



September 29, 2024 ☩ 19th 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 - Jesus Loves Me

Joel Raney

Words of Welcome

*Hymn — no. 532

“Gather Us In”

*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.

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.

*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.

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.

② 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 For you a- lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 ② 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.
 ② 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**

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Temple Talk - Worship and Arts- Sarah Chambers

Stewardship Video- "Ripples of Generosity"

we LISTEN and RESPOND

A Reading from the book of Numbers — Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?

4The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! 5We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the

leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”

10Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. 11So Moses said to the LORD, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? 12Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors?’ 13Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ 14I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. 15If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

16So the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.”

24So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. 25Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

26Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. 27And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” 28And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” 29But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!”

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

Psalm 19:7-14

-The commandment of the LORD gives light to the eyes. (Ps. 19:8)

7The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

8**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- joice the heart;**
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

9The fear of the LORD is clean and en- dures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,**
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

11By them also is your ser- vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

12**Who can detect one’s own offenses?**
Cleanse me from my secret faults.

13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

14**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,**
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

A Reading from James — James 5:13-20

Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.

13Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. 14Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. 16Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. 17Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, 20you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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 9:38-50**

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.

Glory to you O Lord.

38John said to [Jesus], “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” 39But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. 40Whoever is not against us is for us. 41For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

42“*If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. 43If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. 45And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. 47And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, 48where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.*

49“*For everyone will be salted with fire. 50Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.*”

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Hymn — no. 810

“O Jesus, I Have Promised”

***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.

We pray for the people of God in all places. Shape our witness to the good news of Jesus that we joyfully share your transforming love with all whom we encounter. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of the earth. Renew oceans and seas, marshes and estuaries. Uphold the work of conservationists, oceanographers, and all who care for fragile ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peace and cooperation among local and global communities. Bless the efforts of community organizers, international aid workers, and all those who work for justice and peace around the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are in any need. To all who grieve, bring consolation; to all who are weary or lonely, bring solace. By your grace, make your presence known among all who call to you for healing (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for caregivers: doctors and nurses, home health aides and counselors, and those who care for loved ones (*other caregivers or individuals may be named*). Sustain them in their work and help us to build a health care system that supports all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the saints who now rest in your eternal presence. In thanksgiving for their lives of faithful service and witness, we commend them to your loving care. 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.

Offering - Children of the Heavenly Father

Mark Sedio



***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 — no 592

“Just As I Am, without One Plea”

Hymn — no 614

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

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. 808

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

*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 - This Little Light of Mine

Mark Patterson

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Assisting Minister: Grace Timm
Musician: David Fienen

Ushers: Maren Swenson & Tom Thorkelson
Bread Baker: Angie Buffington
Audio/Video: Shanon Nowell, Caitlyn Krueger

Acolytes: Nolan Swenson & Max Swenson
Communion Preparers: Nancy Thorkelson
Communion Servers: Annalise Rivas & Sharon Domeier

Announcements

- Fellowship committee will be serving coffee hour after today's service.
- Adult Bible Study meets on Monday mornings: 9:30am morning prayer in the chapel; 9:45am class in the conference room. Focus is 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). We will be serving Tater Tot Hotdish this week. Please spread the word and invite a friend to come!
- Finance and Funds Management will offer a First Forum following worship today in the Dining Hall. Come and hear how these dedicated individuals shape our budget and manage our investments wisely
- 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.
- In honor of the Festival of St. Francis we will have a blessing of the animals on Wednesday, Oct. 2. We will meet outside on the West side of the church by the rocks. You may bring well behaved and socialized animals or a picture or a stuffed animal representing your pet to worship at 6:30pm. We will be packing chili kits as a service project beginning at 7:00pm. Confirmation Mentors are asked to attend and help.
- FLC's Youth Group will meet on Oct. 2, 7:30 - 8:30pm with the GAC Youth Outreach Team. Youth (7th - 12th grades) are invited to join us in the Dining Hall for fun, devotions and snacks.
- "Is the Bible True?" Pastor Steve Kidder would like you to join him in wrestling with that question. When: Wednesday evenings beginning on Sept. 25th during the Adult Education time in the Pioneer Parlor. Discussion may include how the Bible came to be; was the earth created in 6 days; what the Bible really says about homosexuality.
- The St. John's Boys' Choir is coming on Saturday, October 12, 7:00pm, at First Lutheran Church in St. Peter for a concert of music in collaboration with Great River Resonance, the premier handbell choir based in St. Cloud, MN. The repertoire will feature the choir accompanied by handbells, and GRR will also perform solo pieces that will highlight various techniques employed by handbell ensembles. Tickets (\$5 - \$20) and details available at www.sjbchoir.org.
- Currently FLC has 27 households contributing through direct giving from a bank account. This method is easy to set up. Karen will get you a form if you are interested. We also happily accept checks or cash, envelope offerings, and we have a few options for credit card giving. Please call Karen in the office at 507-934-3060 with questions. Thank you!
- Please join us in worship on October 13th, Celebration Sunday, as we conclude the fall Stewardship Campaign. We thank all our members for returning their 2025 pledge cards on or before that date. Your generosity has a ripple effect!

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, Laurie Dietrich and Emil Trnka.

- Steven Mikelson passed away Sept. 14, 2024. His visitation will be at the church on Saturday, September 28th from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m.

