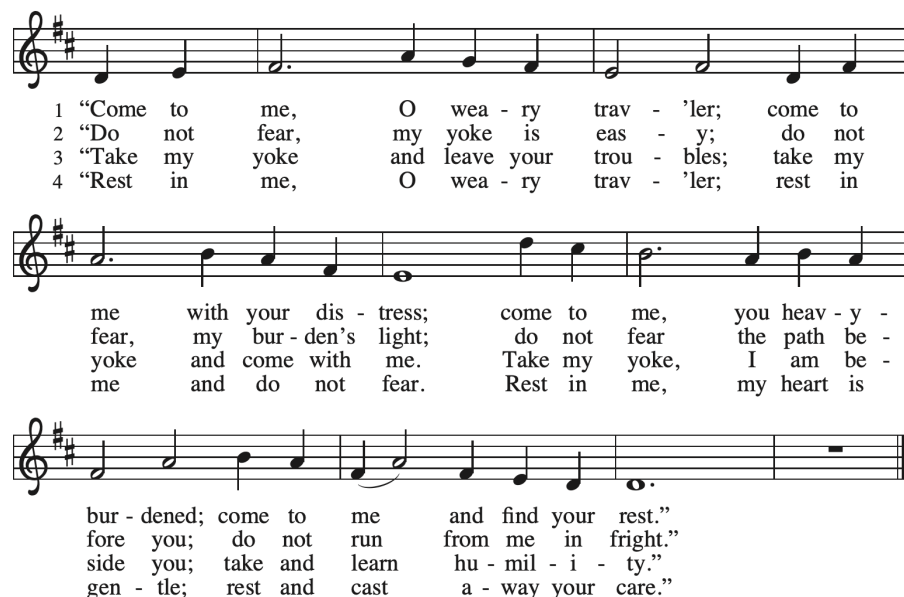
**Sermon**

Pastor Chris Culuris

**\*Hymn** — no. 1017, from *All Creation Sings*

“Come to Me, O Weary Traveler”

*In this new-to-us hymn, we find a paraphrase of many elements of our gospel lesson today. What are some ways that you find rest in your faith?*



1 “Come to me, O wea - ry trav - ’ler; come to  
2 “Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not  
3 “Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my  
4 “Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - ’ler; rest in  
me with your dis - tress; come to me, you heav - y -  
fear, my bur - den’s light; do not fear the path be -  
yoke and come with me. Take my yoke, I am be -  
me and do not fear. Rest in me, my heart is  
bur - dened; come to me and find your rest.”  
fore you; do not run from me in fright.”  
side you; take and learn hu - mil - i - ty.”  
gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care.”

## \*The Apostles' Creed

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

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

God of the covenant, you call ministers to proclaim your gospel of grace throughout the world. Inspire bishops, pastors, deacons and all ministers of your word as they carry out your work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, you reveal your goodness through all you have made: rivers and seas, plants and animals, and endangered species. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, botanical gardens, zoos, and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of compassion, you bring healing to those who are sick, consolation to those who are grieving, and well-being to those who are distraught. Send skilled caregivers to all in need, and make your presence known among all who suffer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of rejoicing, you have brought us together this day to worship around word and sacrament. Encourage children in their learning and growing, and watch over those who are absent today. Lead us all to places of renewal and refreshment. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*The full text of this Spanish tune can be found at hymn no. 639. In our living and dying, in our sorrow and pain, in our suffering or rejoicing, "we belong to God" and can find rest in that reality.*

## Offering

*Music During Offering*  
"When We Are Living"

Setting by Al Roberts  
Ben Bruflat, trumpet

## \*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

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.**

## \*Invitation to the Table

All people are called to Christ’s table. Come, eat what is good.

## Distribution of Communion

*We will observe continuous communion this morning as we sing this hymn of the trust, guidance, and joy we can find in God.*

“Lamb of God” — page 208, front of hymnal, from ELW Setting Ten

Hymn — no. 790

“Day by Day”

## Prayer After Communion

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.

*This is the third hymn today offering paraphrases of Jesus’s messages to his disciples. After each example of burdens we face, we pray, “Jesus, ever-flowing fountain, give us water from your well.”*

# we DEPART to serve the world

## Announcements

\*Sending Hymn — no. 777

“Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”

## \*Blessing & Dismissal

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 — “Ain’-a That Good News!”

Setting by Christina Shehi  
Ben Bruflat, trumpet

*I got a Savior in-a that kingdom, ain't-a that good news!  
I got a Savior in-a that kingdom, ain't-a that good news!  
I'm-a gonna lay down this world, gonna shoulder up-a my cross.  
Gonna take it home-a to my Jesus, ain't-a that good news!  
-African American Spiritual*

## **Acknowledgements**

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### Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris  
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat  
Audio/Video: Brett Petersen  
Musicians: Ben Bruflat, trumpet

Greeter: Cathy Wills, Betsy Paul  
Reader: David Stenson  
Ushers: Tom Thorkelson, John Nadeau

Communion Preparers: Annalise Rivas  
Communion Servers: Sharon Domeier, Cindy Nadeau, Annalise Rivas & David Kennedy  
Bread Bakers: Diane Stewart

## **Announcements**

- Thanks to everyone who participated in the 4th of July Parade!
- Have you signed up your children or grandchildren for VBS yet? It’s going to be held at Trinity, Aug. 6-10 from 4:30 - 7:30pm, and it will be fun for our youth. FLC is paying for our members to attend free of charge!
- Family Funday is tomorrow night. All ages are welcome! Bingo and ice cream sundaes. Bring a topping to share! Ice cream will be provided!
- Stop in the office to buy Moondog tickets for July 30. \$10 includes admission and a meal ticket!
- Pr. Chris will be away from July 15 -21. Please contact the church office should you have an emergency.

## **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.