





## Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

---

July 16, 2023

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

### Welcome

#### *Make Us One*

*Praise Band*

- 1 As we gather in your son,  
Let us know the joy of being one!  
Let the time we shar in this place,  
Be a time of love and friendship in your grace.  
By your Spirit help us be  
One in faith and unity.  
Bless us here are with gather in your Son.  
Give us joy, grant us peace, make us one.

#### *Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

*LSB 545*

- 1 Word of God, come down on earth,  
Living rain from heav’n descending;  
Touch our hearts and bring to birth  
Faith and hope and love unending.  
Word almighty, we revere you;  
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
- 2 Word eternal, throned on high,  
Word that brought to life creation,  
Word that came from heav’n to die,  
Crucified for our salvation,  
Saving Word, the world restoring,  
Speak to us, your love outpouring.
- 3 Word that caused blind eyes to see,  
Speak and heal our mortal blindness;  
Deaf we are: our healer be;  
Loose our tongues to tell your kindness.  
Be our Word in pity spoken,  
Heal the world, by sin now broken.

- 4 **Word that speaks God's tender love,  
One with God beyond all telling,  
Word that sends us from above,  
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,  
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;  
Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### **Invocation**

- P** We begin our worship in the name of the Father, of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### **Confession and Absolution**

- P** In the parable of the sower, Jesus explains the nature of the old self as it receives God's word. He tells us that the seed sown on the path illustrates the failure to understand the word's message about God's kingdom.  
**C** **Lord, forgive us for being "foolish and slow of heart to believe."**  
*(Luke 24:25)*  
**P** The seed on rocky ground describes hearing the word but having no root, and falling away in times of trouble.  
**C** **Lord, forgive us because "we all, like sheep, have gone astray."**  
*(Isaiah 53:6)*  
**P** The seed that fell among the thorns speaks to the worries of life and the deceitfulness of wealth choking the word.  
**C** **Lord, forgive us for the times when we, "eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced ourselves with many griefs."**  
*(1 Tim. 6:10)*

*We take time in silence to confess our personal and communal sin before God, confident that we will receive forgiveness.*

- P** It can be painful to acknowledge the times when the word has not born fruit in our lives. However, we live under a promise that rights all wrongs. The Word made flesh did not return to God empty, but accomplished what God desired and the purpose for which God sent him. He has claimed your life, putting the bad soil to death, and cultivating life. In the stead and by the command of the Living Word Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Jesus lives in your heart and will produce a crop yielding many times what was sown. Worship and minister in his peace and by the power of his Spirit!  
**C** **Amen! Thanks be to God!**

## Sharing of the Peace

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** We share Christ's peace with one another.

*The people greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3).*

## Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen**

*Sit*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 55:10-13*

<sup>10</sup> As the rain and the snow  
come down from heaven,  
and do not return to it  
without watering the earth  
and making it bud and flourish,  
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth:  
It will not return to me empty,  
but will accomplish what I desire  
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup> You will go out in joy  
and be led forth in peace;  
the mountains and hills  
will burst into song before you,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap their hands.  
<sup>13</sup> Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,  
and instead of briers the myrtle will grow.

This will be for the LORD's renown,  
for an everlasting sign,  
that will endure forever."

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Romans 8:1-11*

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,<sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.<sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh,<sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

<sup>5</sup> Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.<sup>6</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.<sup>7</sup> The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.<sup>8</sup> Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.<sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness.<sup>11</sup> And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

*Praise Band*

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 13:1-23*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the thirteenth chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.<sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.<sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed.<sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.<sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.<sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.<sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.<sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.<sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear."

<sup>10</sup> The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

<sup>11</sup> He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>13</sup> This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;  
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

<sup>14</sup> In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

<sup>15</sup> For this people’s heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts

and turn, and I would heal them.’

<sup>16</sup> But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. <sup>17</sup> For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

<sup>18</sup> “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup> The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sowed.

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sit*

### *Thy Strong Word*

*LSB 578*

**1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;**

**At thy speaking it was done.**

**For created light we thank thee,**

**While thine ordered seasons run.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise to thee who light dost send!**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Alleluia without end!**

**2** **Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,**  
**Dark as night and deep as death,**  
**Broke the light of thy salvation,**  
**Breathed thine own life-breathing breath.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Praise to thee who light dost send!**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Alleluia without end!**

**3** **Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;**  
**Bright with thine own holiness,**  
**Glorious now, we press toward glory,**  
**And our lives our hopes confess.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Praise to thee who light dost send!**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Alleluia without end!**

**4** **From the cross thy wisdom shining**  
**Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;**  
**From the cross forever beameth**  
**All thy bright redeeming light.**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Praise to thee who light dost send!**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Alleluia without end!**

## **Homily**

*Stand*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**  
**maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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.**  
**The third day he rose again from the dead.**  
**He ascended into heaven**  
**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

From thence 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.

