





## 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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September 15, 2024

*Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*

### Welcome

#### *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

*LSB 849*

- 1 **Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light;  
Praise the One who frees the pris’ners,  
Turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,  
Healing ev’ry dread disease,  
Calming storms, and feeding thousands  
With the very Bread of peace.**
- 2 **Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong, yet gentle, word;  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With the piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
To the desert’s burning sand;  
From this Well comes living water,  
Quenching thirst in ev’ry land.**
- 3 **Let us praise the Word Incarnate,  
Christ, who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose victorious  
That we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,**

**Seeing what our God has done;  
Let us praise the true Redeemer,  
Praise the One who makes us one.**

*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** The epistle of James tells us:  
**C** **“With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.”**  
**P** In his explanation of the eighth commandment, Luther says:  
**C** **“We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.”**  
**P** We often do not explain our neighbor’s actions in the kindest way. Often, in our frustration and anger, we curse our neighbors and tear them down to others. Though God has reconciled himself to the world in Christ, we proclaim with our words that our neighbors are our enemies. For the ways that our tongues have “set the course of our lives on fire,”  
**C** **Lord, have mercy upon us and forgive us our sins.**

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

- P** The Messiah who was rejected, mocked, and jeered by human words is himself a living Word of God – a word of peace and reconciliation for those who rejected him and those who sin in their words. In the stead and by the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Transformed by the power of the Spirit of Christ, we

use our tongues to praise God and to proclaim peace to one another and to our neighbors and our enemies in the world.

**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** O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow 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

*Isaiah 50:4-9a*

The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-instructed tongue,  
to know the word that sustains the weary.

He wakens me morning by morning,  
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

<sup>5</sup> The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;  
I have not been rebellious,  
I have not turned away.

<sup>6</sup> I offered my back to those who beat me,  
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from mocking and spitting.

<sup>7</sup> Because the Sovereign LORD helps me,

I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint,  
and I know I will not be put to shame.

<sup>8</sup> He who vindicates me is near.

Who then will bring charges against me?

Let us face each other!

Who is my accuser?

Let him confront me!

<sup>9</sup> It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me.

Who will condemn me?

They will all wear out like a garment;  
the moths will eat them up.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

*James 3:1-12*

Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup> We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

<sup>3</sup> When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. <sup>4</sup> Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. <sup>5</sup> Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. <sup>6</sup> The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

<sup>7</sup> All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, <sup>8</sup> but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

<sup>9</sup> With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup> Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. <sup>11</sup> Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? <sup>12</sup> My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

**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

*Mark 8:27-38*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the eighth chapter.

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

<sup>27</sup> Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

<sup>28</sup> They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

<sup>29</sup> “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”

<sup>30</sup> Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life<sup>[a]</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

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

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

***Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens***

- 1** Speak, O Lord, your servant listens,  
Let your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me,  
Let each promise still my fear.  
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,  
Wars against your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor  
That I cling to you forever!
- 2** Oh, what blessing to be near you  
And to listen to your voice;  
Let me ever love and hear you,  
Let your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord,  
Flee in terror at your Word;  
But to all who feel sin's burden  
You give words of peace and pardon.
- 3** Lord, your words are waters living  
When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, your words are bread life-giving;  
On your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, your words will be my light  
Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing  
And my cup of joy unfailing!
- 4** As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;  
Let your words in me take root.  
May your Spirit e'er be near me  
That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing your praise,  
From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given  
In the endless joy of heaven.

**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*

*Praise Band*

**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.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

### **Words of our Lord**

#### ***Agnus Dei***

*Praise Band*

**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.*

#### ***To Every Generation***

*Praise Band*

#### ***Wonderful Merciful Savior***

*Praise Band*

#### ***Unforced Rhythms of Grace***

*Praise Band*

#### ***Children of the Heavenly Father***

*LSB 725*

**1 Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in his bosom gather;**

Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.

2 God his own doth tend and nourish;  
In his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them;  
In his mighty arms he bears them.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord his children sever;  
Unto them his grace he showeth,  
And their sorrows all he knoweth.

4 Though he giveth or he taketh,  
God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.

## 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

## *How Firm a Foundation*

*LSB 728*

1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?

2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

3 “The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not, I will not, desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never, no never, no never, forsake!

- 4 “When through fiery trials your pathway will lie,  
My grace, all-sufficient, will be your supply.  
The flames will not hurt you; I only design  
Your dross to consume and your gold to refine.
- 5 “Throughout all their lifetime My people will prove  
My sov’ reign, eternal, unchangeable love;  
And then, when gray hairs will their temples adorn,  
Like lambs they will still in My bosom be borne.”

