



**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street  
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385  
(219) 462-6660 • [clcvalpo.org](http://clcvalpo.org)



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY  
August 24, 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 WORSHIP**

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.**

*Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### **PRELUDE**

*Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart  
Praise, my Soul, the King of Heaven*

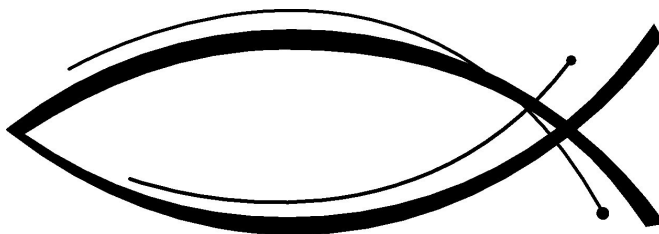
arr. Joe Utterback  
arr. Robert Hobby

### **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 [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*

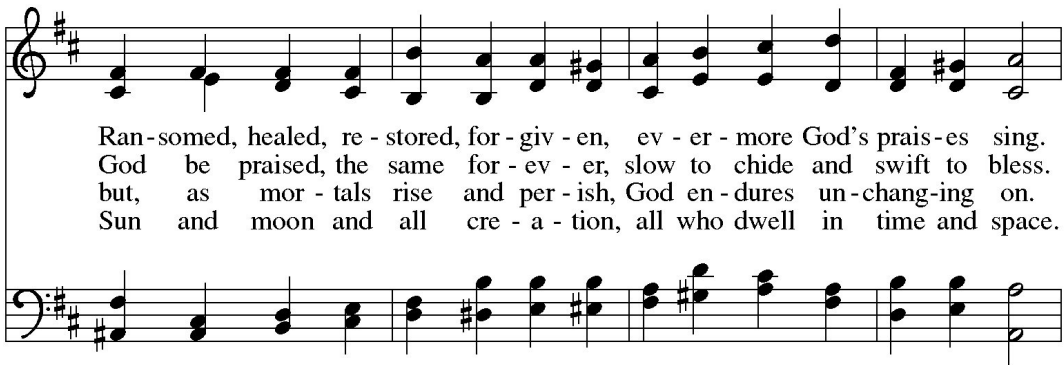
***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*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).*

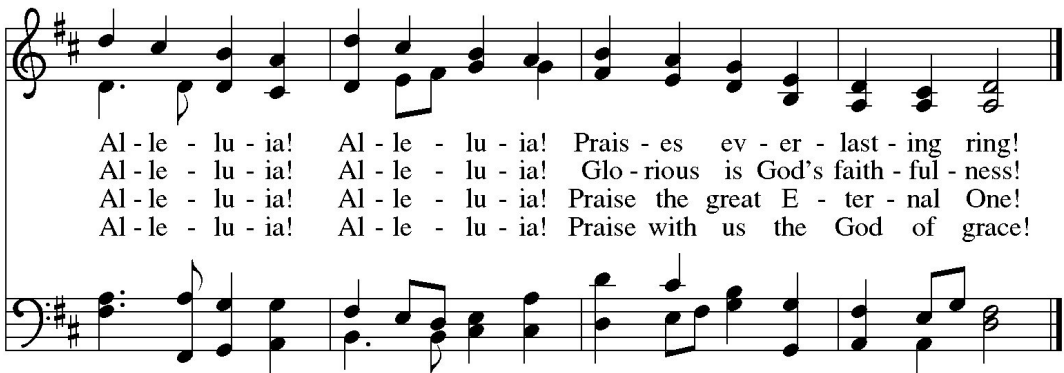




1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.  
 2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.  
 3 Frail as sum-mer's flow'r we flour - ish, blows the wind and it is gone;  
 4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.  
 God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.  
 but, as mor - tals rise and per - ish, God en - dures un - chang - ing on.  
 Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the great E - ter - nal One!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005  
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

