

***Welcome to  
Christ Lutheran Church***



**September 13, 2020  
In-Person Brief Service  
11:00 am  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

# WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

## WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

The first reading is written in the 50<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis beginning at the 15<sup>th</sup> verse.

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?"

<sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>"Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they

spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, “We are here as your slaves.” <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred

denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **BLESSING OF BACKPACKS & TECHNOLOGY**

*(If children are present)*

Dear God, as we start an extraordinary year of learning, we ask your blessing on the backpacks, school supplies and technology that will facilitate education, but especially on the children who will use them. As they do the very important work of being students, bless them with: eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large; respect for teachers and other students, that they may form healthy relationships; love for the world around them, that they may become caretakers of your creation; happiness when learning is easy and stick-to-it-iveness when it is hard; and chiefly, faith in

Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend. We ask that you protect these learners and their teachers. Watch over them and keep them safe whether they travel to and from school, or work and learn from home. As they learn, help them to discover the individual gifts that you have given to each one of them, and help them to recognize how they are blessed to use those gifts to create goodness in the world. As they hear the many voices that will fill their days, help them to listen most carefully for your voice, the one that tells them you will love them always, no matter what. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**SERMON:** Pastor Serena Sellers

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **BLESSING OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**

*(The pastor announces the commitments made by the faith formation volunteers, and the blessing continues)*

People of Christ Lutheran Church, our faith formation programs are given to all who come as a free gift of grace because this congregation has supplied the staff, curriculum and materials through your offerings of time, talent and treasure. God is working through your hands to bless our community. I now ask you: will you pray for these leaders? Will you support, encourage and honor them as they present God's Word and loving presence each week?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Will you pray for the students, and renew your commitment to God's formation of your own faith, through study of the Word? Will you offer a faithful example of discipleship?

**We will, and we ask God to help us.**

Let us pray. Gracious God, we give you thanks for all that you have given us, and for the opportunity to join you in loving and serving our neighbor. Thank you for faithful leaders who have answered your call to serve. For Jesus' sake, empower them to share your Word and love. Help them to teach faithfully, lead patiently, and guide confidently.

Stir up in this congregation the gift of your Holy Spirit, so that your Word is proclaimed, and your presence is seen through all that we do. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

On behalf of Christ Lutheran Church, we now commission our leaders for faith formation ministry, grateful for their gifts and willingness to serve.

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*With social-distance in place, share that peace with those around you.*

## **WE OFFER OUR GIFTS**

### **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, so that the community is welcome, the gospel is shared and the hungry are fed.*

*If you would like to give an online donation to the church, please click this link.*

<https://www.christlc2.org/onlinegiving>

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.**

**Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,**

**nourish us with this rich food and drink,**

**and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a**

**suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ,**

**our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

God, your arms are outstretched for all. You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen our faith through Bible studies and faith formation on Wednesday nights, through our confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth especially as we adapt our teaching and learning to these extraordinary times. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you called forth the enormity of the universe. The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation recovering from devastation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you are the ultimate ruler and judge. Make your ways known to the nations. As you made the waters of Meribah sweet, overcome bitter grudges. When we want to settle accounts with violence, instead settle our hearts on paths of justice and peace. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom especially in the midst of protest and political divisions. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, your touch gives wholeness and restoration. Bring healing wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Watch over the ill, especially Betsy Anderson, Tom Caldwell, Doris Fischer, Charlie Hoffman, Ella Landes, Grace Landis, Ginny Overholtzer, Marie Roberts, Jakob Strohl and Janice Webb. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** God, you offered forgiveness at the height of your suffering. Teach us to forgive. Still our tongues and open our ears. Create a well of compassion within us when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Help us see our diversity as a strength that enriches our communal life. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, your love is stronger than death. Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have gone before us in faith and demonstrated faithfulness: for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **SENDING**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

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