

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 21, 2024

PRELUDE

WELCOME

THANK YOU to Nancy Curtis for leading our music this morning, to Verne & Leslie Beffert for worship team duties, and Diane Mueller for Altar Care.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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 SONG *Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak*

ELW #676

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.

KYRIE

ELW p. 213

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:1-6

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

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.**

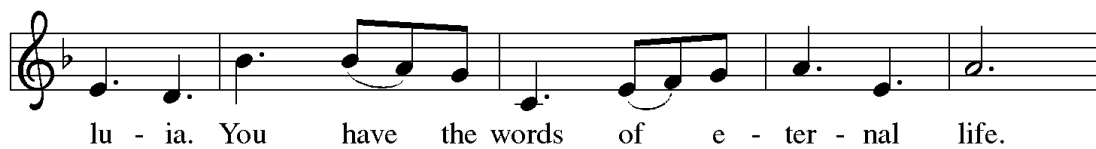
SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:11-22

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—¹² remember 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. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For 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. ¹⁵ He 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, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in 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



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

The holy gospel according to Mark, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹ He 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. ³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As 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.

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶ And 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

Pastor Melissa Johansen

HYMN OF THE DAY *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

ELW #789

THE 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 into hell.**

**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

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

A brief silence.

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.

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.

For the leaders of nations and heads of tribes (*especially*): 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.

For the health and well-being of family, friends, and neighbors: Heal those who are sick *especially Lynnette Evanson, Bea Huber, Randy & Linda Holland, Mike & Vicky Ryles, Carol Fagerli, Holly Happe, Carol O'Dell, Anita Bueling, Mollie Waldum, and Rich Muza*. 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.

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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In thanksgiving for those who have died *especially* Dave Nelson: 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.

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.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and call 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.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

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COMMUNION

The God of all creation be with you.

And also with you.

The presence of Christ fill you with peace and wholeness.

May it be the same for our neighbors and friends.

The Spirit of holiness and restoration stir within you.

Make it so for us and for all creation.

You are worthy, our Lord and God, by your very nature to receive glory and honor and power. Out of your wisdom and love, you created all things- seen and unseen. The scope of your creation is beyond our full understanding, and we are in awe of your holy imagination. Out of this love for all things, Jesus came into the created world and lived among us- that we might grow in deeper awareness of the Divine presence, will, and love. All creation is redeemed through his life, death, and resurrection. And so, with singing plains and calling mountains, with whispering cottonwoods and swaying pines, with howling wolves and chattering prairie dogs, with all the saints who have gone before, we join in the song of all creation and sing your praise:

Holy, holy, holy creator of the world!

Creation sings your beauty, your majesty unfurls!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosana in the highest, hosana to our God!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Indeed, you are holy, worthy of praise and our highest allegiance. We cannot flee from your presence, nor would we wish to. You are present in the calmest of days and in the whipping of a windstorm. You are present in the swirl of river rapids and in the cracked earth of a dried pond. You are present in the panting of a deer and in the screech of an osprey. You are present in the tang of the huckleberry and the mildness of Montana wheat. Your holy presence is most clear to us in Jesus Christ, the word made flesh and the pioneer of our faith.

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.

With this bread and this cup, we give thanks for the Word living in and among us, Full of wisdom and power. We rejoice in our new life through his death and resurrection. As we await Christ's coming again in glory, We pray for the Holy Spirit to empower us as his body on earth, To do the work of caring for others and for the whole creation.

May his presence in this meal grant us the willingness and the strength to imitate him more fully in all things. To the One who hears all our prayers, At this meal, where you promise to meet us, We offer our deepest gratitude, our most sincere awe, and our humblest requests for your guidance and help. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

COMMUNION HYMN *Let Us Break Bread Together*

ELW # 471

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Sebastian Temple

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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

SENDING LITANY

based on ALC's Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles

We have gathered in joy, and now we are sent to embrace the world with God's love.

We ask God to help us continue to

gather to be empowered by the Spirit for life's journey.

Compel us to

seek God's will through prayer, scripture study, and faith sharing.

Give us courage to

reach out and welcome all people with unconditional love.

Inspire us to

live with a generous spirit in our community and world.

Help us

serve our hurting world with love and compassion. Amen.

SENDING SONG *The Church's One Foundation*

ELW #654

POSTLUDE

The Church's One Foundation

Samuel S. Wesley

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Communion liturgy created by Montana Synod Creation Care and Changing Climate Task Force