



**September 29, 2024**

**19th Sunday after Pentecost  
Service of Holy Communion**

Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.

## **+GATHERING+**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.  
(\*indicates all are invited to stand as able)*

### **WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**    *Prelude and Fugue in A Minor*    J.S. Bach

### **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,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us  
and all of creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth,

and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ,  
 God forgives you all your sins.  
 The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness  
 and keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN    God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens**  
**ELW 771**

- 1    God, who stretched the spangled heavens  
      infinite in time and place,  
      flung the suns in burning radiance  
      through the silent fields of space:  
      we, your children in your likeness,  
      share inventive pow'rs with you;  
      great Creator, still creating,  
      show us what we yet may do.
  
- 2    We have ventured worlds undreamed of  
      since the childhood of our race;  
      known the ecstasy of winging  
      through untraveled realms of space;  
      probed the secrets of the atom,  
      yielding unimagined pow'r,  
      facing us with life's destruction  
      or our most triumphant hour.
  
- 3    As each far horizon beckons,  
      may it challenge us anew:  
      children of creative purpose,  
      serving others, hon'ring you.  
      May our dreams prove rich with promise;  
      each endeavor well begun;  
      great Creator, give us guidance  
      till our goals and yours are one.

## **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.

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

## **+WORD+**

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **FIRST READING**

### **Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29**

*What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

A reading from Numbers.

<sup>4</sup>The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

<sup>10</sup>Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the

entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup>So Moses said to the LORD, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? <sup>12</sup>Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors’? <sup>13</sup>Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ <sup>14</sup>I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup>If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

<sup>16</sup>So the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.”

<sup>24</sup>So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. <sup>25</sup>Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

<sup>26</sup>Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” <sup>28</sup>And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” <sup>29</sup>But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!”

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

**PSALM            Psalm 19:7-14 (Read responsively by verse)**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get  
dominion over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be  
acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

**SECOND READING            James 5:13-20**

*Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

A reading from James.

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one

another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**ELW 175**

*We all sing*

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

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

Your word, O Lord, is truth;\* sanctify us in the truth. *Repeat Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL****Mark 9:38-50**

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>38</sup>John said to [Jesus], "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>"For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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** Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

**A** We pray for the people of God in all places. Shape our witness to the good news of Jesus that we joyfully share your transforming love with all whom we encounter.  
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** We pray for the healing of the earth. Renew oceans and seas, marshes and estuaries. Uphold the work of conservationists, oceanographers, and all who care for fragile ecosystems and habitats.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** We pray for peace and cooperation among local and global communities. Bless the efforts of community organizers, international aid workers, and all those who work for justice and peace around the world. Let your healing graces reign on the people of Ukraine and Russia, of Israel, Gaza, the West Bank and throughout the Middle East, of Sudan, and of Haiti.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** We pray for all who are in any need. To all who grieve, bring consolation; to all who are weary or lonely, bring solace. By your grace, make your presence known among all who call to you for healing, especially Freda, Sandy, Nancy, Charlie, Susan, Patricia, Rusty, Nancy, Jean, Terry, Lee, Denise, Larry, Patti, Bob, Joan, Ann, Pamela, Bill, Marge, Donna, Marge, Callum, Krista, Paul, Charles, Steven, Tracey, Johanna, Carole, Todd, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence)

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** We pray for caregivers: doctors and nurses, home health aides and counselors, and those who care for loved ones. Sustain them in their work and help us to build a health care system that supports all.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Gracious God, we give thanks for those who have been appointed to serve on the call committee and entrusted with the work of discerning a new pastor to guide the congregation of Faith Lutheran Church. Grant

them wisdom, patience, and the direction of your Holy Spirit, that they may exercise right judgment, and so serve you and the mission of your people here.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Guide and nurture the people and friends of Grace, Zion and St. Andrew Churches — the future Faith Lutheran Church — as we move ever closer to our joining together to proclaim your Good News and to build a servant community of healing, hope and new life. Open our hearts and minds to ever new and vibrant visions of your Church for a new day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** We give thanks for the saints who now rest in your eternal presence. In thanksgiving for their lives of faithful service and witness, we commend them to your loving care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**A** We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**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 The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing ELW 531

## St. 1 and 2

GATHERING

531

## The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

*The Feast Is Ready*



1 The trum - pets sound, the an - gels sing, the feast is  
 2 Ta - bles are la - den with good things; oh, taste the  
 3 The hun - gry heart he sat - is - fies, of - fers the



read - y to be - gin. The gates of heav'n are o - pen wide,  
 peace and joy he brings. He'll fill you up with love di - vine;  
 poor his pur - a - dise. Now hear all heav'n and earth ap - plaud



and Je - sus wel - comes you in - side.  
 he'll turn yoor wa - ter in - to wine.  
 the a - maz - ing good - ness of the Lord.



