



September 15, 2024 † 17th Sunday 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!

“God’s Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people.”

P: Indicates the presider throughout the service. AM: Indicates the Assisting Minister throughout the service.

we gather

Prelude - Moderato by Frank W Asper

Words of Welcome

*Hymn — no. 660

“Lift High the Cross”

*Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen. Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**
Amen.

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

*Apostolic Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*Kyrie – from *With One Voice, Setting 5*

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:

Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

*Hymn of Praise — from *With One Voice, Setting 5*

☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

① Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we

wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

☐ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

② Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

☩ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.
 I
 II For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a- lone are the Lord,
 you a- lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa- ther, A - men.
 ☩ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;
 glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth,
 and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***Prayer of the Day**

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Anthem- “Living Faith” by Brad Croushorn sung by FLC’s Chancel Choir

Temple Talk - “Ripples of Generosity” - Carl Bruihler and Annalise Rivas

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah — Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today’s reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God’s steadfast love.

4The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens— wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. 5The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. 6I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. 7The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; 8he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. 9alt is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1-9 - *the psalm will be spoken responsively by whole verse*

I will walk in the presence of the LORD. (Ps. 116:9)

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

2for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.

3The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;

I came to grief and sorrow.

4Then I called upon the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

5Gracious is the LORD and righteous; our God is full of compassion.

6The LORD watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.

7Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt well with you.

8For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;

9I will walk in the presence of the LORD in the land of the living.

A Reading from James — James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be.

Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

1Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. 3If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. 11Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? 12Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** — *from With One Voice, Setting 5*



***Gospel — Mark 8:27-38**

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

The Gospel of Mark, the 8th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

27Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" 28And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." 29He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." 30And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. 36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? 38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Time

Sermon —

Pastor Chris Curluris

***Hymn — no. 651 vs 1, 4, 5 & 7**

"Oh, Praise the Gracious Power"

***The Apostles' Creed**

P: Together let us profess our faith:

**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 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**

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve. Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

***Sign of Peace-** P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.** Please offer one another some sign of Christ's peace as you are comfortable at this time.

Offering - Andantino by Xaver Scharwenka



*Offering Prayer

AM: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

we SHARE the meal

*Great Thanksgiving & Preface —

P: 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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise..... *(Here the minister continues with the proper preface, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy — from *With One Voice, Setting 5*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*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.

Moved by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us saying: **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

P: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving Holy Communion continuously today.*

“Lamb of God” — *from With One Voice, Setting 5*

♩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymn — ACS 966 Insert

“Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken”

Hymn — no 798

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

Prayer After Communion

P: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

we go in peace

Announcements

*Sending Hymn — no. 774

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

*Blessing & Dismissal

P: God all mighty, God most merciful ☩ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

Amen.

AM: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

*Postlude - Allegro con spirito by Gilbert M. Martin

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Assisting Minister: Larry Kiewel
Musician: Michael Asmus

Ushers: Dave Pehrson & Patrick Pehrson
Bread Baker: Angie Buffington
Audio/Video: Brett Petersen

Communion Preparers: Banks Family-
Communion Servers: Heather & Aaron Banks

Announcements

- Fellowship committee will be serving coffee hour after today's service.
- Our Church Council is looking to contact land developers to explore options for selling the empty East lot that FLC owns. They have spoken with Ben Baker to learn which developers the city uses. Note: The Council cannot sell this portion of the church's property without the congregation's approval, which would need to happen at a special congregation meeting. This is an information gathering process.
- Adult Bible Study meets on Monday mornings. They are led by Bob Stenson and Will Friert. The study begins at 9:30 with morning prayer in the chapel and then at 9:45 with class in the conference room. Focus will be on the Gospel of John. All are welcome.
- Wednesdays at First: 5:30pm Dinner Starts, 6:00 Children's Music in the Chapel, 6:30 Worship in the Sanctuary, 7:00 Education in the Classrooms, 7:00 Bell Choir, 7:30 Youth Group (1st Wednesdays). Please spread the word and invite a friend to come!
- CCM will be leading a First Forum following worship today in the Dining Hall. Come and hear all about the great work this committee is doing and how you can join one of their teams!
- Finance and Funds Management will offer a First Forum following worship, next Sunday, Sept. 22. Come and hear how these dedicated individuals shape our budget and manage our investments wisely.
- The 2024 Minnesota Welsh Hymn Festival will be held Sunday, September 22 at 1:30 PM at the First Presbyterian Church, 220 East Hickory Street, Mankato. Hymns by Welsh composers will be sung by the congregation. There is no charge to attend the Hymn Festival, but a freewill offering will be received. Refreshments will follow. All are welcome! Karen Wojahn will be playing in the festival as well.
- An open invitation to all neighbors. From Tami Skinner with St. Peter Community & Family Education: Kitchen Table Conversations series starting Sept 26th. Free! All are welcome. www.stpetergoodneighbor.org
- Ever wondered what it is like to play the handbells? You will have an opportunity to try them out for yourselves following worship on Sept. 29. The Worship & Arts Committee will lead you through this fun exercise.
- Our Youth Group will meet on Wednesday October 2, 7:30 - 8:30. Youth (7th - 12th grades) are invited to join us in the Dining Hall for fun, devotions and snacks.
- La Grande Bande opens the 24/25 Season, and our celebration of George Frideric Handel's 340th birthday, with a program of virtuosity music from early Italy. Internationally-acclaimed violinist Chloe Prendergast, her violinist-sibling Rafa Prendergast, and La Grande Bande's continuo band will open the Sixth Season with an

explosion of virtuosity and Italian passion. Tickets \$5-15 online at www.lagrandebande.org or by phone at 1-507-237-6539. DISCOUNT CODE: FLC92

- “Is the Bible True?” Pastor Steve Kidder would like you to join him in wrestling with that question. When: Wednesday evenings in September and October during the Adult Education time. Discussion may include how the Bible came to be; was the earth created in 6 days; what the Bible really says about homosexuality.

Prayers

We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Karen Wendroth, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, Gretchen Bray, Jim Wendroth, Dale Rettke, Dorothy Lutz, Jan Holte, Byron Larson, Lenore Schnobrich, Judy Fienen, David Ribar, Harvey Kane, Erika Schuldt and Laurie Dietrich.

- Terri Bartlett died on September 6th and her funeral was held here on the 13th.

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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