



September 1, 2024 † 15th 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 - All My Heart I Give by Hugh S Livingston Jr

Words of Welcome

***Hymn** — no. 879

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **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*

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

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

A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** 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.
 ③ 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 For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 II 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**

P: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from the first book of Deuteronomy — Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

1So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. 2You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

6You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!” 7For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? 8And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

9But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children’s children.

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

Psalm 15 - the psalm will be sung responsively by whole verse



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LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? (Ps. 15:1)

1LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

*2Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;*

*3they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.*

*4In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.*

*5They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.*

A Reading from James — James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

17Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

19You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20for your anger does not produce God’s righteousness. 21Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

22But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; 24for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

26If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

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



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel — Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

The Gospel of Mark, the 7th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus],
2they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. 3(For
the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the
tradition of the elders; 4and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also
many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) 5So the Pharisees
and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat
with defiled hands?” 6He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
7in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

8You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

14Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: 15there is
nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

21“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder,
22adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. 23All these evil things come
from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon —

Pastor Chris Curluris

***Hymn** — no. 818

“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”

***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**

AM: 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.

God of every generation, bless the church as we journey together in faith. Sustain and raise up both ordained and lay leaders as we accompany one another in our life with Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen health care workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts especially those we name now in the silence of our hearts....
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comforting God, console us as we mourn those who have died. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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 - Moderato by Salomo Heinrich Bodenschatz



***Offering Prayer**

AM: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

we SHARE the meal

***Great Thanksgiving & Preface —**

P: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

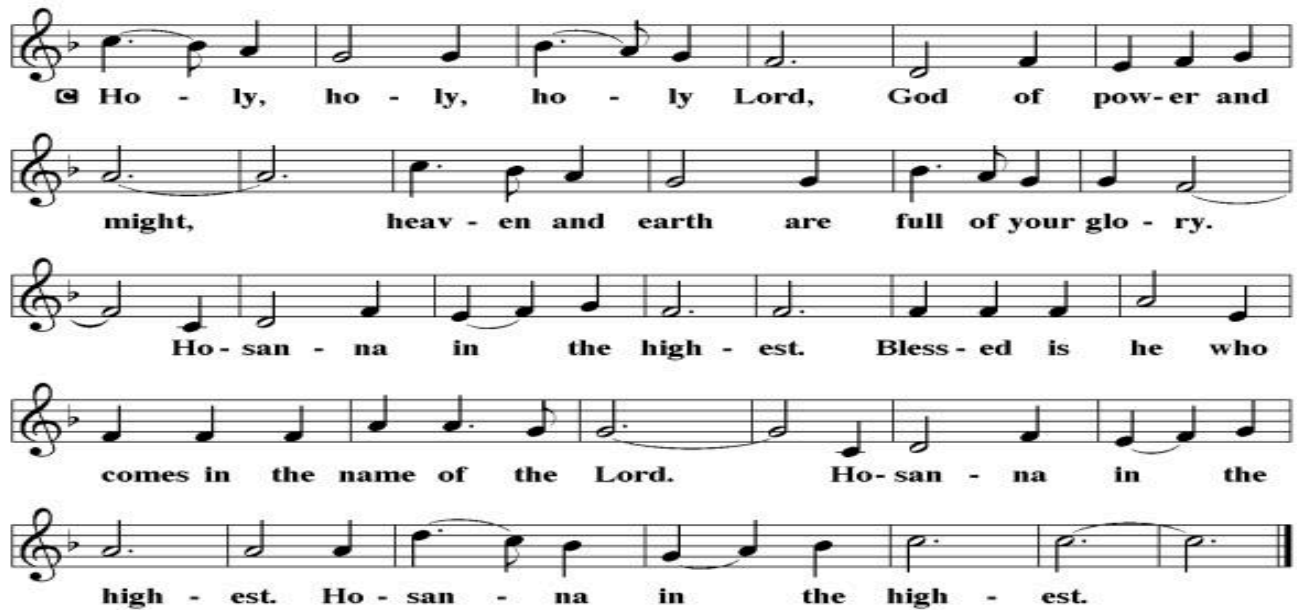
We lift them to the Lord.

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.....
(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: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving Holy Communion at the rail 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 — no. 477

“I Received the Living God”

Hymn — no. 465

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Prayer After Communion

P: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

we go in peace

Announcements

*Sending Hymn — no. 583

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

*Blessing & Dismissal

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

AM: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude - Festal March by James Mansfield

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Assisting Minister: Aileen Bipes
Musician: Michael Asmus

Ushers: Keith & Carrie Stelter
Bread Baker: Lynn Kidder
Audio/Video: Shanon Nowell

Communion Preparers: Kristy Larson
Communion Servers: Cindy Nadeau & Sharon
Domier

Announcements

- Next Sunday is “God’ Work, Our Hands” Sunday. Please make sure to wear your yellow t-shirts to worship. We will be doing two projects this year. One is yard work at the Union Street Shelter here in St. Peter. Please bring work gloves and yard tools. Another group will stay at the church and make “Thank You” signs to go to those who work in public service: Police, Fire Department, Public Schools and others. Please contact Mary Spear (Union Street Shelter) and Cindy Nadeau (Thank You cards) if you have any questions.
- We are in need of volunteers for Ushering and Communion Prep. Please sign up in the gathering area under the bell tower.
- Our Church Council is looking to contact land developers to explore options for selling the empty East lot that FLC owns. They will be contacting St. Peter City Hall to see 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.
- Pastor Chris will be away on continuing education from Sept. 3 - 9. Please call the church office if you have any emergencies: 507-934-3060.
- Adult Bible Study will be starting up Sept. 9 with Bob Stenson and Will Friert. The study will start off 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.
- We will begin our Wednesday Nights at First on September 11. Pizza will be served starting at 5:30. There will be a blessing of backpacks during worship (6:30-7:00). Worship will be followed by a welcome and orientation to our education program for our youth & families at 7:00. Please spread the word and invite a friend to come!
- CCM will be leading a First Forum following worship on Sept. 15. Come and hear all about the great work this committee is doing and how you can join one of their teams!
- Annalise Rivas is sponsoring flowers in memory of George Rivas Sr.

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, Terri Bartlett, Dale Rettke, Dorothy Lutz, Jan Holte, Byron Larson, Lenore Schnobrich, Judy Fienen, David Ribar, Harvey Kane, Laurie Dietrich, Kathryn Christenson, Clayton Rath and the Rath Family.

