



October 13, 2024

# 21st Sunday after Pentecost Service of Holy Communion

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

## +GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

#### **WELCOME**

#### **PRELUDE**

# **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 Gather Us In ELW 532

- Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away; see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.
- We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face; we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.
- 3 Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

  Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4 Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away—here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

#### **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.

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### Amen

### +WORD+

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

### CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY TIME

Children may leave worship with the teachers for Bible Story Time. They will return during the Hymn of the Day.

# FIRST READING Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the

wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

# A reading from **Amos**.

6Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.
<sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground!

10They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.
11Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine.
12For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate.
13Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time.

14Seek good and not evil, that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said.
15Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

# PSALM Psalm 90:12-17 (Read responsively by verse)

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

<sup>13</sup>Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry? Be gracious to your servants.

<sup>14</sup>Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

<sup>15</sup>Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us and as many years as we suffered adversity.

<sup>16</sup>Show your servants your works, and your splendor to their children.

<sup>17</sup>May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.

## SECOND READING Hebrews 4:12-16

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>12</sup>Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. <sup>13</sup>And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

<sup>14</sup>Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. <sup>15</sup>For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our

weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW 124** 

We all sing



Blessed are the | poor in spirit,\* for theirs is the king- | dom of heaven. Repeat Alleluia.

## **GOSPEL** Mark 10:17-31

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>17</sup>As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>18</sup>Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. <sup>19</sup>You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.' " <sup>20</sup>He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." <sup>21</sup>Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup>When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." <sup>26</sup>They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" <sup>27</sup>Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." <sup>29</sup>Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, <sup>30</sup>who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup>But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

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

# **SERMON**

# HYMN OF THE DAY Faith Begins by Letting Go ACS 1004

- 1 Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure, taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure: pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.
- 2 Faith endures by holding on, keeping mem'ry's roots alive so that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive, not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.
- 3 Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts, sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts; till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.

### **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** Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

A Compassionate God, embolden the church to seek all who are lost, clothe those who are naked, and mend what is broken. May we be generous bearers of your eternal love.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

**A** Sustaining God, as we approach harvest time, we pray for farmers, field workers, and those who process crops. Keep us mindful of environmental threats to the nourishing food that feeds the world. God of grace, hear our prayer.

A Steadfast God, inspire world leaders to share resources and work collectively to end global poverty, starvation, and preventable disease. Direct us to seek justice and equity, that all may live in peace. Let your reconciling grace and peace reign on war ravaged lands, including Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, and Haiti.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

A Compassionate God, be present with those who stand in the ruins of the devastation of hurricanes and furious storms. Protect and embrace them in your care, console those who mourn the loss of life, raise up people and resources to help in the daunting task of restoration and rebuilding.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

**A** Loving God, we pray for those who are afflicted, tormented, grieving, oppressed, and lonely, especially Freda, Sandy, Nancy, Patricia, Rusty, Nancy, Jean, Terry, Lee, Valerie, Denise, Larry, Patti, Bob, Joan, Robin, Ann, Pamela, Bill, Marge, Donna, Marge, Callum, Krista, Paul, Charles, Steven, Tracey, Johanna, Carole, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence)

Deliver the strength of your love and compassion to all who need it today.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

**A** Generous God, we give thanks for the first nations and tribes who inhabited this land. We lament the harm done by colonization. Call us to deeper appreciation and care for the languages, rituals, and history of all Indigenous people.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

**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.

God of grace, hear our prayer.

A God of our yesterdays and tomorrows, as we, along with the people of Grace and Zion Churches, celebrate the blessings of our unique congregational histories in these October days, while at the same time lean expectantly into our new life together as Faith Lutheran Church, fill us with grateful hearts and abundant trust in your gracious goodness and guidance. Empower us together to be a vibrant servant community boldly proclaiming your Good News of healing, hope and new life. And keep us always open to your ever present, life giving Spirit. God of grace, hear our prayer.

A Ever-living God, we rejoice to be heirs of the eternal life made real in Jesus' death and resurrection. We give thanks for saints of all times and places, first and last, who still inspire us to faithful living. God of grace, hear our prayer.

