

2610 Campbell Street Valparaiso, Indiana 46385 (219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



Time after Pentecost October 19, 2025

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

* The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."

ABOUT WORSHP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDEPraeludium in DBöhm

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider <u>filling out a Connection Card online</u> (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.

Prayer requests can be posted to the live chat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.

If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

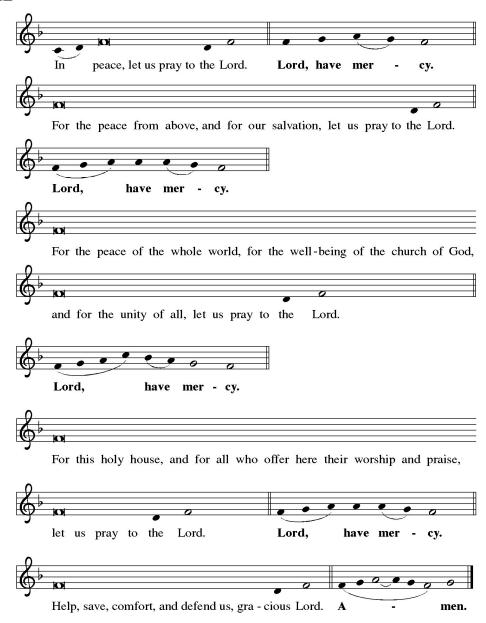
Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God, we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen. Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found.

In the name of + Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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.**

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. God of the dispossessed, you teach us to hunger for justice even when the weak are shut out and the powerful turn over in their beds: in the heat of our anger and the bitterness of our complaints, give us the courage to protest, the persistence to pray and the heart to love; through Jesus Christ, the true judge. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited forward for a time together.

READING: Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel." a name that means "he wrestles with God."

²² The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. ²⁴ Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." ²⁷ So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him,

"Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

²My help comes | from the LORD,

the maker of heav- en and earth.

³The LORD will not let your | foot be moved

nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴Behold, the keep- | er of Israel

will neither slum- | ber nor sleep; R

⁵the LORD watches | over you;

the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶the sun will not strike you by day,

nor the moon by night.

⁷The LORD will preserve you | from all evil and will | keep your life.

8The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for- evermore. R

READING: 2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

^{4:1} In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: ² proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. ³ For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, ⁴ and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. ⁵ As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. ³ In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my opponent.' ⁴ For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. ⁷ And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? ⁸ I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS #1005 Ask the Complicated Questions

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



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

Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations. Further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.

Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

^{*}Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our local, state, and national elected officials humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. Grant stability and good governance for the people of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico; continue to raise up faith leaders and community leaders who speak and act for the benefit of the most vulnerable. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for Christ Lutheran Church. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for James and for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE LIFE OF STUART WALESH (10:30 service only)

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with with Lutheran World Relief <a href="https://www.nrg.gifts.com/www.nrg.gi



If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code, browse to our secure on-line portal at <u>clcvalpo.org/give</u> or use <u>our CLC app</u> (download at clcvalpo.org/app).

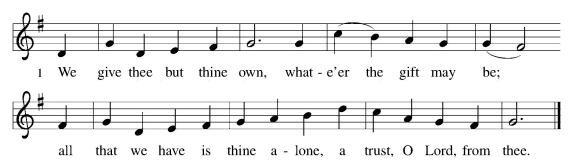
OFFERTORY (8:00 am): Musette Corrette

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 am): Non Nobis Domine Doyle/Preskett

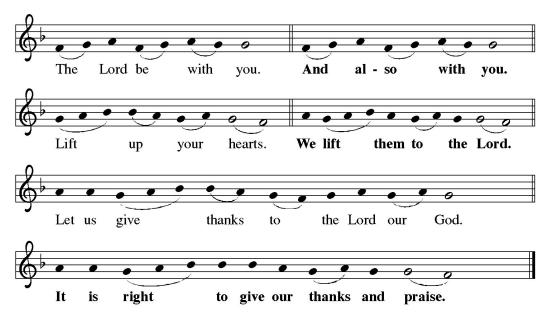
Non nobis domine, sed nomine tuo da gloria. ("Not to us, O Lord, but to your name be the glory!")

OFFERING HYMN ELW #686 We Give Thee but Thine Own The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.