## **Announcements**

### **Sending**

- P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

# Serving in worship today

September 15, 2024

## **Pastor**

Jason Neel

## **Acolyte**

Zack Weinhold

## **Usher**

Jan Fuerst

## **Elders**

Phil Marquardt

Carl Schwanbeck

## **Reader**

Karine Platt

## **Nursery**

Kassidy Bryan

## **In our prayers**

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Jan Fuerst 9/18

**Celebrating Baptisms:** Kevin Zimmerman

**Celebrating Anniversaries:** Patrick and Paula Bryan and Davis and Kassidy Bryan

## **This Week at a Glance**

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Revelation Bible Study
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Council Meeting
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	Women's Coffee
	6:00 p.m.	Confirmation
	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.	Evangelism Board Meeting
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour

## Notes of Information

**Fall Revelation Bible Study:** Tomorrow night, Pastor Jason resumes his Bible Study on Revelation. The Monday Bible study will meet most Mondays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The study will not meet September 23, October 28<sup>th</sup>, or November 25<sup>th</sup> to allow for Book Club to meet.

**Confirmation:** Confirmation will begin this Wednesday at 6 pm. Please keep our confirmands and their families in your prayers. Starting confirmation this year are Eden Miller, Eli Voegele and Evan Baker. Continuing in Confirmation this year are Eli Neel, Camille Kuntz, Zack Weinhold, Ryan Weinhold and Eddie Kothrade.

**Women's Coffee:** Please join us Wednesday morning for a spa day in the Youth room at 10 am.

**Thank-You:** Thank you for your generosity. Your gift of \$116.00 to Feed My Starving Children is providing 400 MannaPack Meals to those around the world who need it most. Though poverty is complicated, we know that hunger is fixable - one reliable meal at a time. Thank you for feeding hungry kids.

From Trinity First Lutheran School: We are so blessed as we begin a new school year this month. Thank you for your donation of \$462.24. Your gift of God, sent to us, gives us encouragement to face the coming months with resolve and joy! We hope you are as encouraged as we are by a loving heavenly Father who provides ALL we need and equips us to meet each day in His care!

Thank you for your wonderful gift of \$255.35! Your thoughtful donation is a special blessing to Concordia Seminary. Your belief in our mission inspires us to strive for excellence in our service to the Gospel every day.

**LWML September to Remember Thank-You:** I wanted to take a moment to personally reach out and express my heartfelt gratitude for your prayerful support during our "September to Remember" giving day. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we are thrilled to announce that we raised \$36,098! Your contribution will have lasting impact on countless lives worldwide, helping to

share Christ's love and bring hope to those in need. – Eden Keefe, LWML President.

**Women's Bible Study:** Please join the women's morning Bible study as we begin a new book. Starting Tuesday, October 1st we will begin a book study titled "Unfailing: God's Assurance for Times of Change" by Rev. Christopher Kennedy. By studying the prophet Samuel and the difficult changes he endured we can see how we can trust God to guide us through our life changes. The book is available through Concordia Publishing House. We will also have a few available for purchase at the first session.

**Sunday Night Women's Bible Study:** There will be a Sunday night women's bible study starting soon. If you are interested in joining, please sign up in the Narthex. If you have questions, please see Laura Marquardt.

**NACE:** North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf is currently in need of boxed sides, including stuffing, pastas and potatoes. They are no longer taking summer clothing items but are looking for new socks and underwear in all sizes and gently used fall/winter children's clothing. Thank you for your donations. For more information reach out to Toni Peterson.

**Pastor Appreciation Lunch:** Please join us on October 6<sup>th</sup>, following Education hour for a Spaghetti lunch to celebrated Pastor Jason's 20 years serving at Spirit of Christ. **Please sign up in the Narthex so that we may plan for food.**

**Youth Lock-in:** There will be a lock-in on Saturday, September 28, for all Middle and High School youth. Please mark your calendars, more information on timing to come. We will be serving at Feed My Starving Children that evening, if you would like to help during that time, please let Laura know so she can have the appropriate head count for FMSC.

**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.

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

September 23 – I Will Find You by Harlan Coben

October 28 – Purgatory Ridge by William Kent Krueger

November 25 – It’s All About Him by Denise Jackson

December – Book Club does NOT meet.

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	\$6678
<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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