



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

*VBS Closing Service*

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH | Lodi, California

*June 13, 2021*

## 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

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

The work of the gospel is invisible, but real. It is hidden, but with results that can be seen—even if the power behind those visible results remains a mystery. Faith that is the result of the living seed of the Word is alive and gives evidence of its life.

# OPENING HYMN

*Oh, Worship the King* | CW 243



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove;  
 2 Oh, tell of his might; oh, sing of his grace,  
 3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,  
 4 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing his pow'r and his love,  
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py, space.  
 Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old,  
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
 In you do we trust nor find you to fail.



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,  
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,  
 Your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.  
 And dark is his path on the wings of the storm.  
 And round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
 Our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, abr., alt.  
 Tune: HANOVER (10 10 11 11) William Croft, 1678–1727.

## INVOCATION

M: My son, follow my advice. Listen attentively to what I say. Do not lose sight of my words. Guard them in your heart. *Proverbs 4:18, 20-21*

**C: They give life to those who hear them. We want to the Word of God.**

M: Lord, God, be present and guide this time of worship. We want to be fed from your Word.

## SONG

*Through Jesus*

## PRAYER

M: We give thanks to you for this past week of VBS. We give thanks to you for the families you brought to our church, for the time of service, and the gift of being able to share your word. We ask that your Word would bear fruit in the lives of these children wherever they go.

C: **Amen**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Sin is with us and in us before we are born. David laments in his Psalm, “Surely I was sinful from birth, from the time my mother conceived me.” Sin gets in our way and obstructs our course.

C: **We try, Lord, and we cannot get to you.**

M: We can’t get anywhere on our own. We confess our sins.

C: **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.**

M: God, our Father, has taken away all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, who ran the race before us and leads the way, 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.**

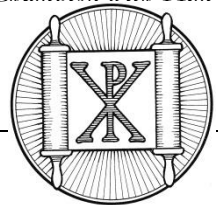
M: We rejoice as Jesus leads the way to the finish line. With him we win. We are champions in Jesus and one day we will live with him in heaven.

## SONG

*I'm a Champion with Him*

## The Service of the Word

*Having just received absolution for their sins, believers now gather around the Word of God to find encouragement and peace for their lives on earth.*



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The **Collect** (also known as the "Prayer of the Day") is a concise prayer which "collects" the thoughts of the day and presents them to God in his mercy. Many of these prayers have been in use in the church for more than 1,500 years.

**C: Amen**

## FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 17:22-24

*God speaks how he will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. But God didn't choose this one from Judah when they were champions. No, this message came to God's people when they were at a low point in life. This is when their power was waning, the kingdom divided, and they were in exile.*

<sup>22</sup> "This is what the Lord GOD says:

I will take a sprig  
from the lofty top of the cedar and plant it.  
I will pluck a tender sprig  
from its topmost shoots,  
and I will plant it  
on a high towering mountain.

<sup>23</sup> I will plant it on Israel's high mountain  
so that it may bear branches, produce fruit,  
and become a majestic cedar.  
Birds of every kind will nest under it,  
taking shelter in the shade of its branches.

<sup>24</sup> Then all the trees of the field will know  
that I am the LORD.  
I bring down the tall tree,  
and make the low tree tall.  
I cause the green tree to wither  
and make the withered tree thrive.  
I, the LORD, have spoken  
and I will do it."

## PSALM OF THE DAY

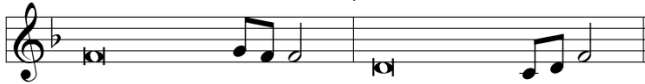
Psalm 1 | CW page 64

### Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

### Psalm tone



Blessed is the man  
who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked  
or stand in the way of sinnners.  
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.  
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,  
which yields its fruit in season  
and whose leaf does not wither.  
Whatever he does prospers.

