

15th Sunday After Pentecost

September 13, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

This weekend Christ is offering an outdoor worship service at 9 a.m. on the front lawn; the service will be led by the worship band and will be different from the service in this bulletin. Please call the church office to make a reservation for the 9 a.m. service. This bulletin is for the noon service on Zoom.

We offer our worship to God! Join in as you are able with all song and prayer, knowing that God hears us. Thank you for being a part of the virtual worship experience. If you are a Facebook user, "check in" and let your friends know you are here!

Offerings. Although we have moved to gathering 'in spirit' instead of 'in person,' the staff continue to ensure that our church ministry continues, and our regular bills continue to come in. Please mail your offering to at:

Christ Lutheran Church
ATTN: Cyndy Wedryk
60 55th Street
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

St. James Lutheran Church
5129 Wolf Road
Western Springs, IL 60558

To make your CLC offering online, go to www.yourchrist.org and click on the "Give" button.

To make your St. James offering online, go to www.stjamesws.org and click the tithe.ly link.

Questions? If you have a question about the worship, life and ministry of this congregation, email Rachel Krohn, Pastoral Assistant at office@yourchrist.org for Christ Lutheran or Mellissa Lickteig, Office Manager stjames.ws@gmail.com for St. James or Pastor Erin at pastor@yourchrist.org. You may also call the church at 630-325-2220 for Christ Lutheran or (708) 246-6228 for St. James, or visit www.yourchrist.org or www.stjamesws.org for St. James

Need something? Social distancing and self isolation can be difficult for individuals and families for a variety of reasons. If you find that you are anxious, worried, feeling hopeless, or just need spiritual support, please give us a call. Pastor Erin will be happy to provide care via phone or a virtual platform. If you find that you need something else – groceries, help contacting medical professionals, etc., please also give us a call. The church's councils are committed to ensure that everyone in the congregation has what they need to weather this challenging time.

How long until we gather in person again? You won't be surprised to hear that we cannot answer this question at this time. We will continue to pray for one another and stay in touch with each other as things unfold. We will continue offering virtual worship as long as it is the recommended practice to keep us all safe and healthy.

Gathering/Welcome

Music for Meditation

“Be Still My Soul”

Recorded by Richard Kocheł

Confession

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Amen.
Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.
Reconciling God, Hear us as we confess:
For the times we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives...
For when we place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts...
For all the ways we abuse your good creation for our own benefit...
For every moment that we fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us... For the brokenness we cause in thought, word, actions and inactions...

Merciful God, By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Erin Clausen & Family

Music

“Cornerstone”

Recorded by the CLC Worship Band

Verse 1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus’ name

Repeat Verse 1

Chorus Christ alone, Cornerstone.
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all

Verse 2 When darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil.

Repeat Chorus

Verse 3 When He shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in Him be found
Dressed in His righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne.

Repeat Chorus

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O Lord God, merciful judge,

All: you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

First Reading: Exodus 14:19-31

Having decided to let the Israelites go from Egypt, Pharaoh had second thoughts and sent his army after them (14:5-8). Though the passage through the Red Sea became a sign of salvation for the people of Israel, Pharaoh's forces drowned in the waters. As a result the Israelites believed in the Lord and in the Lord's servant Moses.

¹⁹The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. ²²The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them,

all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. ²⁵He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Gospel:

Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you

pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Sermon

Pastor Erin Clausen

Music

"Jesus, What A Beautiful Name"

Recorded by CLC Choir

Prayers of Intercession

Pastor: Expansive God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and minds as we pray for:

All who share the good news of your grace around the world...
The land, air, waterways, and creatures of your creation, especially those managing wildfires...
Leaders of our nation and communities, and those around the world...
Peace among nations...
The disenfranchised ...
Our enemies, and those whom we cause to suffer...
Those who are sick, suffering, despairing, or heartbroken...
Those who grieve...

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Sharing of the Peace

Moment for offering/ Offering Prayer

Pastor: As we turn to the table, we offer our gifts of praise, time, and talents to God. We also set aside a part of our finances to support the ministry of the church. You may give your financial gift online through the church's website, or mail your check to the church.

I invite you to uncover the bread and drink, as we pray:

God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours,

and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
Amen.

Communion

Pastor: As we do this together, we recognize that we are in community, gathered together in spirit even as we are scattered in body. May Christ be present with us now.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor: Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey. All of God's children are welcome at God's table, spread out before us. If you are with others, you may pass the bread and drink to one another, saying 'this is *for you*.'

This is the body of Christ, given for you.

This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communion Music/Slide Show

Prayer after Communion

Pastor: As we conclude this meal, you may cover again any bread or drink that you have not yet consumed. We treat this meal, made holy by God's grace, with care. Please consume all of what is blessed, or put it outside where it may nourish God's creation.

Pastor: God of the welcome table, in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

All: Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

All: Amen.

Music

"Blessed Be Your Name"

Recorded by CLC Worship Band

Verse 1 Blessed be Your name
In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow
Blessed be Your name

Verse 2 Blessed be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness
Blessed be Your name

Pre Chorus Every blessing You pour out
I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in
Lord still I will say

Chorus 1 Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord
Blessed be Your glorious name

Verse 3 Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name

Verse 4 Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name

Repeat Pre Chorus
Repeat Chorus x 2

Bridge You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name

Repeat Bridge x 2
Repeat Chorus x 2

Pastor: Go in peace. Christ is with you.
All: Thanks be to God.