



July 21, 2024

**9th Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Holy Communion**

Mark's gospel makes clear how great is the press of the crowd, with its countless needs to be met, on Jesus and his disciples. Yet in today's gospel Jesus advises his disciples to get away and rest, to take care of themselves. Sometimes we think that when others are in great need we shouldn't think of ourselves at all; but Jesus also honors the caregivers' need. We are sent from Christ's table to care for others and for ourselves.

Today we welcome the Rev. Maria Hammons, Associate to the Bishop of the New England Synod. She is with us to preach and then to lead a conversation during the Coffee Hour after worship. The conversation will focus on the opportunities, responsibilities, challenges and joys of the transitions ahead as we join with the people of Zion and Grace Lutheran Churches as well as many others in becoming the new Faith Lutheran Church.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Voluntary in F* William Hine (1687-1730)

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.
We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.
We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.
We take offense at your teachings and your ways.
Turn us again to you.
Where else can we turn?
Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.
Amen.**

Beloved people of God:
 in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
 you are fed and nourished.
 By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
 there is always more than enough.
 Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
 you are shown God's mercy:
 you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN Oh, Praise the Gracious Power ELW 651

1 Oh, praise the gracious pow'r
 that tumbles walls of fear
 and gathers in one house of faith
 all strangers far and near:

Refrain

We praise you, Christ!
 Your cross has made us one!

2 Oh, praise persistent truth
 that opens fisted minds
 and eases from their anxious clutch
 the prejudice that blinds: *Refrain*

3 Oh, praise inclusive love,
 encircling ev'ry race,
 oblivious to gender, wealth,
 to social rank or place: *Refrain*

4 Oh, praise the word of faith
 that claims us as God's own,
 a living temple built on Christ,

our rock and cornerstone: *Refrain*

- 5 Oh, praise the tide of grace
that laps at ev'ry shore
with visions of a world at peace,
no longer bled by war: *Refrain*
- 6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: *Refrain*
- 7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: *Refrain*

***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.

O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people,
faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a
whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING**Jeremiah 23:1-6**

Jeremiah prophesied before the exile in 587 BCE. In this passage, he uses the metaphor of a shepherd to describe the bad kings who have scattered the “flock” of Israel. God promises to gather the flock and to raise up a new king from David’s line to save Israel and Judah.

A reading from Jeremiah.

¹ Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³ Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴ I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 23 (Read responsively by verse)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

SECOND READING Ephesians 2:11-22

The author of this letter reminds his audience that originally they were not part of God's chosen people. Through Jesus' death, however, they are included in God's household of faith, whose cornerstone is Jesus Christ.

A reading from Ephesians.

¹¹ Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands—¹²remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in

the Lord; ²²in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 175

We all sing

The image displays a musical score for the Gospel Acclamation 'Alleluia' (ELW 175). It consists of two systems of vocal parts and a final melodic line. Each system includes a soprano part (treble clef) and a bass part (bass clef). The lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first system shows the vocal parts with lyrics. The second system repeats the vocal parts. The final line is a single melodic line in the soprano clef.

My sheep I hear my voice.* I know them, and they I follow me. *Repeat Alleluia.*

GOSPEL **Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

When Jesus sends his disciples out to teach and heal, they minister among large numbers of people. Their work is motivated by Christ's desire to be among those in need.

The holy gospel according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life ELW 719

- 1 Where cross the crowded ways of life,
where sound the cries of race and clan,
above the noise of selfish strife,
we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
- 2 In haunts of wretchedness and need,
on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,
from paths where hide the lures of greed,
we catch the vision of your tears.
- 3 From tender childhood's helplessness,
from human grief and burdened toil,
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,
your heart has never known recoil.
- 4 The cup of water giv'n for you
still holds the freshness of your grace;
yet long these multitudes to view
the strong compassion in your face.
- 5 O Master, from the mountainside
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
among these restless throngs abide;
oh, tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
and follow where your feet have trod;
till glorious from your heav'n above
shall come the city of our God.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