*Sit*

## Prayers of the Church

### Presentation of the Offering

*Stand*

#### Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.  
**P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** We lift them to the Lord.  
**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Sanctus*

*Praise Band*

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory  
Holy is the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Holy is the Lord.

#### The Words of Our Lord

#### Lord's Prayer

*Agnus Dei*

*Praise Band*

- C** Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of all the world,  
Hear us, Jesus.  
Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of all the world,  
Have mercy on us.  
Have mercy on us

**And give us your peace.**

*Sit*

## **Distribution**

*We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith. If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit. If you do not confess the understanding of the Christian Faith as expressed by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, you may still come to the altar to receive a blessing. Please fold your hands to indicate that you will not be receiving the sacrament.*

**Thy Word**

*Praise Band*

**Refrain**

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*

**1**    **When I feel afraid  
Think I've lost my way  
Still you're there right beside me  
And nothing will I fear  
As long as you are near  
Please be near me to the end. (Refrain)**

**2**    **I will not forget  
Your love for me and yet  
My heart forever is wandering  
Jesus be my guide  
And hold me to your side  
I will love you to the end. (Refrain)**

**3**    **Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path  
And a light unto my path  
You're the light unto my path.**

**Love's Victory!**

*words by Lynn Yarbrough*

**1**    **So long ago, God new my name  
And at the font he sealed his claim.  
I am his child, he promised me,  
He promised me love's victory.**

*Refrain*

*God's word is love, his promise true  
It is for me, it is for you.  
That in my life he'll always be  
Jesus my Lord, love's victory!*

- 2 When life's drear cares get in my way.  
And things of earth lead me astray.  
He'd not let go, he promised me.  
He promised me love's victory. (*Refrain*)
- 3 God loved the world, He had a plan;  
through Jesus Christ, true God and man.  
And on his cross, he promised me.  
He promised me love's victory. (*Refrain*)
- 4 On Easter morn, I'll dance and sing.  
So now o death, where is your sting?  
I am redeemed, he promised me.  
O Risen Christ love's victory. (*Refrain*)

*In the Spirit of Christ*

*words by Lynn Yarbrough*

- 1 In the spirit of Christ, with his strength as our guide  
We will work hand in hand; we will work side by side  
We will work in his fields until day turns to night;  
Til the harvest is in every hour a delight.
- 2 In the spirit of Christ, with his truth as our guide  
We will walk hand in hand; we will walk side by side  
As we study his word with its power to renew;  
We will walk in his way on the path that is true.
- 3 In the spirit of Christ, with his love as our guide  
We will pray hand in hand, we will pray side by side.  
Giving thanks for God's blessings, his mercy and care;  
We will pray for each other our burdens we'll share.
- 4 In the spirit of Christ, with his light as our guide  
We will sing hand in hand we will sing side by side.  
We will sing of his Glory, his power and might;  
We will sing of his kingdom above, shining bright.  
We will sing of his glory, his power and might;  
We will sing of his kingdom above, shining bright.

*There is Therefore Now No Condemnation*

*Praise Band*

- 1 There is therefore  
Now no condemnation

For those who are in  
Christ Jesus

*Chorus*

*For the law of the spirit  
Of life in Christ Jesus  
Will set you free  
From the law of sin and death*

- 2     **There is therefore  
Now no condemnation  
For those who are in  
Christ Jesus**

*Stand*

**Benediction**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

*God, Whose Almighty Word*

*LSB 979*

- 1     **God, whose almighty word  
Chaos and darkness heard  
And took their flight:  
Hear us, we humbly pray,  
And where the Gospel day  
Sheds not its glorious ray,  
Let there be light!**
- 2     **Lord, who once came to bring,  
On Your redeeming wing,  
Healing and sight,  
Health to the sick in mind,  
Sight to the inly blind:  
Oh, now to humankind  
Let there be light!**
- 3     **Spirit of truth and love,  
Life-giving, holy dove,  
Speed forth your flight;  
Move on the water's face,  
Bearing the lamp of grace,  
And in earth's darkest place  
Let there be light!**

**4 Holy and blessèd Three,  
Glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, love, might!  
Boundless as ocean's tide,  
Rolling in fullest pride,  
Through the earth, far and wide,  
Let there be light!**

**Announcements**

**Sending**

# Serving in worship today

July 16, 2023

## **Pastor:**

Jason Neel

## **Elder:**

Wayne Chambard

Phil Marquardt

## **Reader:**

Wayne Chambard

## **Usher:**

Sandy Elhardt

## **In our prayers**

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Eric Gunderson 7/18, and Wes Spadgenske 7/19.

**Celebrating Baptisms:** Abby Schoenbauer 7/17, Jody Rose 7/17, Alex Williams 7/20, Kayleigh O’Keeffe 7/20, and Libby Schoenbauer 7/22.

