

Celebration Lutheran Church

Pastor: Sarah Toney
16th Sunday after Pentecost

Pianist: Susan Gubsch
September 28, 2025

We Gather to Encounter God

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

C: Amen.

L: Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God of mercy and forgiveness,

C: ... we confess that sin has a hold on us still. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

L: Beloved of God, your sins are forgiven ☩ and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory # 705



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

We Pray in Song:

Kyrie

157

Leader
In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Hymn of Praise

167

Refrain
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion

sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom;

praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

Refrain
freed and u - nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of God.

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and

Refrain
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of

Refrain
God; to make all things new.

Prayer of the Day

L: O God, rich in mercy,

C: ... you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

- ^{1a} Woe to those who are at ease in Zion
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
⁴ Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory
and lounge on their couches
and eat lambs from the flock
and calves from the stall,
⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp
and like David improvise on instruments of music,
⁶ who drink wine from bowls
and anoint themselves with the finest oils
but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!
⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile,
and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Psalms 146

- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
² **I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**
³ Put not your trust in rulers,
in mortals in whom there is no help.
⁴ **When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish. R**
⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the captive free.

⁸ **The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**

the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord cares for the stranger;
the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The Lord shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah! R**

1 Timothy 6:6-19

⁶ Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, ⁸ but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. ⁹ But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

¹¹ But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. ¹³ In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you ¹⁴ to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. ¹⁶ It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

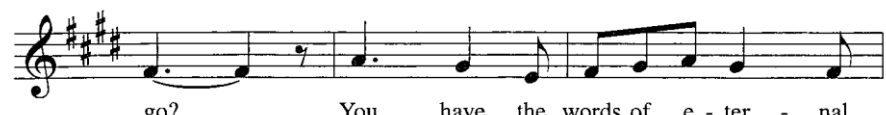
Gospel Acclamation:

Now the Feast liturgical music


Congregation:



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Holy Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

L: The holy gospel according to St. Luke in the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you heard your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.'

²⁷ He said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹ Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰ He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

C: Praise to you, O Christ.


Sermon

We Respond to God's Word

Hymn of the Day:

Build a Longer Table


ACS # 1062




1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for people in any need (*especially*). Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

L: God of grace,

C: **hear our prayer.**

Greeting of Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

We Offer Our Gifts

Offertory Hymn:

As the Grains of Wheat

465

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: Lord of all harvests,

C: **... we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We Share Christ's Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

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

The Story of Our Lord's Supper

The Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C: 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.

Distribution of Our Lord's Supper

Communion Hymns:

Lamb of God

Congregation: *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 fear:
 peace:
 love.

Final Stanza
Congregation or Assistant:



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:




take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

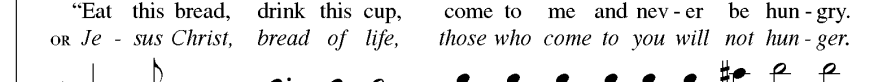
Eat This Bread

472


Refrain



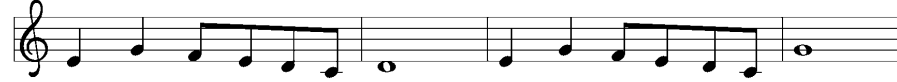
"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
 or Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.




Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."
 Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.



Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am # 814



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum - mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

Post-Communion Prayer and Blessing



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C: Thanks be to God.

We Go to Love as Jesus Loves Us!