A For the church of Jesus Christ in this and every land: Through the One who is the cornerstone of a firm foundation, join us together and build us up as a temple of mercy and peace.
In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A For the creation: Cause new trees to be planted. Restrain the melting of polar ice caps. Save land from destruction. Like a shepherd tends her sheep, raise up from among us caretakers of all you have made. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A For the leaders of nations and heads of tribes: Where peace seems far off, bring it near. Where justice seems fleeting, bring it to light. Where discord seems relentless, bring harmony. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A For the health and well-being of family, friends, and neighbors: Heal those who are sick, especially Freda, Lori, Nancy, Charlie, Susan, Patricia, Nancy, Jean, Lee, Denise, Larry, Patti, Bob, Joan, Ann, Pamela, Bill, Marge, Donna, Marge, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Tracey, Johanna, Carole, John, Todd, Anna, Roy, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts. and all who suffer in any way with the oil of healing and grant them renewal.

(Pause for silence)

Give courage to all who struggle with addiction. Touch with your tender care all who reach out to you in pain. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A For this assembly and for the faith communities represented this week at the ELCA Youth Gathering: Nurture the faith of young people as they encounter new experiences and people. Break down dividing walls and inspire collaboration among people of every age. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A Guide and nurture the people and friends of Grace, Zion and St. Andrew Churches — the future Faith Lutheran Church — as we continue charting and discovering pathways of joining together in proclaiming your Good News and building a servant community of

healing, hope and new life. Open our hearts and minds to visions of your church for a new day.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A In thanksgiving for those who have died: Make us certain that in Christ we are no longer strangers and aliens but citizens with the saints in the household of God.

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

A Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

OFFERTORY HYMN As The Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Jesus, Bread of life,

you have set this table with your very self,
 and called us to the feast of plenty.
 Gather what has been sown among us,
 and strengthen us in this meal.
 Make us to be what we receive here,
 your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

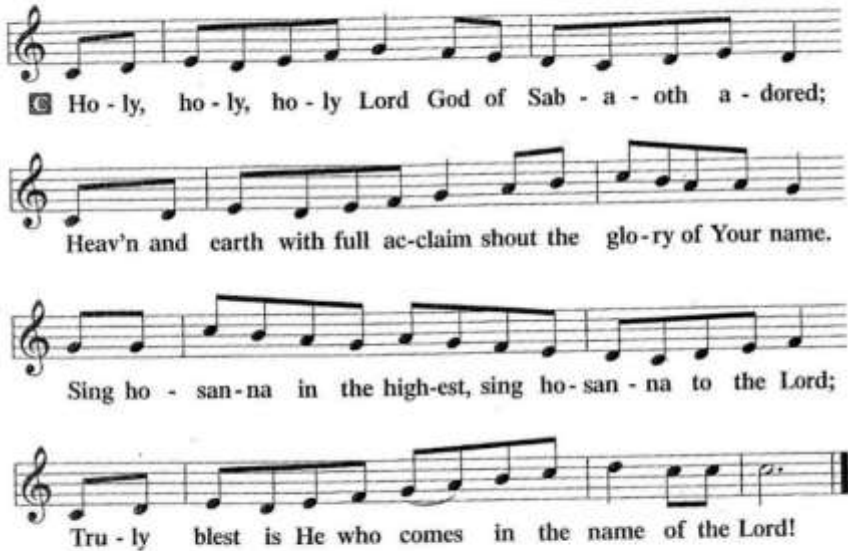
PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
 that we should at all times and in all places
 give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
 through our Savior Jesus Christ;
 who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
 we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Sabbath (SAH-bay-oth) is Hebrew for "heavenly hosts."
Hosanna is a Hebrew word of praise meaning "save us now."