**A** Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever. **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



#### **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.

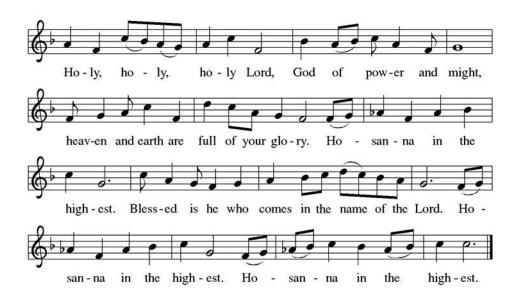
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### **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 p. 130



#### **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.

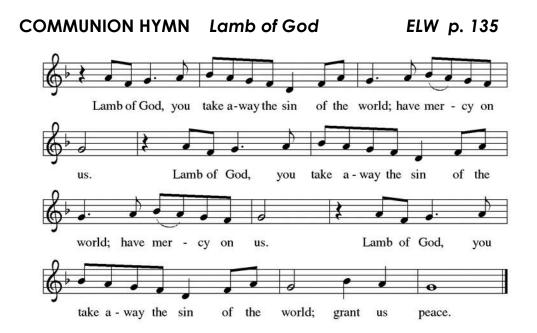


#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward to the front of the nave to receive the Meal. The bread will be distributed by the Presiding Minister. Gluten free wafers are available. Please ask. The wine, served in small glasses, can be received on either side of the front. Also in each tray you will find glasses containing white grape juice as an alternative to the wine. Return to your seats via the side aisles, placing your empty glasses in the baskets provided along the way. In returning to your seats, pause to pray and give thanks for the life- giving graces you have received in this holy meal offered us by the crucified-risen Jesus.

Come, the feast is ready! Jesus welcomes you!

## **COMMUNION**



# **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**



#### Amen.

# SENDING HYMN My Life Flows on in Endless Song ELW 763

My life flows on in endless song;
 above earth's lamentation,
 I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
 that hails a new creation.

# Refrain

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging. Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

- 2 Through all the tumult and the strife,I hear that music ringing.It finds an echo in my soul.How can I keep from singing? Refrain
- 3 What though my joys and comforts die? The Lord my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. Refrain
- The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
   All things are mine since I am his!
   How can I keep from singing? Refrain

#### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God.** 

## **POSTLUDE**

# WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, October 13, 2024

**Presiding Minister**: Pastor Les Swenson

**Guest Pianist:** Carol Yachanin **Assisting Minister:** Keith Clark

**Lector:** Connor Pratt

**Tech Team**: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt **Ushers**: Tina Beaudoin. Gerald Beaudoin. Carol Emond

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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# **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

Monday, October 14, 2024

4:00 p.m. Kids Choir

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

6:45 p.m. Hand Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, October 17, 2024

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

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

Sunday, October 20, 2024; 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

NOTE: Pumpkin Sale - Daily 11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

#### **LUTHERANS RESPOND TO HURRICANE HELENE AND MILTON!**

We have all been horrified by the destructive power of Hurricane Helene with Milton following in its wake. Many of us may know people who have been directly affected by the storms. Lutheran Disaster Relief is now active in critical relief work. Please read these notes from LDR and offer your help ...

### Our response:

Lutheran Disaster Response works with its partners to provide immediate relief, such as water, food, clothing, gift cards, tarps and other needs. Since many hurricanes also require a long-term response, Lutheran Disaster Response provides support on the long road to recovery with disaster case management, construction management, attention to unmet needs, and emotional and spiritual care.

# What you can do:

# Pray

Please pray for the safety of communities impacted by hurricanes, including people in their paths and any emergency services personnel who are responding. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to rescue survivors.

#### Give

Your gifts will support disaster-impacted communities. Gifts to <u>Lutheran Disaster Response</u> (elca.org) equip us to respond to those affected by hurricanes and related disasters, such as mudslides, severe storms and flooding. These gifts also empower us to respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts to "<u>Hurricane Response</u>" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes, until the response is complete.

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

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Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music