

***Welcome to
Christ Lutheran Church***



**September 13, 2020
On-line Streaming Service
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Blest Be the Tie that Binds*

Ritter

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
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.**

OPENING HYMN: *All Are Welcome*

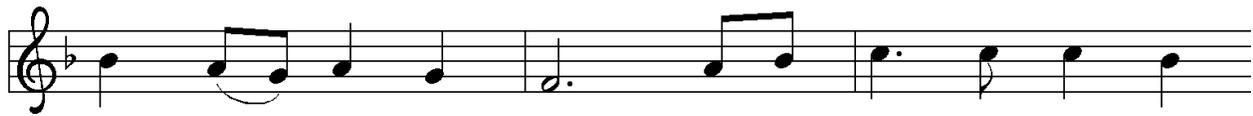
ELW 641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

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 50th chapter of Genesis beginning at the 15th verse.

¹⁵Realizing 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?"

¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?

²⁰Even 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. ²¹So 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.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

The second reading is written in the 14th chapter of Romans beginning at the 1st verse.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

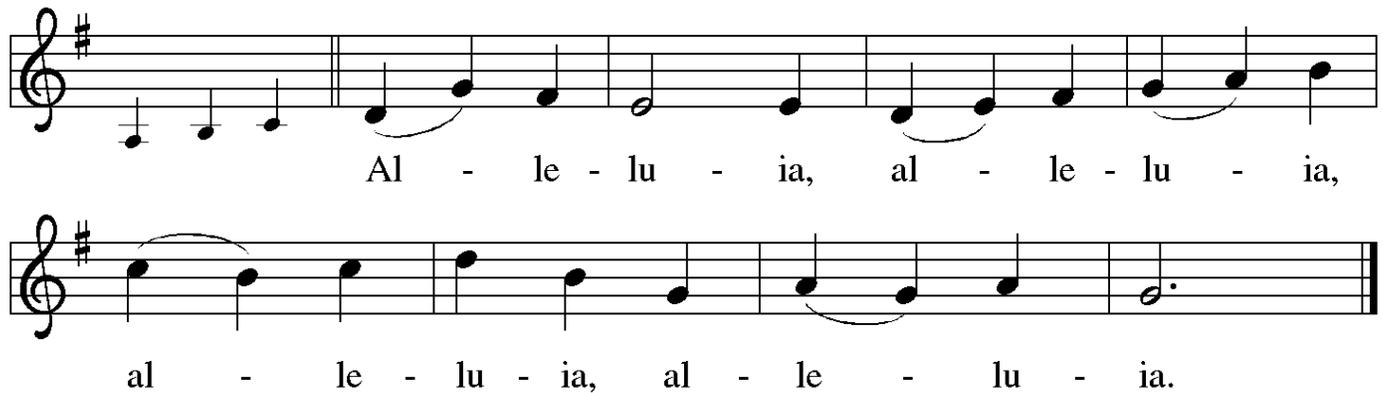
“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 18th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter 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?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Pastor Serena Sellers

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS & TECHNOLOGY

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

HYMN OF THE DAY:

Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

ELW 605



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew;
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
 that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

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

Each week we will offer Faith Formation for all ages on Wednesday evenings, in a virtual classroom.

The Prophet Isaiah says: "O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand." (Is. 64:8)

Children and adults will gather in a virtual space each week to be shaped by God's Word and love.

Brothers and sisters, you will be entrusted with the time and attention of these men, women and children.

This is a precious trust, joy and responsibility. You have responded to God's call to invest your time, energy, and gifts to bless this community, and offer God's Word and wisdom. Be confident that this call comes from God.

Will you carry out this ministry trusting God to provide strength, guidance and inspiration?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

As they present themselves in your virtual classroom, will you seek and honor God's image in every person that God has made and loves?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you strive to bless those whose faith is placed in your care, offering your gifts to God's glory?

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Almighty God, who has given you the gifts and the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them. **Amen.**

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.

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>

GIFT OF MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, **our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives.**

Bless the time, talents and treasures we offer, and multiply them that they may be a blessing for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ. 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.

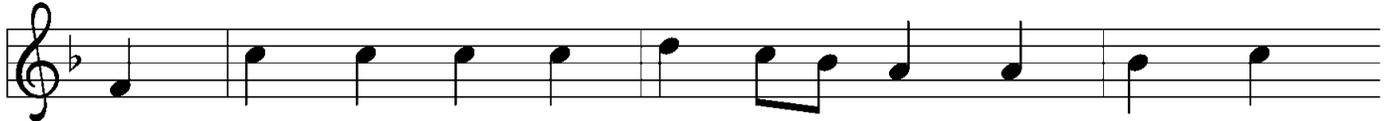
SENDING

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.**

SENDING HYMN: *O Christ, Our Hope*

ELW 604



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som
4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us
5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in
of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by
ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.
mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.
all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Faith*

Rand

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