

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2025

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Church Campout this week, Thursday through Saturday. Everyone is invited to head out to Park Lake to join the campers at Group Site A for a visit or one of the special events, including a chili and bun supper on Friday at 5 pm. The full schedule is on the bulletin board and sign-up sheet is in our Place of Welcome.

Lunch and Hymn Sing this Wednesday at 1:30.

Looking ahead . . . on **September 7** during worship, we will celebrate the volunteers who have helped at the Soup Kitchen over the years.

On September 14, during coffee, we will celebrate **Everybody's Birthday**. If you'd like to provide a cake for one of the months, please sign up in our Place of Welcome.

We have returned this month to the *Liturgy of the Beloved*, composed by Ben & Caitlyn Johnston-Urey from Whitehorse, which is in our Synod of Alberta and the Territories. At this summer's ELCIC National Convention, Ben was recognized with the ELCIC Leadership Award.

INTRODUCTION

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses" and we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

Let us take a moment to center our hearts and minds.

GATHERING SONG "Gather Us In" ELW 532 v 1, 2 & 4



Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who

Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,

light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.

now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the

Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,

make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.

fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapt. Psalm 90)

God of our beginning,
From generation to generation, you have been our dwelling place –
our home where grace abounds.

Before the mountains were born, before the earth was formed –
You are. Timeless and Eternal.

We first dwelled with you as divine thought, then as children,
born of love and breathed into fertile earth.
We, your children, bear your image.

Now, here, we gather in praise and remembrance of the First Love.
Humbled in the expanse of your sovereignty, we seek to begin anew.

Pause for reflection

In the silence of our understanding, when words fail and hearts yearn to be made new,
we hear you calling from the kingdom of heaven within, “My children. Return.”

“Return & Renewal (Confession & Forgiveness)” – LotB

Worship Leader (spoken slowly over the music)

Re - turn to the Lord your God who is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to ang - er and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Cantor

God of all mercy and consolation,
your love is steadfast. Your love is patient.
God of our near and far,
you meet us where we are -
each peak and valley of our lives.

Restore us by your Spirit's power.
Open our eyes to you, our source of life.
Come sanctify our hearts and minds.
May we walk your pathways to the glory of your name!

All

As in the Garden of our Unknowing,
We found division in worldly wisdom.
Long have we wandered from
the wisdom of your love -
Help us to find our way back home.

Forgive us, Lord, as we forgive,
heeding the call to love as you have loved.
Let Mercy reign in ev'ry heart.
May the Way of Christ be the pattern of our lives.

Down through the ages, your love is changeless-
across the nations, each generation.
You are the cleansing rain.
you wash away our pain,
and by your grace we have been saved.

*Return to the Lord your God
who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding
in steadfast love...*

Return & Renewal

Confession & Forgiveness

Ben & Caitlin Johnston-Urey

God of all mer - cy and con - sol - a - tion, your love is stead - fast.
As in the Gar - den of our un - know - ing, we've found div - is - ion

Your love is pat - ient. God of our near and far, you meet us where we are -
in world - ly wis - dom. Long have we wand - ered from the wis - dom of your love

Each peak and val - ley of our lives. Re - store us by
Help us to find our way back home. For - give us, Lord,

your Spir - it's power. Op - en our eyes to you, our source of
as we for - give, heed - ing the call to love as you have

life. Come sanc - ti - fy our hearts and minds.____
loved. Let Mer - cy reign in ev' - ry heart.____

May we walk your path - ways to the glor - y of your name!____
May the Way of Christ be the pat - tern of our lives.____

Down through the age - s your love is change - less, a - cross the na tions,

each gen - er - a - tion. You are the cleans - ing rain. You wash a - way our pain,

and by your grace we have been saved._____

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God of our Unending,
your love is as boundless as the heavens.
Your grace is a river that flows without ceasing.
In Jesus, you weave yourself into the fabric of our humanity-
Divine Mercy made manifest in our own time.

Therefore, Beloved, hear the good news:
In love you were made, and to love you shall return.
In the name of †Jesus Christ every distance is bridged,
Every division is healed, and every heart is made whole.
May Christ be your heart's everlasting desire.
May the Words of Life be ever upon your lips! **Amen.**

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Our Lord is with you.
And also with you.

It is our delight to pray. O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING: Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

- One *The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance. Our reading begins with Hebrews 11:29.*
- Two By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.
- One By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.
- Two By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

One And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of
David and Samuel and the prophets—
Two who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises,
One shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword,
Two won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

One Women received their dead by resurrection.
Two Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection.

One Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.
Two They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword;
One they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—of whom the world
was not worthy.
Two They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

One Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised,
since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.
Two Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every
weight and the sin that clings so closely,
One and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and
perfecter of our faith,
Two who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and
has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

a brief pause

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "The Living Word" LotB

**In the beginning was the Word,
The Living Word of God,
The Light of Life Unending.**

**You shine in us as ancient starlight,
in our Book of Memories and Future Dreams.**

**Sing we halle, hallelu!
You are the Word of Life Eternal.
Holy Wisdom, found within!
You speak to us and we remember:**

"I am the Book no one can close,
The Story of our time, before all time, together.

I am the Voice that never falters,
I, the Echo of Beyond.
I am the Way, the Truth, the Life,
the Living Word."



In the Beg - in - ning was the Word, the Liv - ing Word of God, the
Light of Life Un - end - ing. You shine in us as an - cient
star - light, in our Book of Mem - o - ries and Fu - ture Dreams.
Sing we hal - le, hal - le - lu! Lord, to whom shall we go?
You are the Word of Life E - ter - nal. Ho - ly Wis - dom,
found with - in! You speak to us and we re - mem - ber:
I am the Book no one can close, the Sto - ry of our time, be -
fore all time, to - geth - er. I am the Voice that ne - ver
fal - ters, I, the Ech - o of Be - yond. I am the Way, the
Truth, the Life, the Liv - ing Word.

The gospel reading and sermon for today have been prepared and shared by Bishop Ali Tote, SK Synod.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

"I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

The gospel of our risen Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Guide My Feet" ACS 987 – v 1, 2, 4, 5 – *piano, bass, guitar, cajon*

Leader



Guide my feet
Hold my hand

All



while I run this race.

I'm your child
Search my heart

Guide my feet
Hold my hand



while I run this race.

I'm your child
Search my heart

Guide my feet
Hold my hand



while I run this race,

I'm your child
Search my heart

Guide my feet
Hold my hand



for I don't want to run this race in vain.

APOSTLES' CREED

We confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**
**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

PEACE

May peace be within, and ever before you.
And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of Rest and Renewal, may the offerings of our lives reflect your timeless rhythm of doing and being, action and rest. Help us to freely offer what you have given, the fruits of your Spirit flowing from our wellspring within. May our hearts and thoughts be lifted up in radiant alignment with you, O God: in love we were made, in love we live, and to love we shall return. In you, we are made complete. **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. We ask your continued blessing on Bishop Susan Johnson as she retires, the Synod staff and Bishop-elect Larry Kochendorfer and Cathy during this time of transition. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe, and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Nurturing God, sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by forest fires across our country. Transform the devastation of fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Grant peace where it is needed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Welcoming God, sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by discrimination of every kind. Our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine, Gaza and other places in the world who live with war or the threat of war every day. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Healing God, sustain all who are suffering in spirit, mind and body, and strengthen all who care for their needs. Hold in your care Myrtle, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Alice, Kyra, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda, Shirley, Nikola, Derek, Hugh and Ally, Jim, Donna, Helga, Margaret and Clayton, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Heather and Alan and those we name silently now . . . [silence]. Surround them with your love and your presence. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, sustain this assembly. We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. We pray for the ministries of our congregation, especially those who prepare coffee fellowship. Be near to Joan Ailsby and Myrtle Allison. Hold Pastor Joel, Vanesa and Hans in your care, that together we may view this time of waiting and anticipation as a gift from You. Held in your love and in your grace, may we share the good news of your gospel as we are called. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Hold in your loving arms Isobel, and Fran, Sandy, and LeslieAnn and their families, as well as Kate Black as they mourn the passing of Reinhold, beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother. Be a source of strength for Craig, Shelby and Audrey Kennedy as they say their good-byes to Craig's dad this weekend. Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember all the saints who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

SUNG BENEDICTION: Hope Everlasting (Romans 15:13)

Oh, where do we go from here?
Whom do we follow, which path do we take?
We'll follow wherever You lead.
We'll follow Your heart's desire,
And seek to be Your peace for a world in need.

Now, may the God of all hope
fill you with joy and peace, by faith,
And may your hope everlasting,
by the power of the Spirit, abound!
(repeat this section twice more)

Oh, where do we go from here?

Whom do we fol - low, which path do we take?

We'll fol - low where - ev - er you lead. We'll

fol - low your heart's de - sire, and seek to be your

peace for a world in need.

opt. round

Now, may the God of all hope fill you with joy and

peace by faith, and may your hope ev - er - last - ing,

by the pow'r of the Spi-rit, a - bound!

SENDING

God is. Love does.

In the footsteps of grace, we follow!

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