



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!

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

LSB 915

- 1 Today your mercy calls us
To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass,
Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy
Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us
And make us clean today.

- 2 Today your gate is open,
And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome
And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten,
A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised,
A glorious crown in heav'n.

- 3 Today our Father calls us;
His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather
Around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us
How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered,
It is our Father's home.

- 4 O all-embracing Mercy,
O ever-open Door,
What should we do without you
When heart and eye run o'er?

**When all things seem against us,
To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open,
One ear will hear our prayer.**

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** When God shows mercy to the Assyrians, a people who had shed the blood of innocents and tortured their enemies, the prophet Jonah is angry. He wants no part of a God who would be merciful to those who do not deserve mercy. He says to God,
- C** **“Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? I knew you that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.”**
- P** In Jesus’ parable, workers grumble because a landowner is acting unfairly, paying those who worked only for an hour the same as those who worked all day. They want no part of a God who would be merciful to those who do not deserve mercy. The workers say to the landowner,
- C** **“These who were hired last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.”**
- P** God’s love and concern even for those who are undeserving trumps our human desire for fairness in judgment. God forgives the depth of our sin, and calls us to be ambassadors of that same mercy.
- C** **Lord, forgive us for our hard-heartedness. Shape us according to the love and mercy you have shown in Christ Jesus, and move us to forgive as we have been forgiven.**

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

- P** God’s forgiving love is boundless, and he has sent his Son to die for all. Because of Christ’s great mercy upon us, we are free to look beyond what is fair and see our neighbors with the eyes of God’s love. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Holy Spirit enlighten you to see how you have been forgiven and to forgive in turn.
- 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 and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us, your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgement, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord.
- C** **Amen**

Sit

First Reading

Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

¹ But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. ³ Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

⁴ But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead."

¹⁰ But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?"

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 205

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 20:1-16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twentieth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a denarius^[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³ “About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ ⁵ So they went.

“He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶ About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’

⁷ “‘Because no one has hired us,’ they answered.

“He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

⁹“The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’ ¹³ ‘But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶ ‘So the last will be first, and the first will be last.’”

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

O Christ, What Can It Mean For Us

ELW 431

- 1 O Christ, what can it mean for us
To claim you as our king?
What royal face have you revealed
Whose praise the church would sing?
Aspiring not to glory’s height,
To power, wealth, and fame,
You walked a different lowly way,
Another’s will your aim.
- 2 You came, the image of our God,
To heal and to forgive,
To shed your blood for sinners’ sake
That we might rise and live.
To break the law of death you came,
The law of love to bring:
A different rule of righteousness,
A different kind of king.
- 3 Though some would make their greatness felt
And lord it over all,
You said the first must be the last
And service be our call.
O Christ, in workplace, church and home,
Let none to power cling
For still, through us, you come to serve
A different kind of king.
- 4 You chose a humble human form
And shunned the worlds renown;

You died for us upon a cross
with thorns your only crown.
But still, beyond the span of years,
our glad hosannas ring,
For now at God's right hand your reign,
A different king of king!

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

LSB 208

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

The Words of Our Lord

Lord's Prayer

Agnus Dei

LSB 210

C O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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.

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us

ELW 358 tune 717

1 Great God, your love has called us here
As we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
Though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
Your call to hear, your love to find.

- 2 We come with self-inflicted pains
Of broken trust and chosen wrong,
Half free, half-bound by inner chains,
By social forces swept a long,
By pow'rs and systems close confined,
Yet seeking hope for humankind.
- 3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
And then receive us as your own,
Not through some merit, right, or claim,
But by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
And find you kneeling at our feet.
- 4 Then take the towel and break the bread
And humble us and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
And show how grandly love intends
To work till all creation sings,
To fill all worlds to crown all things.
- 5 Great God, in Christ you set us free,
Your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
To turn from guilt and dull despair,
And to offer all that faith can do
While love is making all things new.