**Celebrating Anniversaries:** Mike and Alissa Voegele 7/17 and Chuck and Jan Johnson 7/18.

## **This Week at a Glance**

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Christian Faith Class
Tuesday	12:15 p.m.	Congregational Prayer
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men’s Bible Study
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	10:30 a.m.	Christian Faith Class
	6:00 p.m.	Vacation Bible School

## **Notes of Information:**

**Bluegrass Sunday is coming!** If you are interested in being a part of the choir for Bluegrass Sunday connect with John. He is currently putting together the music packets. Save the date! Bluegrass Sunday will be held August 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. If you have questions, please see John for details.

**VBS needs:** VBS is just one week away! There is a need board in the Narthex, please return with your items next Sunday. We are still in need of group leaders who are 16 and older. These roles are very rewarding and important. Group leaders will have a co leader with them to help. If you have questions or are willing to help please connect with Leslie Kuntz at 763-592-9206.

**Women's Ministry:** Please mark your calendars and plan to attend a SOC Women's Ministry event to be held **Saturday, Sep 30** with a guest speaker connecting spiritual, emotional and physical health. We will be inviting ladies from neighboring congregations to join us and can use your help! If you would like to assist in the advertising, registration, or name tags, please contact Angie Hagel at [pahagel@usfamily.net](mailto:pahagel@usfamily.net). If you would like to help plan and/or serve a healthy meal, help plan the day's activities, or assist with other aspects of the event, please contact Linda Schwanbeck, Linda McCarty, or Raelene Burmeister.

**VBS Registration:** Registration is open on the SOC website. Click the button on the top banner of the homepage to get registered to go have a Stellar time with us at VBS this July. Dates for VBS are Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. There is also a QR code in the Narthex on the VBS bulletin board which will take you to the registration page.

**Envelope Giving FYI:** Gifts given via envelope and marked "Improvement" will go into the 2023 Building Improvement Project Fund. There is also a designated category in Vanco if you prefer to give electronically.

**Activity Bags Available:** There are activity bags for young children located at the back of the sanctuary. We would like to thank Beth Gerard and Diane Weinhold for refreshing the bags.

**Spirit of Christ Book Club:** Spirit of Christ Book Club will meet in the fellowship hall at 7 p.m. Dates and books are:

July 24 The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides

August 28 The Second Life of Mirelle West by Amanda Skenandore

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager at 763-434-9652.

**NACE:** North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf needs personal hygiene, and diapers for both adults and children. If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them into the Narthex and place them in the box. Toni Peterson 763-434-5665

**LWML Mission Byte: Serving God's Children with Special Needs — Journeys Lutheran School, Milwaukee, WI \$100,000** The mission of Journeys Lutheran School is to serve God's children aged eight to 21 with special needs such as attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities, autism, anxiety, trauma, emotional behavior disorder, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. This grant will help purchase two vans to transport high school students enrolled in the School-to-Work Internship Program and students taking elective classes at nearby Martin Luther High School. The Women in Mission Mite Box will be available to for your donations next Sunday.

**Monthly 1% Mission Outreach:** As God's Stewards, we are called to serve. A great way to do this is to apply for the Monthly 1% Mission Outreach offering. Simply fill out a request form, state your outreach ministry, and how the funds will be used. Then return your request to the Stewardship Board. Some past

activities have included homeless kits, backpacks for World Relief, diaper kits, shopping for food shelf items, and holiday baskets for families. Be creative! Our Lord will use the talents and gifts He has given you to bless others.

**Nursery:** The nursery is open, and the sound is working. If you have a restless child, please feel free to use this space.

**Sermons and bulletins posted online:** Audio and video recordings of worship sermons and digital bulletins are posted weekly. Bulletins and past sermons can be found at **[www.spiritofchristhamlake.org](http://www.spiritofchristhamlake.org)**.

**Offerings via Give+:** Online giving is easy to do, one-time gifts and recurring donations are accepted. Visit the link at [soclc.org](http://soclc.org) to sign up or learn more.

Average Weekly Offering	\$6881
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$6662

**Readings for next week:  
Isaiah 44:6-8, Romans 8:12-25, Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

\



**Register for Vacation Bible School and give the QR code you your friends and neighbors so that they can join in our intergalactic fun this summer! Sunday July 23, 2023, to Thursday July 27, 2023, from 6 PM to 8 PM. Free!**



**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
[www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org](http://www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org)

**Our Mission:** To live in love for God and one another reaching out to all people, proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

Church Office: 763-755-7234  
Pastor Jason Neel: [soclpastor@gmail.com](mailto:soclpastor@gmail.com)  
Ministers: All Members  
Music Director  
John Peterson: [carsinger@aol.com](mailto:carsinger@aol.com)  
Office e-mail: [secretary@soclc.org](mailto:secretary@soclc.org)  
Prayer Chain (Sue Hurst): [Sd\\_hurst@yahoo.com](mailto:Sd_hurst@yahoo.com)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofChristLutheran.LCMS>