### Refrain

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.  
For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,**  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### Refrain

## SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

*Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.*

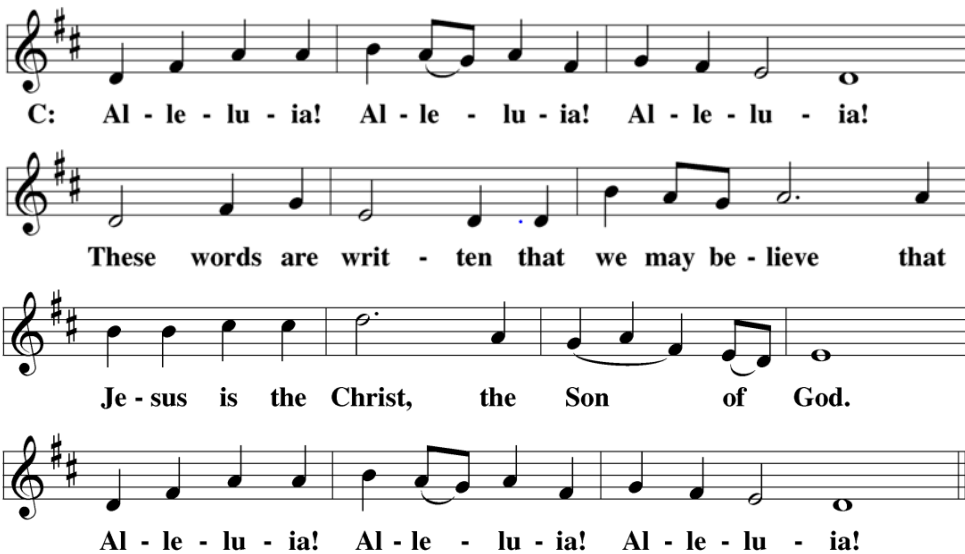
5 For we know that if our earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal dwelling in the heavens, not made with hands. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, we groan in this tent, desiring to put on our heavenly dwelling, <sup>3</sup> since, when we are clothed,<sup>[a]</sup> we will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> Indeed, we groan while we are in this tent, burdened as we are, because we do not want to be unclothed but clothed, so that mortality may be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> Now the one who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as a down payment.

<sup>6</sup> So we are always confident and know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. <sup>7</sup> For we walk by faith, not by sight. <sup>8</sup> In fact, we are confident, and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to him. <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

*Psalm 132:9*

**Alleluia. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy. Alleluia.**



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## THE GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

*Jesus uses the image of sowing and growing to demonstrate the power of God's kingdom. It's at work and growing even when you can't see it.*

<sup>6</sup>“The kingdom of God is like this,” he said. “A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup>He sleeps and rises night and day; the seed sprouts and grows, although he doesn’t know how. <sup>28</sup>The soil produces a crop by itself—first the blade, then the head, and then the full grain on the head. <sup>29</sup>As soon as the crop is ready, he sends for the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

<sup>30</sup>And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup>It’s like a mustard seed that, when sown upon the soil, is the smallest of all the seeds on the ground. <sup>32</sup>And when sown, it comes up and grows taller than all the garden plants, and produces large branches, so that the birds of the sky can nest in its shade.”

<sup>33</sup>He was speaking the word to them with many parables like these, as they were able to understand. <sup>34</sup>He did not speak to them without a parable. Privately, however, he explained everything to his own disciples.

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Fight the Good Fight* | **CW 457**



1 Fight the good fight With all your might;  
 2 Run the straight race Through God's good grace;  
 3 Cast care a - side, Lean on your guide;  
 4 Faint not nor fear; His arms are near.



Christ is your strength and Christ your light.  
 Lift up your eyes and seek his face.  
 His bound - less mer - cy will pro - vide.  
 He chang - es not, and you are dear.



Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
 Life with its way be - fore us lies;  
 Lean, and the trust - ing soul shall prove  
 On - ly be - lieve, and you will see



Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Christ is the path and Christ the prize.  
 Christ is its life and Christ its love.  
 That Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-75, alt.  
 Tune: MENDON (448 88) *The Methodist Harmonist*, New York, 1821.

## SERMON

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

2 Cor. 6:18

Is. 51:13

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.

1 Cor. 8:6; Jn. 3:18

Lk. 1:35

Lk. 1:34; 2:7

Lk. 23:16

Mt. 27:32-61; Mk 15:21-47

Lk. 23:26-56; Jn. 19:16b-42

1 Pet. 3:19

1 Cor. 15:4b

Ac. 2:33-34

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.

