

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



## September 11, 2022 Time After Pentecost

An asterisk \* invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read responses found in **bold**.

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

### Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — "Blessed Assurance"

Setting by Liza Johnson

Words of Welcome & Stewardship Videos

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who is eager to forgive  
and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**  
Dear friends, together let us acknowledge  
our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy and forgiveness,  
**we confess that sin still has a hold on us.**  
**We have harmed your good creation.**  
**We have failed to do justice,**  
**love kindness, and walk humbly with you.**

**Turn us in a new direction.**  
**Show us the path that leads to life.**  
**Be our refuge and strength on the journey,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and**  
**friend. Amen.**

Beloved of God:  
your sins are forgiven † and  
you are made whole.  
God points the way to new life in Christ,  
who meets us on the road.  
Journey now in God's abiding love  
through the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**\*Greeting & Kyrie** — pg. 3, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

**\*Canticle of Praise** — pg. 4, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

**\*Prayer of the Day**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# Hearing & Responding to Scripture

## A Reading from the book of Exodus — Exodus 32:7-14

The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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

## Psalm 51:1-10 — Spoken responsively by verse

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.  
**You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

## A Reading from Paul’s First Letter to Timothy — 1 Timothy 1:12-17

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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

\***Gospel Acclamation** — pg. 7, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

\***Gospel** — Luke 15:1-10

The Gospel of Luke, the 15th chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

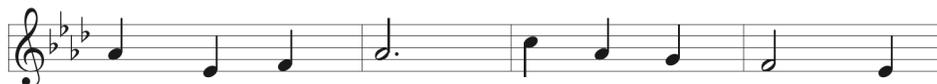
The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “We are here because of who God is”

Pastor Chris Culuris

\*Hymn — no. 1000, from *All Creation Sings*

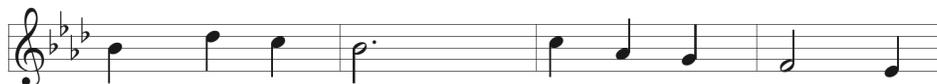
“God’s Work, Our Hands”



1 God’s work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
2 God’s work, our feet: trav - ’ling to - geth - er,  
3 God’s work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread’s on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - ’ring the cold.  
run - ning the race with God’s fu - ture the goal.  
claim - ing God’s love for the lost and the least.  
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God’s love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

### \*Anniversary of Ordination

We give thanks today for the many ordained clergy who are connected to the First Lutheran community. The following pastors are celebrating milestone anniversaries of ordination this year:

Pastor Chris Culuris, 20 years (August 24, 2002)  
Pastor Heather Culuris, 20 years (August 24, 2002)  
Pastor John Malm, 50 years (July 2, 1972)

Ever-living God, we praise you for calling diverse people into the church's ministry of word and sacrament. Strengthen and sustain pastors and bishops, especially Pastor Chris and Pastor Heather on their 20-year anniversary of ordination, that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people. Grant that in their calls they may follow in the way of Jesus Christ.

We give thanks for the retired clergy in our midst who have answered the call to serve your people, especially Pastor John Malm, as he observes this 50-year milestone anniversary. Uphold all pastors, both serving current calls and those in retirement, with your strong and loving arms. Renew them daily by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, the Word among us, now and forever. **Amen.**

### \*Prayers of Intercession

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, we trust God at work in and among us and gather together to raise our hearts and voices in prayer for the needs of the world.

For your work in the church, we give thanks. Plant and tend relationships among faith communities, that in faithful listening, speech, and action, our hands work to bear fruit for the sake of all in need. God of grace, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in creation, we give thanks. Sustain peoples and places affected by climate change, ecological devastation, and natural disasters. Prosper the work of creation-care ministries locally and globally, that with our minds and hearts opened, our hands work to lovingly care for the earth. God of life, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work among the nations, we give thanks. Direct leaders in paths of honest service, that both their words and actions are carried out on behalf of those whom they serve. God of righteousness, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in places of need, we give thanks. Sustain all who are wearied by unemployment or lack of adequate food or housing, that we advocate for relief and just policies. Bring healing to all who are sick through the skillful hands and compassionate hearts of physicians, nurses, therapists, and caregivers. God of restoration, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in our neighborhoods, towns, and cities, we give thanks. Guide our common life together so that children, youth, and adults of all ages flourish. Teach us to listen attentively to our neighbors, that any new endeavors consider those who may be left out or under served. God of wisdom, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work in this worshiping community, we give thanks. Bless the service projects of this day and throughout the year. Foster deeper connections among those who serve and a spirit of accompaniment as we work alongside those in our community. Strengthen our faith, that we trust God moving in and among us. God of love, we pray, **hear us when we call.**

For your work among those who came before us, we give thanks. We remember those who have died and are held forever in your loving hands. Hold us in your presence now and always. God of heaven and earth, **hear us when we call.**

Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## Offering

*Music at the Offering*

“As the Grains of Wheat”

page 9, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

# Sharing the Meal

## \*Great Thanksgiving & Preface

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.**

\*“**Holy, Holy, Holy**” — page 10, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

## \*Words of Institution and Prayers

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.

