

**18th Sunday after Pentecost**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*October 1, 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**

What makes the Christian joyful? This week, we begin looking at 4 readings from the book of Philippians. As we consider this chapter in God’s Word, we hear Paul speak about his joy again and again. But as we examine the circumstances of his life, we find that his joy comes from a deeper place than mere outward circumstance.

Paul’s joy comes from knowing that the gospel is being preached—and that he has been fortunate to participate in sharing that message during his lifetime. Because of that gospel message, he will also have the privilege in participating in eternity.

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***The Common Service***

*The high and holy worship of God is faith in Jesus Christ. Such faith is created and sustained by God’s service to us (the German, “Gottesdienst,” “The Divine Service”). In the Divine Service, the Lord comes to us in His Word and Sacrament to bless and enliven us with His gifts. The Service is not something we do for God, but His service to us received in faith. The liturgy is God’s work. He gives, we receive.*

**HYMN** *Oh That I Had a Thousand Voices* **| CW 194**

**INVOCATION**

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✙ and of the Holy Spirit

**C: Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

*From God’s Word we know that wherever God puts His name, there He is to bless. In the Old Testament the temple was the place where God graciously caused His name to be present (1 Kings 8:27-30).*

*God has put His name —Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—on us in Holy Baptism. The Divine Service begins with the Invocation, the words spoken over us at our baptisms. Every Divine Service is for the hallowing of the Lord’s name, which the Small Catechism reminds us is done “when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it” (Matthew 28:18-20).*

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

** Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.**

# absolution

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✙ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**: **Amen**

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

**C:  Glory be to God on high,**

**and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,**

**We glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory.**

**O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.**

**O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.**

**You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.**

**For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.**

**You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**Are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**FIRST LESSON** *Jonah 4:5–11*

*Jonah was filled with fury. But not at the sin of Nineveh, or his own miserable circumstances. Jonah’s fury came in response to God’s grace. To the one without gospel, no amount of earthly happiness will produce true, lasting joy.*

**5**Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. **6**Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. **7**But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. **8**When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah’s head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, “It would be better for me to die than to live.”

**9**But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

**10**But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. **11**And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

**PSALM** *Psalm 27 page 75*

**SECOND LESSON** *Philippians 1:18b–27*

*Paul rejoices that the gospel is being preached, and he looks forward to the joys Jesus has prepared for him in eternity.*

The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, **19**for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. **20**I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. **21**For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **22**If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! **23**I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; **24**but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. **25**Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, **26**so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

**27**Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.

**VERSE OF THE DAY** *2 Corinthians 12:9*

**Alleluia. My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL** *Matthew 20:1–16*

*Will God’s generous grace lead us to rejoice? Or will it lead us to grumble?*

**20**“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. **2**He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

**3**“About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. **4**He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ **5**So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. **6**About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

**7**“‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

**8**“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

**9**“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. **10**So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. **11**When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. **12**‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

**13**“But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius? **14**Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. **15**Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

**16**“So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,** *Dt. 6:4*

*The Nicene Creed is the great Confession of the Christian faith* ***professed by all Christians****. The Creed originated at the First Council of Nicaea (c. AD. 325)*

**the Father, the Almighty,**  *2 Cor. 6:18*

**maker of heaven and earth,** *Is. 51:13*

**of all that is, seen and unseen.** *Col. 1:16*

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,** *1 Cor 8:6*

**the only Son of God,** *Jn. 3:16*

**eternally begotten of the Father,** *Heb. 1:2,5*

**God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,** *Jn. 1*

**begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.** *Jn. 10:30*

**Through him all things were made.** *Jn. 1:3*

**For us and for our salvation,** *1 Th. 5:9*

*The Creed itself was crafted as a confession of Scripture in opposition to the Arian heresy, which denied that the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit are God.*

**he came down from heaven,** *Jn. 6:38*

**was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,** *Lk. 1:35*

**and became fully human.** *Gal. 4:4*

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.** *Mk. 15:15*

**He suffered death and was buried.** *1 Cor. 15:3-4a*

**On the third day he rose again in accordance**

**with the Scriptures.** *1 Cor. 15:4b*

**He ascended into heaven** *Ac. 2:33-34*

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.** *Heb. 1:13*

**He will come again in glory** *Mt. 25:31*

**to judge the living and the dead,** *2 Tim. 4:1*

**and his kingdom will have no end.** *Lk. 1:33*

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,** *Job 33:4*

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,** *Jn. 15:26*

**who in unity with the Father and the Son** *Jn. 4:24*

**is worshiped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.** *2 Pet. 1:25*

**We believe in one holy Christian** *Mt. 16:18; Eph. 2:19-20*

**and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.** *Eph. 4:5; Ac. 2:38*

**We look for the resurrection of the dead** *1 Cor. 15:21-22*

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.** *Rev. 22*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Salvation Unto Us Has Come***| CW 390**

**SERMON** *Philippians 1*

**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.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your Word and Sacraments, for opportunities to serve others, for fellowship with Christians in our congregation and throughout the world.

**C: Help us always to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.**

M: Raise up for us honest, wise, courageous and just leaders. Protect those who protect our nation and our communities. Give us and all citizens a willingness to obey our nation’s laws and to work for the common good. Provide us with daily bread and preserve us from all calamity according to your grace.

**C: Teach us not to worry, but to cast all our cares on you.**

M: Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the noble mission you have placed before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

**C: Through our lives, make your light shine.**

M: Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and Sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

**C: Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.**

M: Hear our prayers for those we know who do not know you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

*Silent prayer*

M: Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care, and let nothing hinder their work.

**C: Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.**

*Silent prayer.*

M: Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission; to the glory of your Holy Name.

**LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4*

**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;**

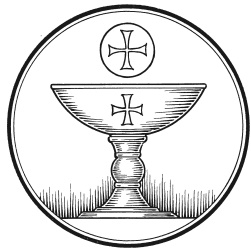
**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom**

**and the power and the glory**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

*****The Service of the Sacrament***

*This greeting marks a new service, so to speak. These ancient introductory words & phrases help to highlight, celebrate and bring attention to the Sacrament.*

M: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** *– Sanctus*

**C:  Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:**

**heav’n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION** *Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22*

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat. This is my ✙ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

*The Words of institution both proclaim the words of Jesus to the congregation and sets apart the bread and wine for the Lord’s Supper.*

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it all of you; this is my ✙ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

**PEACE OF THE LORD** – *Pax Domini John 20:19*

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen**

**O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD** *– Agnus Dei John 1:29*

**C:  O Christ, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God,**

**you take away the sin of the world;**

**Grant us your peace. Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION**

Those who will be receiving Holy Communion today may wish to read **Personal Preparation for Holy Communion**, found on page 156 in the front section of the hymnal. This page helps us put into practice what the Bible encourages: “*Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.” (1 Corinthians 11:28)*

*Christ Lutheran Church confesses and practices the Biblical teaching of a* ***Closed Communion****. We ask that only members of the Wisconsin Synod [WELS] or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod [ELS] join us at the Lord’s Table. If you have questions concerning our communion practice, or would like to inquire about how you, too, can commune with us, please speak with the Pastor following the service.*

**THE SONG OF SIMEON**

**C:  Lord, now you let your servant, depart in peace**

**According to your word.**

**For my eyes have seen your salvation,**

**Which you have prepared before the face of all people,**

**A light to lighten the Gentiles**

**And the glory of your people Israel.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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** *Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose***| CW 466**

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Pastor Timothy 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)*