

**21st Sunday after Pentecost**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*October 22, 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**

Rejoice in all things! We conclude our look at the book of Philippians today and see that God has prepared heavenly joys that call us upward from the difficult circumstances of our lives. He invites us now to enjoy his gifts here on earth and into eternity. God grants us transcendent joy through his grace.

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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** *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers* **| CW 7**

**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.

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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** *Isaiah 25:6–9*

*The veil of death has been removed: Christ is risen from the dead, and now we have the invitation to the Lord’s eternal feast.*

**6**On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare  
    a feast of rich food for all peoples,  
a banquet of aged wine—  
    the best of meats and the finest of wines.  
**7**On this mountain he will destroy  
    the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations;  
**8**    he will swallow up death forever.  
The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears  
    from all faces;  
he will remove his people’s disgrace  
    from all the earth.  
The Lord has spoken.

**9**In that day they will say,

“Surely this is our God;  
    we trusted in him, and he saved us.  
This is the Lord, we trusted in him;  
    let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

**PSALM** *Psalm 23, page 72*

**SECOND LESSON** *Philippians 4:4–13*

*“I will say it again.” Paul’s letter to the Philippians for the sixteenth time encourages us to rejoice.*

**4**Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! **5**Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. **6**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. **7**And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**8**Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. **9**Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

**10**I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. **11**I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. **12**I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **13**I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

**VERSE OF THE DAY** *Hebrews 4:12*

**Alleluia. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation. Alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL** *Matthew 22:1–14*

*God graciously invites people to enjoy the celebration of Jesus’ victory. But he does not take kindly toward those unwilling to share in the joy of salvation.*

**22**Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: **2**“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. **3**He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

**4**“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

**5**“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. **6**The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. **7**The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

**8**“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. **9**So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ **10**So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

**11**“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. **12**He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

**13**“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**14**“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**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.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness***| CW 376**

**SERMON** *Philippians 4:4–13*

**OFFERTORY**

**C:  Create in me a clean heart, O God,**

**And renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from your presence**

**And take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,**

**And uphold me with your free Spirit. 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.*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

M: Heavenly King, Your Son, Jesus Christ, purchased the Church with His precious blood. Preserve her in the pure teaching of Your Word, in the right use of the Sacraments and in the unity of the faith.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer**.

M: Heavenly King, You send out Your invitation that all who believe in Your Son should take their seats at His feast. By the proclamation of Your Church, gather many, however evil they may be, to repent and fill Your eternal banquet hall.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly King, bless all families and the homes in which our people dwell. Grant grace to husbands and wives, that they may fulfill their vocations to one another and to their children. Grant also that, as a family, they may faithfully teach and learn the faith.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly King, keep the coming of Your Son always at the forefront of heart and mind, that subject for His sake to the fleeting powers of this world, we may live in continual godliness and the peace that passes all understanding.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly King for whom we wait, You promise to wipe away the tears from all faces. Bless all who weep here, that at the last they may be comforted, restored and received into the banquet of heaven.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly King, You have prepared a table before us in the midst of those who refuse Your invitation. Keep Your Church unstained by the world, that we may partake of our Lord’s Supper worthily, clothed in His baptismal grace.

**C: Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

M: Heavenly King, give us such joy in pursuing what is true, just, pure and worthy of praise that, spurning the temptations of this world, we would suffer no anxiety. Let our trust be placed fully in Christ and let our hope rest in the life of the world to come; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

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

**C: 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;**

**and forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and forever. 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** *Rejoice, the Lord is King***| CW’21 524**

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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)*