Lord of Light

ELW 688

- 1 Lord of light, name outshining all the stars and suns of space,
Use our talents in your kingdom as the servants of your grace;
Use us to fulfill your purpose in the gift of Christ your Son.
- Ref *Father, as in highest heaven, so on earth your will be done.*
- 2 By the toil of faithful workers in some far outlying field,
By the courage where the radiance of the cross is still revealed,
By the victories of meekness, through reproach and suffering won:
(*Refrain*)
- 3 Grand that knowledge, still increasing, at your feet may lowly kneel;
With your grace our triumphs hallow, with your charity our zeal;
Life the nations from the shadows to gladness of the sun: (*Refrain*)

- 4 By the prayers of faithful watchers, never silent day or night;
By the cross of Jesus, bringing peace to all and healing light;
By the love that passes knowledge, making all your children one:
(Refrain)

Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior

LSB 640

- 1 Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee,
Who in thy Sacrament art pleased to be;
Both flesh and spirit in thy presence hail,
Yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.
- 2 In this memorial of thy death, O Lord,
Thou dost thy body and thy blood afford:
Oh, may our souls forever feed on thee,
And thou, O Christ, forever precious be.
- 3 Thou, like the pelican to feed her brood,
Didst pierce thyself to give us living food;
Thy blood, O Lord, one drop has pow'r to win
Forgiveness for our world and all its sin.
- 4 Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God:
Cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;
Increase our faith and love, that we may know
The hope and peace which from thy presence flow.
- 5 O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see,
May what we thirst for soon our portion be:
To gaze on thee unveiled and see thy face,
The vision of thy glory, and thy grace.
Amen.

O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

LSB 632

- 1 O Jesus, blessed Lord, to thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me thy body and thy blood.
- 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good thou art!

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.

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW 588 (tune LSB 686)

- 1** There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.
There is a place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement giv'n.
- 2** There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.
- 3** For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own;
And we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.
- 4** 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all:
Greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.
Maker our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,
and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

Announcements

Sending

Serving in worship today

September 17, 2023

Pastor:

Jason Neel

Elder:

Kevin Zimmerman

Chuck Johnson

Reader:

Gretchen Lynn

Usher:

Randy Herschman

In our prayers

Celebrating Birthdays: Judah Neel 9/25, Riley Mathiason 9/27, Eddie Kothrade 9/30.

Celebrating Baptismal Birthdays: Abby Weinhold 9/25, Tracy Carlson 9/27, Art Hayden 9/30, Chase Carlson 9/30, and Curt Olson 9/30.

Celebrating Anniversaries: Dan and Kris Mathiason 9/27

This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Bible Study
Wednesday	12:15 p.m.	Congregational Prayer
	7:00 p.m.	Bell Choir
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Choir
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Women's Wellness Retreat
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	Adult Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Sunday Night Bible Study

Notes of Information:

Carpet Cleaning: Thank you to the very diligent volunteer who works hard to keep our carpets clean. Please be mindful of your beverages and remember that this is the Lord's house.

Notes from the Kitchen: Thank you to all who helped clean the kitchen recently. Please label and date all items that are placed in the refrigerator and

freezer. If items are not labeled, they will be thrown away. If you have borrowed a roaster recently, please return it to the kitchen. Beth Gerard has volunteered to serve as the kitchen coordinator. If you have questions or requests, please contact Beth at 612-328-2324.

Reserving Church Space: To keep the calendar as up to date as possible, it is important to let the office know when you are using church space for meetings, events and set up of events, so that they can be put onto the calendar. The calendar will be set using a first come, first served basis. The only exception to this policy is if a funeral is held. Please email the church office with your scheduling needs at secretary@soclc.org.

Nursery Staff and Greeters Needed: We need volunteers to greet people at the door and provide hospitality prior to worship service and volunteers to staff the nursery during a part of worship service. If you are interested in serving in either of these roles, please reach out to Kevin Zimmerman.