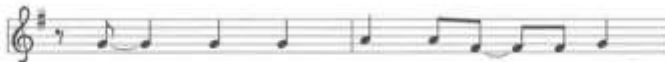
Sing with thank - ful - ness songs of pure de - light.



Come and rev - el in heav - en's love and light.



Take your place at the ta - ble of the King,



The feast is read - y to be - gin;



the feast is read - y to be - gin.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1920

Music: Graham Kendrick

This and music © 1989 Make Way Music, Atlanta. Music Services for the Women's Fellowship

THE FEAST IS READY  
 LR and refrain

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, O God,  
source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,  
help us to serve one another and all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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

# ELW 193

## Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Per Harling, b. 1948  
Music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress

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## GREAT THANKSGIVING

O God most mighty,  
O God most merciful,  
O God our rock and our salvation,  
hear us as we praise,  
call us to your table,  
grant us your life.

### **We praise you, O God.**

When the earth was a formless void,  
you formed order and beauty.  
When Abraham and Sarah were barren,  
you sent them a child;  
When the Israelites were enslaved,  
you led them to freedom.  
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,  
and the psalmists cried out for healing,  
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

### **We bless you, O God.**

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.  
He was born among the poor,  
he lived under oppression,  
he wept over the city.  
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

### **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 death, we cry out Amen. **Amen**  
 Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen**  
 Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen**  
 O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.  
 O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.  
 O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.  
 O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,  
 O God our strength and our song,  
 you show us a vision of a tree of life  
 with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.  
 Grant us such life,  
 the life of the Father to the Son,  
 the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,  
 life in you, now and forever.  
**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!*

Come, the feast is ready! Jesus welcomes you!

## **COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION HYMN** *Lamb of God***ELW 195****Lamb of God**

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.

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948  
Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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**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:

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal  
and fed us with dignity at your table.

Send us now to welcome others  
and to be at peace with one another,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**+SENDING+**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

God all mighty,  
God most merciful  
✠ bless you, keep you,  
and give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN    Guide My Feet**

**ACS 987**

- 1        (Guide my feet) while I run this race.  
          (Guide my feet) while I run this race.  
          (Guide my feet) while I run this race,  
          for I don't want to run this race in vain.
- 2        (Hold my hand) while I run this race.  
          (Hold my hand) while I run this race.  
          (Hold my hand) while I run this race,  
          for I don't want to run this race in vain.
- 3        (Stand by me) while I run this race.  
          (Stand by me) while I run this race.  
          (Stand by me) while I run this race,  
          for I don't want to run this race in vain.
- 4        (I'm your child) while I run this race.

(I'm your child) while I run this race.  
 (I'm your child) while I run this race,  
 for I don't want to run this race in vain.

5 (Search my heart) while I run this race.  
 (Search my heart) while I run this race.  
 (Search my heart) while I run this race,  
 for I don't want to run this race in vain.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

A note about the origin of today's sending hymn and the motivation behind the singing of the text of this African American spiritual, "*Guide My Feet*".

Serving God was the fervent desire of Christian slaves.

In spite of tremendous barriers to living holy lives, they wanted God to *guide their feet while they ran this race*.\*

\*Eileen Guenther, *In Their Own Words*

## **WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, September 29, 2024**

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Les Swenson

**Musician:** Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

**Assisting Minister:** Jill Little

**Lector:** Bob Herold

**Tech Team:** Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

**Ushers:** Donald Millbrandt, Bill Golden, Kathy Golden

**Altar Guild:** Denise Martin

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## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Monday, September 30, 2024**

4:00 p.m. Kids Choir

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

### **Tuesday, October 1, 2024**

6:45 p.m. Hand Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

### **Wednesday, October 2, 2024**

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

### **Thursday, October 3, 2024**

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

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

### **Sunday, October 6, 2024;** 20th 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

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

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Email: [churchoffice@standrewct.org](mailto:churchoffice@standrewct.org)

The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor, phone: 860.857.9362

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator