

**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH** | Lodi, California

*July 23, 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**

God sends out his Word like a seed into the ground. This gospel goes out to bless those who hear it and bring forth the fruit of faith. But not all who hear the Word believe it. We pray today that God would produce in us faith and the fruit of the Spirit, so that we can continue to scatter the seed of his Word in the world for those who have not yet believed.

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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** *Speak, O Savior, I am Listening* **| CW 283**

**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.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your Word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy and to bring forth fruits in faith and hope and love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**FIRST LESSON** *Isaiah 55:8–11*

*God’s ways are high above our own–higher than the heavens are above the earth. But what comes down to us from God is full of blessing for us: the gospel of salvation in Christ.*

**8**“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
    neither are your ways my ways,”  
declares the Lord.  
**9**“As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
    so are my ways higher than your ways  
    and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
**10**As the rain and the snow  
    come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
    without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
    so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,  
**11**so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
    It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
    and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

**PSALM** *Psalm 65, page 89*

**SECOND LESSON** *Romans 9:6–16*

*God’s Word has not failed. God has shown us his mercy in the gospel. The fact that some reject the gospel does not mean that the gospel is ineffective.*

**6**It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. **7**Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” **8**In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring. **9**For this was how the promise was stated: “At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son.”

**10**Not only that, but Rebekah’s children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. **11**Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: **12**not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” **13**Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

**14**What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! **15**For he says to Moses,

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,  
    and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

**16**It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.

**VERSE OF THE DAY** *Deuteronomy 30:14*

**Alleluia. The word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it. Alleluia.**

**THE GOSPEL** *Matthew 13:1–23*

*Jesus tells us that preaching the Word is like scattering seed. We should not be surprised that not every person comes to faith, just as we are not surprised that not every seed becomes a full-grown plant.*

**13**That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. **2**Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. **3**Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. **4**As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. **5**Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. **6**But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. **7**Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. **8**Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. **9**Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

**10**The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

**11**He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. **12**Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. **13**This is why I speak to them in parables:

* “Though seeing, they do not see;  
      though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

**14**In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

* “‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
      you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.  
  **15**For this people’s heart has become calloused;  
      they hardly hear with their ears,  
      and they have closed their eyes.  
  Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
      hear with their ears,  
      understand with their hearts  
  and turn, and I would heal them.’

**16**But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. **17**For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

**18**“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: **19**When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. **20**The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. **21**But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. **22**The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. **23**But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

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** *Preach You the Word***| CW 544**

**SERMON** *Matthew 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: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

**C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.**

M: Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

**C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.**

M: We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

**C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.**

M: Grant prosperity to business and industry according to your will. Give employers a sense of fairness toward workers and employees joy and pride in their work.

**C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.**

M: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arou

**C: Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.**

M: Strengthen the family. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to see their parents as your representatives.

**C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.**

M: Hear us as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

**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** *On What Has Now Been Sown* **| CW 322**

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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)*