

**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*September 10, 2023*

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news about God’s grace, love, and forgiveness given to us. If you would like to learn more about our church, please speak with our pastor or one of our members after the service.

* **Bathrooms** are located in the fellowship hall. A changing table is located in the women’s bathroom.

**WORSHIP THEME**

*Last week, Jesus asked his disciples who they think he is. We continue today to hear Jesus’ answer to that question: the Christ must suffer, die, and then be raised to life. He is the friend we need, but not the friend we asked for: to carry the cross behind him is often painful. But we do not follow Jesus only to the cross. We follow him also to the empty tomb and finally to his eternal glory.*

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***The Service of the Word***

*We gather as a congregation to hear God’s Word proclaimed and respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.*

**HYMN** *Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken* **| CW 465**

M: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**CONFESSION**

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus my Savior I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

# absolution

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C**: **Amen**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C: ♫ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues forever. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed are they who take refuge in him.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**FIRST LESSON** *Jeremiah 15:15–21*

*Jeremiah was frustrated and disappointed. He took his anger out on the Lord in his prayer. God’s answer is firm, yet gracious.*

**15**Lord, you understand;  
    remember me and care for me.  
    Avenge me on my persecutors.  
You are long-suffering—do not take me away;  
    think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.  
**16**When your words came, I ate them;  
    they were my joy and my heart’s delight,  
for I bear your name,  
    Lord God Almighty.  
**17**I never sat in the company of revelers,  
    never made merry with them;  
I sat alone because your hand was on me  
    and you had filled me with indignation.  
**18**Why is my pain unending  
    and my wound grievous and incurable?  
You are to me like a deceptive brook,  
    like a spring that fails.

**19**Therefore this is what the Lord says:

“If you repent, I will restore you  
    that you may serve me;  
if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,  
    you will be my spokesman.  
Let this people turn to you,  
    but you must not turn to them.  
**20**I will make you a wall to this people,  
    a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you  
    but will not overcome you,  
for I am with you  
    to rescue and save you,”  
declares the Lord.  
**21**“I will save you from the hands of the wicked  
    and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

**PSALM** *Psalm 121, page 112*

**SECOND LESSON** *Romans 12:1–8*

*How are we to live, knowing who Christ is, and where he leads us? We offer our bodies as living sacrifices. Though it is painful to do so, it is joyful work to serve our Savior and his people.*

**12**Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2**Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**3**For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. **4**For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5**so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **6**We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7**if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8**if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

**VERSE OF THE DAY** *Jeremiah 15:16*

**Alleluia. Your words were my joy and my heart’s delight. Alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL** *Matthew 16:21–26*

**Jesus Predicts His Death**

**21**From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

**22**Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

**23**Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

**24**Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **25**For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. **26**What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus***| CW 411**

**SERMON** *Jeremiah 15*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**OFFERING**

*In response to God’s love and forgiveness, we give back a portion of what he has given us. The members of Christ Lutheran Church have joined to proclaim the gospel to this community. These offerings support that work. While our guests are welcome to participate, they should not feel obligated to do so.*

**INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Blessed Lord, you have promised that where two or three are gathere in your name, you are in the midst of them. Hear the prayers of your people, and grant our requests out of your grace. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, you have sent us pastors as watchmen. You have given us elders to care for our spiritual needs and oversee the work of our congregation. You have provided many who serve in great and small ways to sustain the work of your church among us and throughout the world. Keep these servants faithful in their callings, that the forgiveness of sins may be proclaimed, and that sinners may turn to you in repentance.

**C: Lord, have mercy on all who serve you.**

M: Righteous God, you give leaders to every nation and people. Grant to us wise and upright public servants. Give peace to warring nations. Raise up servants who will uphold the cause of the oppressed. Equip helpers in every tragedy and danger, and comfort them in their work.

**C: May all who serve the needs of others see that their work is not in vain.**

M: Merciful Savior, look with compassion upon those who are struggleing with illness, grief, loneliness, or any malady.

*Special intercessions may follow*

Reassure all these of your love. Lead them to quiet pastures and still waters and restore their souls through your gospel.

**C: You, Lord, are our Good Shepherd; We shall not be in want.**

M: Holy Spirit, when we face temptation, call us back to yourself. Deliver us from all evil and every attack of the devil. When we sin, restore us by the work of our brothers and sisters. Work in us a child-like faith to trust where you lead.

**C: When we bear the cross, fix our eyes on the glorious victory of Christ.**

M: Into your hands we commend all things. We trust in your wisdom, your grace, and your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom**

**and the power and the glory**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**THE BLESSING**

M**:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✙ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN** *Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly* **| CW 484**

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Pastor Tim Leistekow

**WELCOME TO CHRIST EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

We preach a message of forgiveness, hope and peace

through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Families and individuals of all ages will find opportunities

both to grow and to serve.

Our mission statement:

**Look what Christ is doing!**

He binds us together in fellowship

He gathers us in for worship

He builds us up for service

He sends us out with the gospel

*“Now you are the body of Christ,*

*and each one of you is a part of it.”*

*(1 Corinthians 12:27)*