## **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 Sabbath,  
this is the day  
and this is the hour  
when women long oppressed  
learn to stand with dignity,  
when your healing escapes  
our desire for control:  
may your joy stretch the fabric of our hearts  
and inspire us to loose each other's bonds;  
through Jesus Christ,  
the shamer of the powerful  
and the raiser of the dead.  
**Amen.**

## **WORD**

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

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

*The assembly is seated as children come forward for a time together.*

## **READING: Jeremiah 1:4-10**

*The call of the prophet Jeremiah does not depend on Jeremiah's abilities or age. God will give him the words to speak. Even before Jeremiah was born, God appointed him a prophet to the nations, to minister in the difficult years before the Babylonian exile.*

<sup>4</sup> Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
and before you were born I consecrated you;  
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

<sup>6</sup> Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." <sup>7</sup>

But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';  
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,

and you shall speak whatever I command you.

<sup>8</sup> Do not be afraid of them,  
for I am with you to deliver you,  
says the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup> Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,  
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup> See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,  
to pluck up and to pull down,  
to destroy and to overthrow,  
to build and to plant.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 71:1-6

<sup>1</sup> In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.

<sup>2</sup> **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;  
incline your ear to me and save me.**

<sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;  
you are my crag and my stronghold.

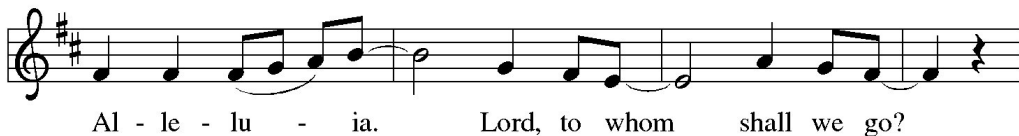
<sup>4</sup> **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,  
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup> For you are my hope, O Lord God,  
my confidence since I was young.

<sup>6</sup> **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother's womb you  
have been my strength;  
my praise shall be always of you.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



## GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17

*Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding "sabbath work" to include setting people free from bondage.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>10</sup> Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. <sup>11</sup> And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." <sup>13</sup> When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. <sup>14</sup> But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? <sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?" <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

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 #1084

***God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me***

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



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,  
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es - en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind; depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

## APOSTLES' CREED (8:00 a.m. only)

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.

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

## 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.*

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.  
*A brief silence.*

You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders as they listen for your call and seek to follow Jesus faithfully. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all people may experience abundant life. Bless the churches, people, and lands of Liberia and Sierra Leone with your peace and provide for the needs of all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**



You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness. Make your healing presence felt in their midst. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You claim us in baptism and call us to lives of faithfulness. Bless Jackson, Violet, Jonah, Elizabeth and Lynx as they affirm their baptism today. Lead them in lives of love for you and their neighbors; increase their faith and use them to shape our congregation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With Bartholomew, Augustine, Moses the Black and all your apostles, prophets, and saints, we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them, through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**Amen.**

*(8:00 a.m. service continues on page 13 with the Sharing of the Peace)*

## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (10:30 a.m. only)**

*As part of our congregation's ministry of life-long faith formation, Confirmation recognizes our young people's ongoing development into adult members of the Church. They were made members in their baptism; today they make public profession of their faith as disciples of Jesus Christ, ready to begin taking responsibility for their own faith formation and leadership in the church. We join with them to celebrate God's work in their lives, bear witness to their developing faith, and pledge ourselves to them as partners in God's mission in all the earth.*

*The assembly is seated.*

### **PRESENTATION**

*The confirmands are presented by Kaitlyn Jedrzejowski, Director of Youth Ministries*  
Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of their baptism.

*The confirmands stand as their names are read.*

I present these young people, who desire to make public affirmation of their baptism.

