

Celebration Lutheran Church

Pastor: Sarah Toney

Pianist: Susan Gubsch

18th Sunday after Pentecost Worship: 10:00am September 27, 2026

We Gather to Encounter God

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

L: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse us of all darkness by the inspiration and action of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Brief pause for reflection

L: Gracious God,

C: ... have mercy on us. We confess that we have become lost in the sins of our minds, hearts, and of this world. In your compassion forgive us and deliver us from the stain of sin. Turn us again to you, and fill us with your Spirit, so that we may love and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Gathering Hymn:

God Is Here!

526



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en;
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

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: God of love, giver of life,

C: ... you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel.

⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die.

²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life.

²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Psalms 25:1-9

¹To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.** R

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way. R

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

¹If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,
⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not
only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your
own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in
you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia

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!

Optional Repeat

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

L: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew in the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of
the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what
authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this
authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if
you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do
these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of
human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From
heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’

²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all
regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not
know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I
am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and
said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will
not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the
second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not
go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.”
Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the
prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John
came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him,
but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after
you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

L: The gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We Respond to God's Word

Hymn of the Day: Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways # 772

Ushers Gather Prayer Requests



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Prayers of the People

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need (especially). Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your steadfast love holds all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

L: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

Greeting of Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you**

We Offer Our Gifts

Offertory Hymn: As the Grains of Wheat # 465



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



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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: God of creation,

C: ... you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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.

Communion Prayers and 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

Liturgy

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.

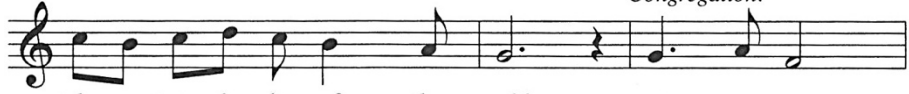
Final Stanza

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.

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

Blessing

L: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

L: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: The Lord Now Sends Us Out # 538

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with Spanish and English versions provided for each line. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests. The final staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta, es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.

Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do, a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Dismissal

L: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

We go to love as Jesus loves us!

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