Heb. 1:13

Mt. 25:31

2 Tim. 4:1

Mt. 3:16-17

Eph. 5:23

Eph. 4:3-6

Rom. 4:6-8

1 Cor. 15:13-19

1 Th. 4:17

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.

*Upon hearing the Word preached, the congregation unites in one voice to speak a summary of the Christian faith that **all Christians profess.** The creeds signify our allegiance to the Christian faith and unite us with over 2,000 years of Christian history. By repeating the creeds weekly, we equip ourselves for public witness by grounding our confession in the fundamentals of*

## OFFERING

*Of all the gifts God gives to us, forgiveness in Jesus Christ is the most precious. No gift we could give back to God for what he did through his Son Jesus Christ could ever balance the debt we owe for what our Lord accomplished for us on the cross. Yet Jesus says the debt we owe has been canceled, that means that we do not give out of obligation but as an act of worship and thanks to God. The offerings of the members of Christ Lutheran are gathered at this time. Guests need not feel obligated to give an offering.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

**C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

**C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

**C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

*Special prayers*

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

*Silent prayer*

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

**C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.

HYMN

*When Peace Like a River* | CWS 760



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my  
2 My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous  
3 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be



way, When sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll— What -  
thought— My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is  
sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The



ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to  
nailed to the cross, and I bear it no  
trump shall re - sound, and the Lord shall de -



say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
scend; E - ven so, it is well with my soul.



Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888, alt.  
Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE (11 8 11 9 and Refrain) Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

## PRAYER

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, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

## SONG

*Jesus, Jesus, He's the Best!*

## THE BLESSING

M: The race that Jesus ran when he came to this world was formidable. He became one of us and took the place of the guilty. He conquered temptations. He played by the rules. He paid for our offenses. He made it to the finish line!

C: **Jesus doesn't just show us the way to go. Jesus is the way.**

M: Let us receive his blessing, and enjoy each day that remains for us to run the race in this life.

C: **We won in Christ. We receive the blessing of the Lord.**

M: God grant us peace, love and faith. May your grace be with all.

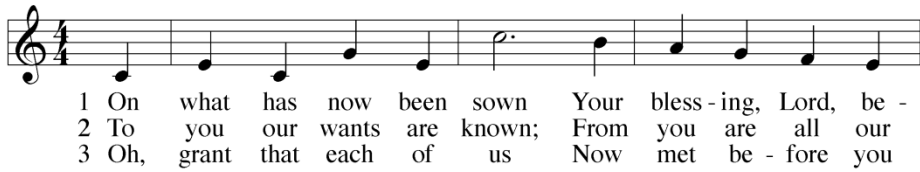
C: **Amen.**

*Be seated*

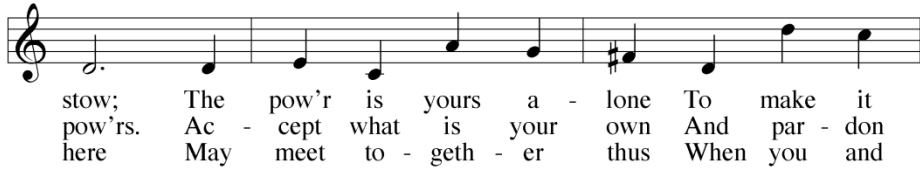
*This blessing summarizes our VBS theme as well as our lessons during the week.*

## CLOSING HYMN

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



1 On what has now been sown Your bless - ing, Lord, be -  
 2 To you our wants are known; From you are all our  
 3 Oh, grant that each of us Now met be - fore you



stow; The pow'r is yours a - lone To make it  
 pow'rs. Ac - cept what is your own And par - don  
 here May meet to - geth - er thus When you and



spring and grow. O Lord, in grace the har - vest  
 what is ours. Our prais - es, Lord, and prayers re -  
 yours ap - pear And fol - low you to heav'n, our



raise And you a - lone shall have the praise!  
 ceive And to your Word a bless - ing give.  
 home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, abr., adapt., alt.  
 Tune: DARWALL'S 148TH (66 66 88) John Darwall, 1731–89.



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Pastor Joshua Hanson

## **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

*“Now you are the body of Christ,  
and each one of you is a part of it.”  
(1 Corinthians 12:27)*

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