Trunk or Treat: The youth will be hosting the 3rd annual SOC Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 28th from 4 PM to 6:00 PM. The youth need your help to make this event a success. We need volunteers to decorate their trunks and provide treats for our visitors. Other volunteer opportunities are an adult to supervise the bonfire and characters to perform scripted acts on the Reformation Trail. If you are interested in helping with this event please reach out to Raelene Burmeister 763-229-4112

NACE: North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf needs cereal and boxed side such as Mac and Cheese, Rice a Roni, potatoes, and pasta. They need clean lightly used winter coats. If you would like to donate, please bring items into the Narthex, and place them in the box. For more information reach out to Toni Peterson at 763-434-5665

Women's Ministry Event: On Saturday, Sep 30, Brandy McCoid, a Christian Health Coach will speak about Connecting Spiritual, Emotional & Physical Health as she talks about whole body wellness being individual and unique to each person, encompassing more than what we eat and the moving of our bodies. Please invite friends and family to join you for the educational presentation and a fun filled morning of fellowship, activities, and a healthy meal. Please sign up on the sheet below the Women's Ministry board in the fellowship hall. \$7 per person may be paid the day of the event.

SOC Women: We've been invited to a Mission Impossible Event: "The Upside-Down Mission to the Lost in the Mountains of Southeast Asia." It is hosted by the Gathering Place Lutheran Ministries in Arden Hills.

WHEN: Saturday, October 14th, 2023, 9:00 - 11:30 AM \$10.00 lunch included. I'll be driving and can provide a ride if needed. Please let me know if you are interested. Linda Schwanbeck 651-508-1680

Thrivent Choice Dollars: If you are eligible, you can specifically choose an organization, such as Spirit of Christ Lutheran Church. Choice Dollars designated during the calendar year can be directed until March 31 of the following year. To direct those dollars, log onto <http://www.thrivent.com>. Under **What We Offer**, choose the **Generosity** tab. Then choose **Choice Dollars**.

Shredright4Good Youth Fundraiser: Every day, America uses enough paper to wrap around the earth 20 times! Why not put some of that paper to work raising funds for Spirit of Christ's Youth while protecting the environment and your identity. The Youth have two locked containers here at church to collect confidential paper. Shredright4Good will pick it up to shred and turn it to recycled paper products. Nice and easy, just bring in your freewill offering with your paper. Start protecting your identity, the environment and building up the Youth of Spirit of Christ. We thank you for your support.

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

September 25 *Me Before You* by JoJo Moyes

October 23 *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann

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

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.

Offerings via Give+: Online giving is easy to do, one-time gifts and recurring donations are accepted. Visit the link at socl.org to sign up or learn more.

Average Weekly Offering	\$5901
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	<i>\$6662</i>

Readings for next week:

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32



Spirit of Christ—Ham Lake Women's Ministry



Invites you and your friends to join us at our

Fall Gathering

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

9:30 AM—12:30 PM

(REGISTRATION 9:30-10:00)

\$7 PER PERSON

GUEST SPEAKER:

Brandy McCoid—Christian Health Coach

Connecting Spiritual, Emotional, and Physical Health

Fun activities and a healthy lunch will be part of the event.
We look forward to having you and your friends join us for a
morning of fun and fellowship!

**To assist the planning committee, if possible,
please register by Sep 23, 2023 by contacting
Angie Hagel at 612-472-5109
or email: pahagel@usfamily.net
and let us know how many will be joining you.**

**Spirit of Christ—Ham Lake
2749 Bunker Lake Blvd
Ham Lake Mn 55304**



**We are located on
Bunker Lake Blvd
just 2 miles East of Hwy 65**



SPIRIT of CHRIST
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd
Ham Lake, MN 55304
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: soclepastor@gmail.com

Ministers: All Members

Music Director

John Peterson: carsinger@aol.com

Office e-mail: secretary@soclc.org

Prayer Chain (Sue Hurst): Sd_hurst@yahoo.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpiritofChristLutheran.LCMS>