GREAT THANKSGIVING



The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")

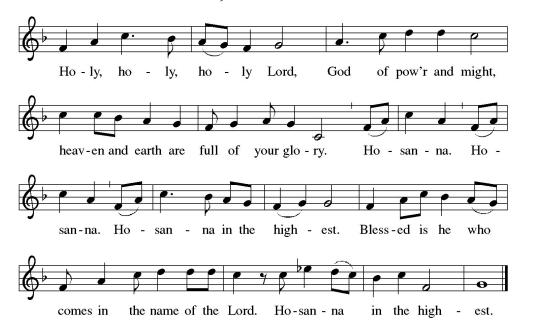


TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:

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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

The assembly is seated. The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:

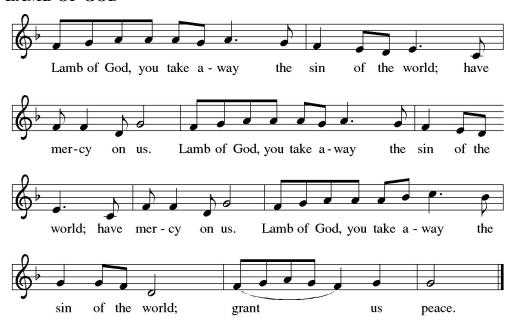
The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen** *(receive the bread)*

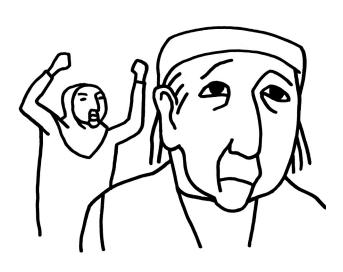
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; wine is received either by Common Cup or from individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

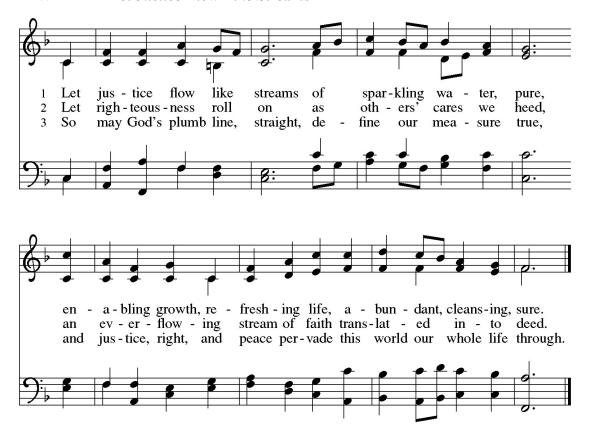
LAMB OF GOD







ELW #717 Let Justice Flow Like Streams



After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever.

SENDING HYMN ELW #769 If You But Trust in God to Guide You



Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE Trumpet Finale Gabrieli/Wolff

As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.

Worship Leaders		
Acolyte	8:00 a.m. Reid Venstrom	10:30 a.m. Noah DeJesus
Lector	Karyn Kost	Sara Long
Prayer Assistant	Jorunn Scheiderich	Doug Schmidt
Communion Assistants	Barbara Clements Linda Mapes	Sara Long
Ushers	Gregg Copeland Vickie Copeland	Tim Malchow
Sound/Light		Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream		
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Lena Gibson-Even, cantor Luke Venstrom, tenor	
Communion Baker	Lois Felten	

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico.

We are thankful for:

- the cultures and foods distinctive here, yet enjoyed around the world
- indigenous and other groups who have resisted injustice and human rights violations
- church leaders who have spoken out and acted on behalf of the poor and marginalized developments that improve life for all, while also caring for the environment.

We **pray** for:

- stable, democratically elected governments committed to the peace and wellbeing of all
- comfort and healing for the families and loved ones of those who have been killed or disappeared, and for those responsible to be brought to justice
- stopping corruption, drug traffic, and violence, and those who profit from such activities
- improved economic life and trade policies so that people will not be exploited and can pursue livelihoods in these countries rather than migrating elsewhere for work.

COMMEMORATIONS Week of October 19

October 23

James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62

James became an early leader of the church in Jerusalem. He is described in the New Testament as the brother of Jesus, and secular historian Josephus calls James the brother of Jesus, "the so-called Christ." Little is known about James, but Josephus reported that the Pharisees respected James for his piety and observance of the law. His enemies had him put to death.



Prayerful Perseverance

How should we pray? What should we pray for? We might sometimes treat prayer like putting coins in a divine vending machine, and some rely on the story of the persistent widow to claim that God will indeed shower us with blessing if only we pray "enough." Yet, despite fervent prayer, we don't always get that job, the illness comes anyway, the doubts continue. If we take literally the claims of those who promise prosperity for God's people, the condition of humanity suggests none of us has been persistent enough. Because, after all, life happens to all of us.

In Jesus' parable, the woman is not praying strictly for herself; rather, she is praying for justice. A better word may be "vengeance." The persistent widow is coming to the judge and crying out, "Avenge me! Avenge me against my adversaries!" Her focus is laser-sharp, and she does not give in to distractions. She waits with fervent hope that there will come a day when the judge brings balance, restores what has been lost, and humbles those who have done wrong. The widow is asking for something much larger than her daily needs. She is pleading on behalf of the world.

Like Jacob in Genesis 32, sometimes we wrestle with God, pleading for our own blessing. Our striving can feel overwhelming or even pointless. But Jesus invites us to focus and be persistent, to cry out to him day and night.

Though our prayers are not always answered in the way we want or expect, we can count on God to keep promises. We can count on a day when we are all restored. We can count on a time when God will avenge all of us against the crushing force of death. We can hang our hope on the fact that God receives our persistence with love, patience, and grace.

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