



**OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Southern Pines, North Carolina**

**ORDER FOR WORSHIP**  
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**September 03, 2023**

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.***

*Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.*

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.**

*God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of (+) Jesus Christ. **Amen.***

## **GATHERING SONG - O God of Light - ELW #507**

## **THE APOSTOLIC GREETING**

*Pastor:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*People:* **And also with you.**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Pastor:* Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. **Amen.**

## **TEMPLE TALK**

### **THE FIRST READING: 2 Chronicles 34:1-2, 8, 14-15, 19-21, 29-33**

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign; he reigned for thirty-one years in Jerusalem. He did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of his ancestor David; he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

In the eighteenth year of his reign, when he had purged the land and the house, he sent Shaphan son of Azaliah, Maaseiah the governor of the city, and Joah son of Joahaz, the recorder, to repair the house of the Lord his God.

While they were bringing out the money that had been brought into the house of the Lord, the priest Hilkiah found the book of the law of the Lord given through Moses. Hilkiah said to the secretary Shaphan, 'I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord'; and Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan.

When the king heard the words of the law he tore his clothes. Then the king commanded Hilkiah, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Abdon son of Micah, the secretary Shaphan, and the king's servant Asaiah: 'Go, inquire of the Lord for me and for those who are left in Israel and in Judah, concerning the words of the book that has been found; for the wrath of the Lord that is poured out on us is great, because our ancestors did not keep the word of the Lord, to act in accordance with all that is written in this book.'

Then the king sent word and gathered together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. The king went up to the house of the Lord, with all the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the Levites, all the people both great and small; he read in their hearing all the words of the book of the covenant that had been found in the house of the Lord. The king stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord, to follow the Lord, keeping his commandments, his decrees, and his statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant that were written in this book. Then he made all who were present in Jerusalem and in Benjamin pledge themselves to it. And the inhabitants of Jerusalem acted according to the covenant of God, the God of their ancestors. Josiah took away all the abominations from all the territory that belonged to the people of Israel, and made all who were in Israel worship the Lord their God. All his days they did not turn away from following the Lord the God of their ancestors.

Here ends the reading. Word of God, Word of Life...

*People: Thanks be to God.*

**THE PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8** (*Read responsively by half verse.*)

Vindicate me, O Lord,  
for I have walked in my integrity,  
**and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.**

Prove me, O Lord, and try me;  
**test my heart and mind.**

For your steadfast love is before my eyes  
**and I walk in faithfulness to you.**

I do not sit with the worthless,  
**nor do I consort with hypocrites;**

I hate the company of evildoers,  
**and will not sit with the wicked.**

I wash my hands in innocence,  
**and go around your altar, O Lord,**

singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,  
**and telling all your wondrous deeds.**

O Lord, I love the house in which you dwell,  
**and the place where your glory abides.**

### **THE SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21**

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Here ends the reading. Word of God, Word of Life...

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### **THE CHILDREN'S SERMON - Heather Lussier**

### **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *God's Word is Our Great Heritage ELW 509***

*God's Word is our great heritage, And shall be ours forever; To spread its light from age to age, Shall be our chief endeavor. Through life it guides our way; In death it is our stay. Lord, grant while time shall last, Your church may hold it fast, Throughout all generations.*

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he

turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.'

*Pastor:* The Gospel of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God!**

**THE SERMON:** Summer of the Kings: Explorations in 1 and 2 Chronicles  
Reclaiming the Word of God  
Pastor Frank Waugh

**THE HYMN OF THE DAY - How Firm a Foundation - ELW #796**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

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.

### **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

### **THE PEACE**

### **THE OFFERING**

### **THE OFFERING RESPONSE**

## **THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - ELW p. 144**

*Pastor:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Pastor:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Pastor:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

## **THE PREFACE** (*Sung by Pastor*)

### **THE SANCTUS**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (Spoken)

**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**

All baptized children of God are called to Christ's table. Come, eat what is good. The table is now ready.

## **COMMUNION SONGS**

### **Lamb of God**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

## **THE COMMUNION PRAYER**

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE BLESSING**

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed (+) bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

## **THE SENDING SONG - Thy Strong Word - ELW #511, v. 1-3, 6**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the harvest.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**