*The assembly prays as the presiding minister continues.*

Merciful God, we thank you for these siblings in Christ, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.  
**Amen.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The presiding minister addresses the confirmands.*

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

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

*Confirmands: I renounce them.*

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

*Confirmands: I renounce them.*

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

*Confirmands: I renounce them.*

*The assembly stands.*

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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 assembly is seated. The presiding minister addresses the confirmands.*

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,  
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

*Confirmand: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

*The confirmands face the assembly.*

People of God, will you support these siblings in Christ and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Will you welcome them and honor them, learn with them and grow with them, that Christ may be glorified through this place?

**We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

**BAPTISM HYMN ELW#732*****Borning Cry*** (10:30 a.m. only)*Families, sponsors, and mentors are invited to join the confirmands at the altar rail.*

- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.  
2 "When you heard the won-der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;  
3 "In the mid-dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.  
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.  
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;  
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,  
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."  
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."  
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

*When the confirmands and families are in place, the presiding minister continues.*

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

*Confirmation verses are read by each confirmand's mentor. As the presiding minister prays God's blessing, families, sponsors, and mentors place their hands on each confirmand's shoulders.*

Stir up in name 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.

**Amen.**

*When all confirmands have been prayed over, the presiding minister continues.*

Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will learn and grow, study and serve, giving thanks and praise to God as we proclaim the good news to all the world.**

*The assembly may give thanks via an acclamation of applause. The assembly stands.*

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite those worshipping 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!***

## **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.*

*If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code, browse to our secure on-line portal at [clcvalpo.org/give](https://clcvalpo.org/give) or use [our CLC app](https://clcvalpo.org/app) (download at [clcvalpo.org/app](https://clcvalpo.org/app)).*



## **OFFERTORY**

*Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness*

Johannes Brahms

**OFFERING HYMN ELW #185    *Create in Me a Clean Heart* (8:00 a.m. only)**

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me." The score ends with a double bar line.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me  
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

*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.")*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## TABLE PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER (8th Grade Confirmation version of the Lord's Prayer)

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

**Our creator and protector, who is everywhere:**

**Your name is holy in itself and in everything.**

**Communities will follow your holiness, filling the world with your love.**

**Give us what we need today, and let us trust you will provide again tomorrow.**

**Help us through hard times.**

**Save us from evil in all forms, and harm that may come to us.**

**Because everything holy and good is yours, always.**

**Yes, yes.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

**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

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish;  
 2 Joy of the des - o - late, light of the stray - ing,  
 3 Here see the Bread of life; see wa - ters flow - ing

come to the mer - cy - seat, fer - vent - ly kneel.  
 hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure;  
 forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove.

Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;  
 here speaks the Com - fort - er, ten - der - ly say - ing,  
 Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er know - ing

earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.  
 "Earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not cure."  
 earth has no sor - row but heav'n can re - move.

**ELW #610    *O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come***

1 O Christ, the heal-er, we have come to pray for health, to plead for friends.  
2 From ev - 'ry ail-ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies clam - or to be freed;  
3 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og - nize the world's dis - ease;  
4 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com - mu - ni - ty may find

How can we fail to be re-stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?  
yet in our hearts we would con-fess that whole-ness is our deep - est need.  
our com - mon life de-clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?  
the whole-ness that, en - rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man-kind.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains two lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with block chords and single notes.

*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**

Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love 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 love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit

✠ bless you and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN ELW #886 *O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,<br>O fallen human race!<br>Look and be saved through faith alone,<br>be justified by grace! | 6 To God all glory, praise, and love<br>be now and ever giv'n<br>by saints below and saints above,<br>the church in earth and heav'n. |
|---|---|