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God,
 you alone are holy,
 you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
 beyond the stars;
 beneath the sea;
 within each cell;
 with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:

through the water;
 by night and day;
 across the wilderness;
 out of exile;
 into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
 at the heart of human life;
 near to those who suffer;
 beside the sinner;
 among the poor;
 with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread,
 and gave thanks; broke it,
 and gave it to his disciples,
 saying: Take and eat;
 this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
 he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink,
 saying: This cup
 is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people
 for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us
 on the way,

at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.

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.**

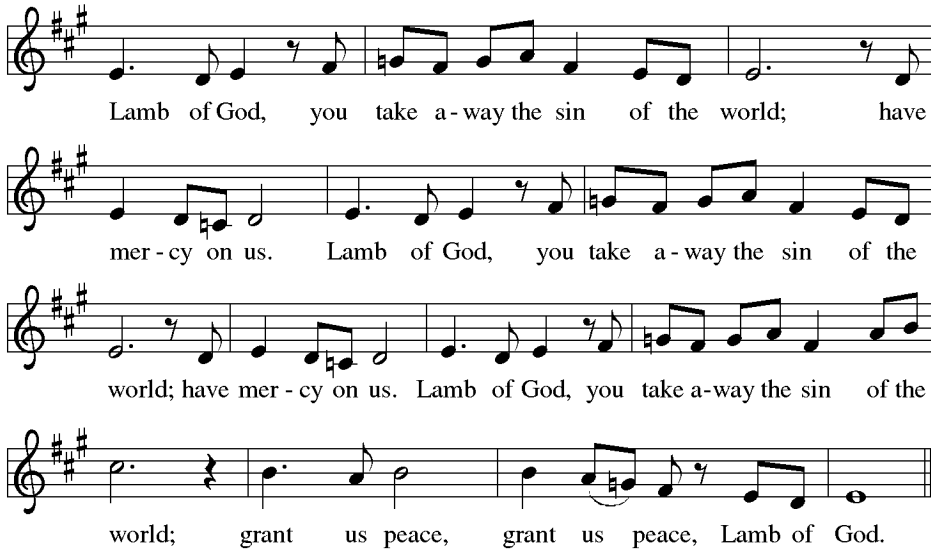
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the altar railing receive the Meal today. Please fill in along the railing from the pulpit to lectern sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive the Meal. The Meal will be served continuously. After you have received the Meal and after a quiet prayer of thanksgiving you may return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available as an alternative. Please ask. White grape juice, in the center ring of each serving tray, is available as an alternative to the wine. Praise God for the life giving presence of the crucified-risen Christ in the bread and wine of this holy meal!

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come! The feast is ready!

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God* ELW p. 191



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

Jesus, Bread of life,

we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,

now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**BLESSING**

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate ELW 722

- 1 O Christ, your heart, compassionate,
bore ev'ry human pain.
Its beating was the pulse of God;
its breadth, God's vast domain.
The heart of God, the heart of Christ
combined in perfect rhyme
to write God's love in human deeds,
eternity in time.
- 2 As once you welcomed those cast down
and healed the sick, the blind,
so may all bruised and broken lives
through us your help still find.
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep
that none may weep alone,
and help us bear another's pain
as though it were our own.
- 3 O Christ, create new hearts in us
that beat in time with yours,

that, joined by faith with your great heart,
 become love's open doors.
 We are your body, risen Christ;
 our hearts, our hands we yield
 that through our life and ministry
 your love may be revealed.

- 4 O Love that made the distant stars,
 yet marks the sparrow's fall,
 whose arms stretched wide upon a cross
 embrace and bear us all:
 come, make your church a servant church
 that walks your servant ways,
 whose deeds of love rise up to you,
 a sacrifice of praise!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. You are the body of Christ!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, July 21, 2024

Presiding Minister: Pastor Les Swenson

Musician: Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Guest Preacher: Rev. Maria Hammons

Assistant Minister: Arlene Creswell

Lector: Connor Pratt

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Donald Zurell, Alan Rindfleisch, Denise Martin

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

6:30 p.m. Summer Bells

Thursday, July 25, 2024

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

Sunday, July 28 2024; 10th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

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Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator