





## 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!

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August 25, 2024

*Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

### Welcome

#### *Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ*

*LSB 769*

- 1 **Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,  
I know not how to ask or what to say;  
I only know my need, as deep as life,  
And only you can teach me how to pray.**
  
- 2 **Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;  
Help me to see your purpose and your will—  
Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;  
Held in forgiving love, let me be still.**
  
- 3 **Come with the strength I lack, bring vision clear  
Of human need; O give me eyes to see  
Fulfillment of my life in love outpoured,  
My life in You, O Christ; your love in me.**

*Stand*

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

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

*Baptism.*

## **Confession and Absolution**

- P** As the people of Israel are preparing for life in their new land, Joshua asks them to “choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” He says that he and his household will serve Yahweh. The people reply:
- C** **“We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”**
- P** But Joshua knows the sinful hearts and broken lives of the people. He tells the people “You are not able to serve Yahweh.” The people push back, saying:
- C** **“No! We will serve the LORD.”**
- P** Of course, the rest of the story of Hebrew Scriptures is that Joshua was right: the people could not serve Yahweh. We acknowledge that often, like Israel, we rebel against our God and embrace other masters and lords, including ourselves and the powers and things of this world. Though our lips may say “Far be it from us” to turn from God, we acknowledge that our thoughts, words, and actions lead us to the truth Joshua speaks to the people:
- C** **“We are witnesses against ourselves.” Lord, have mercy on us and forgive our rebellion.**

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

- P** Humanity rebelled against God’s rule in the crucifixion of Jesus. But through this, God has made peace with sinners once and for all. He rescued us through our great deliverer, the risen Christ. In the stead and by the command of our God and King Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Jesus has freed you to worship God in joy and peace.
- C** **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** O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen**

*Nursery care for small children is offered from this point in the service through Holy Communion. Children may meet their caregivers in the back of the sanctuary.*

*Sit*

## **First Reading**

*Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-22*

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.

<sup>14</sup> “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out before us all

the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup> Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”

<sup>21</sup> But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the Lord.”

<sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 6:10-20*

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup> Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup> and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**C** Alleluia.

**Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel***John 6:56-69*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John the sixth chapter.

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

<sup>56</sup> Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup> He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

<sup>61</sup> Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup> The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

<sup>66</sup> From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

<sup>67</sup> “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

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

*Sit*

***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God****LSB 657*

**1** **A mighty fortress is our God,  
A sword and shield victorious;**

He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod  
And wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe  
Has sworn to work us woe.  
With craft and dreadful might  
He arms himself to fight.  
On earth he has no equal.

2 No strength of ours can match his might.  
We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight,  
Whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be?  
The Lord of hosts is he,  
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored.  
He holds the field victorious.

3 Though hordes of devils fill the land  
All threat'ning to devour us,  
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;  
They cannot overpow'r us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage;  
In battle we'll engage.  
His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgment must prevail!  
One little word subdues him.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,  
No thanks to foes, who fear it;  
For God himself fights by our side  
With weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house,  
Goods, honor, child, or spouse,  
Though life be wrenched away,  
They cannot win the day.  
The Kingdom's ours forever!

## Homily

### 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.**

## **Prayers of the Church**

### **Presentation of the Offering**

*Stand*

#### **Preface**

*LSB 208*

- 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;  
Heaven 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 our Lord!

# Lord's Prayer

## Words of our Lord

### *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.*

### ***At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing***

LSB 633

- 1** At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
Praise to our victorious King,  
Who has washed us in the tide  
Flowing from his pierced side.  
Alleluia!
- 2** Praise we him, whose love divine  
Gives his sacred blood for wine,  
Gives his body for the feast—  
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.  
Alleluia!

3 Where the paschal blood is poured,  
Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
Through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Alleluia!

4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,  
Paschal victim, paschal bread;  
With sincerity and love  
Eat we manna from above.  
Alleluia!

5 Mighty Victim from the sky,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;  
You have conquered in the fight,  
You have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
Now no more the grave enthrall;  
You have opened paradise,  
And your saints in you shall rise.  
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
Newborn souls in you to be.  
Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

*I Am the Bread of Life*

ELW 485

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not  
hunger, and who believe in me shall not thirst. No one can  
come to me unless the Father beckons."

**Ref "And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day."**

**2 "The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever, you shall live forever." Refrain**

**3 "Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you." Refrain**

**4 "I am the resurrection, I am the life. If you believe in me, even though you die, you shall live forever." Refrain**

**5 Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who has come into the world. Refrain**

### ***Fight the Good Fight***

*LSB 664*

**1 Fight the good fight with all your might;  
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.  
Lay hold on life, and it shall be  
Your joy and crown eternally.**

**2 Run the straight race through God's good grace;  
Lift up your eyes, and seek his face.  
Life with its way before us lies;  
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

**3 Cast care aside, lean on your guide;  
His boundless mercy will provide.  
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove  
Christ is your life and Christ your love.**

**4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near;  
He changes not who holds you dear;  
Only believe, and you will see  
That Christ is all eternally.**

### **Dismissal**

### **Benediction**

*LSB 183*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give † you peace.

**C** Amen

***Lead On, King O Eternal!***

*ELW 805*

**1 Lead on, O King eternal!**

The day of march has come:  
Hence-forth in fields of conquest  
Your tents will be our home.  
Through days of preparation  
Your grace has made us strong;  
And now, O King eternal,  
We lift our battle song.

**2 Lead On, O King eternal,**

Till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
And holiness shall whisper  
The sweet amen of peace;  
For not with swords loud crashing,  
Nor roll of stirring drums,  
But deeds of love and mercy  
The heav'nly kingdom comes.

**3 Lead on, O King eternal:**

We follow, not with fears,  
For gladness breaks like morning  
Where'er your face appears.  
Your cross is lifted o'er us;  
We journey in its light;  
The crown awaits the conquest;  
Lead on, O God of might!

**Announcements**

**Sending**

**P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# Serving in worship today

August 25, 2024

## **Pastor**

Jason Neel

## **Acolyte**

Camille Kuntz

## **Usher**

Randy Herschman

## **Elders**

Phil Marquardt

Carl Schwanbeck

## **Reader**

Carl Schwanbeck

## **Nursery**

Nicole and Nora Weinhold

## **In our prayers**

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Olivia Eastland 8/29

**Celebrating Baptisms:** Shelby Parson 8/25

**Celebrating Anniversaries:** Jake and Kristina Kothrade 8/25, Dale and Peggy Peterson 8/28, Dan and Jean O’Keeffe 8/30, and Phil and Angie Hagel 8/31.

## **This Week at a Glance**

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Voter’s Meeting
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Book Club
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Stewardship Board
Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men’s Bible Study
	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study

## **Notes of Information:**

**Sunday School Teachers Needed:** We need Sunday School Teachers. Curriculum is provided and we are willing to pair you with a co teacher. The future of our congregation is in our youth (and they are really a fun group), please consider becoming a Sunday School teacher. If you are interested, please reach out to Leslie Kuntz.

**Conformation Meeting:** There will be a confirmation meeting for parents and students on Wednesday September 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the fellowship hall. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jason.

**Rally Day:** Please mark your calendar for Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup>, as we gather in fellowship to kick off the start of a new Sunday School year. Food will be provided by the boards and church council.

**August Voter's Meeting:** There will be a voter's meeting **TODAY** at 10:30. This meeting will highlight the work of the church.

**LWML Mission Byte:** Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) is excited to announce their annual "September to Remember" Giving Day on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This special day is an opportunity to support the LWML mission goal and honor/remember those who have made a significant impact as an LWML member.

LWML mission goal funds mission grants that support organizations serving the world and sharing the Gospel. Each grant honors God by serving those in need and witnessing his saving grace.

For one day only, on September 10<sup>th</sup>, donate toward the LWML mission goal in honor or memory of someone who has helped you become a Lutheran woman in mission. Donate online at [lwml.org/givingday](http://lwml.org/givingday). A matching gift will double the impact of the first \$10,000 donated! You can also mail your contribution to LWML 801 Seminary Place Suite L010, St. Louis, MO 63105. Please note "September to Remember" with your contribution.

**NACE:** North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf is currently in need of items for “weekend pack” that are sent home with children from area schools. They need things like dried fruit, fruit cups, oatmeal packs, easy mac, shelf stable milk and other small snack items. Thank you for your donations. For more information reach out to Toni Peterson.

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

August 26-Light on Snow by Anita Shreve

September 23- I Will Find You by Harlan Coben

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Mager

**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	\$6674
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$6973



**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd  
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[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.

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