

# September 4, 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** — “Commands of God”

Written by Steve Kidder

**Words of Welcome**

**Message from Stewardship**

**\*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. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

# Hearing & Responding to Scripture

## A Reading from the book of Deuteronomy — Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

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

## Psalm 1 — *Spoken responsively by verse*

Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
**but their delight is in the law of the  
LORD,  
and on his law they meditate day and  
night.**  
They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,

and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.  
**The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the  
judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
**for the LORD watches over the way of the  
righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

## A Reading from Paul's Letter to Philemon — Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have

become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation** — pg. 8, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet

**\*Gospel** — Luke 14:25-33

The Gospel of Luke, the 14th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus;] and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** — “Important Reminders We All Need”

Pastor Chris Culuris

**\*Hymn** — no. 583

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

**\*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,**

**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**

**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.**

### **\*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.

We pray for the church around the world and for the mission of the gospel. Refresh the hearts of your people, deepen our understanding of every good thing we share, and strengthen our partnerships in the faith. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of the earth and all its creatures: for trees and forests, for all that will yield fruit this season, and for streams and other bodies of water. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and those in authority: for the elected leaders of our towns, states, and country, and for international organizations. Grant wisdom to those who govern and raise up citizens who make decisions in the best interest of their neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For all in need: for those who suffer from disease, who struggle with homelessness or food insecurity, for those whose family life is difficult, and for all in this community who need your care. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For this community of faith: for all our labors—begun, continued, and ended in you—that they glorify your holy name. Bless your people with the strength to live into their many vocations for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who now rest from their labors (especially Peter Claver, priest and missionary). Give us faith, like them, to love you with all our hearts, and by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life. 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 10, *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 11, *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.

### **Distribution of Communion**

“**Lamb of God**” — page 14, *Now the Feast and Celebration* booklet  
**Hymn** — no. 801

“Change My Heart, O God”

### **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. 798

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

### \***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** — “Wake Up, Sleeper”

John Ylvisaker

### **Acknowledgements**

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### **Worship Assistants**

Pastor: Chris Cularis  
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat  
Music Leader: Steve Kidder  
Audio/Video: Brad & Lilly Chambers

Greeter: Aileen Bipes  
Reader: John Bipes  
Ushers: Tom Thorkelson  
Communion Preparers: Shirb & John Sylvester

Communion Servers: Aileen & John Bipes  
Bread Bakers: Michelle Doose, Shirb Sylvester

### **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, 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**

- We will celebrate the ELCA day of service, known as “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, on Sept. 11th. After Worship, you will have the opportunity to choose from two different projects to show God’s love to our neighbors. The two different service projects to choose from are:
  - Tying blankets and making birthday cards for Camp Noah. Camp Noah is a program of Lutheran Social Service and supports kids affected by disasters. Meet in the Gathering Space to participate. Contact Rachel Szybinski if you have questions about this project (rszybski@gmail.com or 507-380-0379)
  - Yard work and window washing at Union Street Place in St. Peter. Union Street Place is a temporary shelter run by Partners for Housing, a nonprofit that supports people experiencing homelessness. Wear appropriate clothing to do this work and bring work gloves. We can carpool there after worship. Contact Mary Spear (507-317-1817) if you have questions about this project.
- Please join us to walk in the South Central MN PRIDE Parade on Saturday, September 10th. Meet at Bridge Plaza Parking Lot 201 North Riverfront Drive, Mankato. Park somewhere in Old Town other than the library or staging area at 10:30 a.m. (parade starts at 11:15)
- Flowers for the altar are given today by Annalise Rivas in memory of her father George.