

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST'S FRUITS



SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP

September 18, 2022

Season of Stewardship

*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 — “O God of Love”

Setting by Lorie Line
Rebecca Carpenter, flute

*O God of love, whose heart is ever yearning that fixed on you our wayward thoughts may be,
now grant us grace to live as in your presence, and help us all our erring ways to see.
May love subdue the ill in every nation, and all to you as subjects bow the knee.*

-Randall T. Pittman

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.

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the book of Amos — Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

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

Psalm 113 — Spoken responsively by verse

Praise the LORD!
Praise, O servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.
**Blessed be the name of the LORD
from this time on and forevermore.**
From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the LORD is to be praised.
**The LORD is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.**
Who is like the LORD our God,
who is seated on high,

**who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?**
He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
**to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.**
He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.
Praise the LORD!

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to Timothy — 1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For
there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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

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

***Gospel — Luke 16:1-13**

The Gospel of Luke, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Being Faithful Stewards”

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn — no. 655**

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

***Affirmation of Faith — Apostles’ Creed**

**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**

As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God’s good creation.

God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth. Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share your good news with the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Divine teacher, you instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources, and guide those who work to develop sustainable practices. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders and safeguard the dignity of each person. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into economic and social systems that perpetuate poverty and hunger. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelter. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sustainer and giver of life, you bless this congregation with abundance. Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources, that we share generously. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us, and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**“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. 685

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

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. 669

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

*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 — “How Great Thou Art”

Adapted by Stuart K. Hine. Arranged by Chris Rice
Sharon Malm, Organ

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat
Music Leader: Sharon Malm
Audio/Video:
Communion Preparers:
Communion Servers: Cindy Nadeau, Michelle Doose

Greeter: Michelle Doose
Reader: Nancy Timm
Ushers: Tom Thorkelson, John Nadeau
Bread Bakers: Nancy Thorkelson
Musicians: Rebecca Carpenter

Announcements

- **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>
- **FLC's Got Talent!** Thanks to everyone who has signed up for "FLC's Got Talent", which will be **October 9th at 7:00 p.m.** in the Dining Hall. There is still time to sign up! Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/2w9vysua> or by contacting Calleigh at cc.flcstp@gmail.com to reserve a spot by **Tuesday, October 4!**
- Please make sure to visit our website: www.flcstp.org and **register your children** for Sunday School, Faith Formation and Confirmation! Orientation for Faith Formation & Confirmation will be this Wed., Sept. 21 at 6:30pm.
- **Flowers today** are given by the Altar Guild in memory of Joan Miller with gratitude for her years of service with the guild. Joan Miller was a gifted, highly skilled seamstress who very generously contributed her talents to the Altar Guild. She pieced, embroidered, painted and applied fabrics to create over half of the paraments and many of the hangings currently enjoyed throughout the liturgical year including the green Pentecost paraments now on the altar, pulpit and lectern and the beloved hanging that has been hung at every baptism for decades. Her Four Seasons and Four Words hangings are hanging today in celebration of her life with the congregation of First Lutheran Church.
- **Health Advisory Update:** if you are ill please stay home and if you test positive for COVID please remain home for 5 days following your positive test. The wearing of masks is always encouraged.

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, Jeanne Ribar, Betty Gustafson and Karen Wendroth.
- 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.