*Children join the pastors to send us in mission.*

## **DISMISSAL**

*Children: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.*

**Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Fanfare*

Jacques Lemmens

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

## 2025 CONFIRMANDS

Jackson Cole Ecklund-Baker

Baptized: November 6, 2011

Baptismal Sponsors: Julie and Randy Baker

Confirmation Mentor: Brett Furuness

Scripture Verse: 1 Corinthians 3:16

*Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?*

Violet Scout Furuness

Baptized: June 10, 2012

Baptismal Sponsor: Sally Anerson

Confirmation Mentor: Amy Knauff

Scripture Verse: Psalm 23: 4

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*

Name: Jonah Robert Knauff

Baptized: May 15, 2011

Baptismal Sponsors: Karen Fritz and Kara Knauff

Confirmation Mentor: Luke Venstrom

Scripture Verse: Matthew 5:14

*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.*

Name: Elizabeth Mae Novak

Baptized: December 8, 2010

Baptismal Sponsors: Brad and Michelle Remmenga

Confirmation Mentor: Faith Noe

Scripture Verse: Philippians 4:13

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Lynx Kay Vittitoe

Baptized: May 9, 2010

Baptismal Sponsor: Natasha Crothers

Confirmation Mentor: Betty Luckett

Scripture Verse: Romans 12:15

*Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.*



## **Worship Leaders**

Acolyte	<u>8:00 a.m.</u> Violet Furuness	<u>10:30 a.m.</u> Lukas Graber
Lector	Karen Harper	Doug Schmidt
Prayer Assistant	Karen Harper	Heather Budnik
Communion Assistants	Erin Schmidgall Chris Schmidgall	Jacquie Chevalier
Ushers	Luke Venstrom Irene Adams	
Sound/Light	Lance Nolting	Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	_____	
Communion Baker	Bull Family	
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Guest Organist	Ruth Ausema	

Ruth Ausema has been a church organist and recitalist at different periods of her life beginning in high school. She currently enjoys being an elementary music teacher at Heavilin in the Valparaiso Community School District. Ruth and her husband, Dave, have 3 adult children and one adorable grandson.

## **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Liberia, Sierra Leone.**

We are thankful for:

- the natural resources in these countries, that they might benefit the peace and welfare of all
- the diverse ethnic and religious groups who long have lived together in peace and harmony, especially the Muslims and Christians in Sierra Leone
- democratic election of leaders who have brought political stability and accountability
- how diseases such as Ebola have been brought under control.

We pray for:

- the churches in these countries, for their evangelism and social outreach, faithful witness and action in times of conflict, and for interfaith cooperation with others
- the majority of the people who are still impoverished, that adequate services and policies will be provided that enable them to live with dignity and good health
- more just governance, free of corruption, accountable to the people, and that manages resources in ways that benefit all.

### **COMMEMORATIONS** **Week of August 24**

**August 24**

**Bartholomew, Apostle**

Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Bartholomew's name is replaced in John's gospel by Nathanael, leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person. Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.

**August 28**

**Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430**

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria.

**August 28**

**Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400**

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

## Break the Rules

Have you ever encountered a rule or regulation that just didn't make any sense to you? What did you do? Did you follow the rule, or did you break it? And if you broke it, did you tell anyone that you did? Or did you quietly chafe against the norm?

In the reading from Luke for today, we find Jesus preaching in the temple on the day of rest and, seemingly on a whim, deciding to break the rules in front of everyone. The outrage of some people in the crowd might have come honestly, of course. Practicing their faith was a serious matter, and for many that meant carefully following the rules.

For many people today in our own communities of faith, following the rules is still a serious matter. But what if the rules prevent God's love from being shared or prevent grace from being shown? What if the rules effectively exclude rather than include?

God's loving grace is wild and free, overcoming obstacles and breaking through boundaries. Death cannot stop God's resurrecting love. Locked doors cannot stop the risen Christ. And today we see that not even religious rules can or should limit God's freeing grace.

Our gospel reading for today doesn't invite us to break the rules per se, but it does invite us to look at the rules, especially those related to our faith, and to think critically about them. How do the ways we organize ourselves and our communities extend God's grace and love, and in what ways might they prevent God's love from being shown and shared?

The God seen in Jesus intends to free humanity from the things that bind us. We see that clearly in Christ, who not only preaches God's grace but publicly reaches out with that same grace to heal and help and love. Even if it means breaking some rules.

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