In the name of the servant Christ, we pray together: **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 Communion

Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good.

## Distribution of Communion

“**Lamb of God**” — page 13, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

Hymn — no. 779

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

## Communion Blessing and Prayer

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey.

Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

# Departing to Serve God's World

## Announcements

\***Sending Hymn** — no. 715

“Christ, Be Our Light”

*Sung in this format: St 1 & 2, Refrain, St 3 & 4, Refrain, St 5, Refrain*

## \***Blessing and Sending for Mission**

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we send your people to help with Camp Noah and Union Street Place. Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.

Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, and especially of those in need. Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people.

Bless those who go out from here to labor at Union Street Place.

Prosper the work of their hands. Bless those who receive them and the fruits of their labor, and may those who are sent receive blessings in return. May the work of their hands be signs of your love to all people.

Bless the birthday cards and blankets that we make today for the youth of Camp Noah. May those who receive them be cared for and uplifted, and may these gifts be a sign of your love to all people.

To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever. **Amen.**

## \***Affirmation of Christian Vocation & Dismissal**

Siblings in Christ, both our work and our rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life? **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit us your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon us in our commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give us courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Together in Jesus Christ, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully. Go in peace; serve God and neighbor. **Thanks be to God!**

\***Postlude** — “Amazing Grace”

Setting by Hal H. Hopson

## Acknowledgements

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## Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Substitute Music Leader: Sophie Martinez

Musician: Liza Johnson

Audio/Video: Rachel Ribar

Reader: Annalise Rivas

Ushers: Tom Thorkelson

Communion Server: Barbara Wilkinson

Communion Preparers: Nancy Thorkelson, Grace Timm

Bread Baker: Nancy Thorkelson

## Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Nancy Maag, Claire Cardwell, Ursula McRostie, Nancy Timm, Jeanne Ribar, and Betty Gustafson.
- We pray for the families who are mourning the loss of loved ones including those of Maralyn Flinner and Joan Miller. We also pray for Kathryn Christenson who is mourning the loss of her daughter Abigail.
- We pray for peace across America and around the world; for all affected by natural disasters; and for healing and wholeness in the lives of all who are ill.

## Announcements

- **The family of Maralyn Flinner** wanted to thank the entire community of First Lutheran for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it was deeply appreciated.
- Following worship today for “**God’s Work, Our Hands**” **Sunday** you may go to the Dining Hall and help tie blankets and make birthday cards for the children who go to Camp Noah (see Rachel Szybski); or, you may go to Union Street Place (221 Union St, St. Peter) to wash windows and do some yard work (see Mary Spear).
- Next Sunday is **Stewardship Sunday!** Please join us out on the West lawn of the church. Each committee will be available to share their ministry with you. Come and see what God is doing in our church and how you might help out! Table tents identifying each committee have already been prepared.
- Please make sure to visit our website: [www.flcstp.org](http://www.flcstp.org) and **register your children for Sunday School, Faith Formation and Confirmation!** Confirmation Orientation will be Wed., Sept. 21 at 6:30pm.
- **La Grande Bande** will perform *Sonatas from Bohemia & Poland* on Sept 15 at 7:30pm. Tickets can be purchased online <https://lagrandebande.org/>
- **September 25: Jeremiah Band!** Do you have a student interested in singing or playing keyboard, guitar, or percussion? If so, the Jeremiah Band might be a great fit for them! Join guitarist Steve Kidder for a rehearsal on Wednesday, September 21 at 5:30pm in the Chapel and Sunday, September 25 at 9:00am in the Sanctuary to practice before leading worship! Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/374h5mdr>
- **Flowers for the altar** today are given in memory of Abigail Christenson by the following individuals: James Dontje and Laura Lindell; Judy and David Fienen; Will and Patricia Freierrt; Jan and John Holte; Lynn and Steve Kidder; and Barbara Wilkenson