



Sunday, September 7, 2025

Time After Pentecost

10:00 a.m.



Pastor Erik Allen

“Choosing Love”

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

**Prelude**

“Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service”

B. Culli

**Announcements**

**Gathering Song**

Waymaker

**Call to Worship**

P: Wherever you go, from the top of the highest mountain or into the deep abysses of the earth, God knows you.

**C: Wherever we go, God knows our name.**

P: Whatever you do, from the time you wake up until you lay your head down again, God knows you.

**C: Whatever we do, God knows our name.**

P: However you live, from your inner thoughts to your public acts and everything in between, God knows you.

**C: However we live, God knows our name.**

P: We gather to worship God, who loves us, knows us, and calls us by name.

**C: We gather to worship God, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God who knows our name!**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C: And also with you.**

*(pass the peace as you feel comfortable)*

**Song**

Jesus, What a Beautiful Name

**Service of Holy Baptism**

**Presentation**

P: In holy baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

**Parents: I present Arthur James Paller for baptism.**

P: Amanda and Shawn, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Arthur baptized into Christ?

**Response: I do.**

P: As you bring Arthur to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,

bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,

teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,

place in his hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God,

proclaim Christ through word and deed,

care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Arthur grow in the Christian faith and life?

**Response: I do.**

P: Sarah and Ryan and Allison and Chris, do you promise to nurture Arthur in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**Response: I do.**

P: People of God, do you promise to support Arthur and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**C: We do.**

### **Profession of Faith**

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**Response: I renounce them.**

*(Congregation stands and faces Baptismal Font)*

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: **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.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **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 ever- lasting.**

### **Thanksgiving at the Font**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **Baptism**

P: Arthur James, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

*(Baptismal Party moves to the front of the church as  
Congregation sings first two verses of "Borning Cry")*

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Arthur with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Arthur, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **Welcome**

P: Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C: **We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share.**

P: Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

A: Receive this lighted candle as a gift from King of Glory. We encourage you to light it every year on the anniversary of Arthur's baptism. The candle is a symbol that Christ is the Light of the world and a reminder that we are to let the light of Christ shine brightly in and through us so that the world may see that we are indeed the Heart, Hands, and Voice of Christ.

P: O God, the Giver of all life, look with kindness upon Amanda and Shawn. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their son. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with Arthur the salvation You have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

P: Sarah and Ryan and Allison and Chris, do you promise to nurture Arthur in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and surround this family with your love and prayers and to do all you can to help Amanda and Shawn raise him in the Christian faith?

Will you pray for them, love them, and stand with them in joy and sorrow?  
If so, respond by saying, “Yes, with the help of God.”

**Yes, with the help of God.**

P: Let us pray. Loving God, You make light to shine in the darkness. You create new life to spring out of old. We give thanks today for the gift of Arthur’s baptism and the welcome he has received as your child. May he come to know You in the fullness of Your love; grow in faith; and always know that he is a part of Your family. We are also grateful for the gift of Your grace that accepts us as we are. May we daily remember that special day when water joined the Word and touched our spirits and claimed us as Your own. In that awareness, grant that each of us may know the joy of abundant life in Christ, inspiring us to be your fully devoted disciples.

C: **Amen.**

*(Baptismal Party returns to their seats as congregation sings  
last two verses of “Borning Cry”.)*

**Prayer of the Day**

P: Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*please be seated*

**Lesson** Deuteronomy 30:15-20

**Gospel** Luke 14:25-33

**Children’s Message** Pastor Erik

**Sermon** “Choosing Love” Pastor Erik

**Hymn** “God’s Work, Our Hands”

**God’s work, our hands: working together,  
building a future, repairing the world,  
raising up homes, planting new gardens,  
feeding the hungry and shelt’ring the cold.  
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,  
following Jesus to places unknown,  
walking as friends, marching for freedom,  
running the race with God's future the goal.  
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God's work, our voice: singing together,  
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,  
praying for peace, shouting for justice,  
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

God is at work in and around us:  
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!  
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,  
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.  
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,  
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

*please be seated*

## **The Offering**

**Anthem**

"For Where Love Is, There is God"

Douglas E Wagner

## **Offertory Prayer**

**P:** Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.  
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly  
provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering  
and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayers of the Church** (*the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.*)

Members: Marian, Kelly, Jeff, Lee, John & Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Randall, Theresa, Darlene, Marcia, Brenda, Tim, Kate, Wendy, Katy,  
Kathy, Mary, Carol, Norma, Susan, Bob

## **Words of Institution**

## The Lord's Prayer

**C:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen!

*please be seated*

## Distribution

*All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.*

## Blessing of the Hands

*Those who wish to receive a blessing of their hands for service may do so after receiving communion before to returning to your seat.*

## Sending of God's Work, Our Hands Participants/Table Blessing

**P:** Friends in Christ, today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we send our siblings in Christ to serve and share God's love with the world.

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us. Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, especially of those in need. Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people.

**C:** Amen.

## Benediction

**P:** God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, ✠ bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world.

**C:** Amen!

## Song

Since I Opened Up the Door

## Sending

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

## Postlude

"Fugue in C"

A. Kerckhoven