

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

September 14, 2025 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.



SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Choir Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Lector: Susan Urano; Time with Children: Elyce Friedman Ushers: John Laughlin, JoAnn Ball; Greeters: Anne Sparks, Mim Almquist; Acolyte: Rachel; Tray Server: John Molinaro*

INTRODUCTION

The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

“Let The Whole Creation Cry”

CLC Choir

BLESSING AND DEDICATION OF THE NEW PIANO

Dear friends: Today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart this piano for the glory and praise of God.

Sing with joy to God our strength
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.
Praise God with tambourine and dance;
praise God with strings and pipe.

We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe, for your abundant gifts.
The whole earth reflects your glory; all your creatures praise you.
We lift our voices to join the sounds and song of heaven and earth,
of things seen and unseen, in praise of your glory.
You alone do great wonders,
and by your wisdom you made the heavens and the earth.
You have breathed your breath of mercy into your children,
to hear from them a joyful shout with their own song.
In the fullness of time, O God, you sang your new song, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is exalted by poets, musicians, and all your saints.
Your Spirit is the breath of our music and song.
Send your blessing upon us and upon this piano,
which we dedicate to your praise and glory.
Enrich the lives of your people through it,
and grant us faith to hear your gracious purpose in it.
By your Holy Spirit, let this piano
enliven the proclamation of your word
to the building up of your church, to the glory of your name,
and to the good of all your people;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Let us pray.
Lord God, before whose throne trumpets sound,
and saints and angels sing the songs of Moses and the Lamb:
accept this piano for the worship of your church,
that with the voice of music we may proclaim your praise and tell it abroad;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with us all.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *The Lord's My Shepherd (ELW 778)*



1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make
3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres-ence of my foes;
5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake;
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;
my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.
with - in the paths of righ-teous-ness, e'en for his own name's sake.
for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.
My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.
and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell-ing-place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650
Music: BROTHER JAMES' AIR, James L. Macbeth Bain

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject

whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7-14

A reading from Exodus.

⁷ The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-10

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

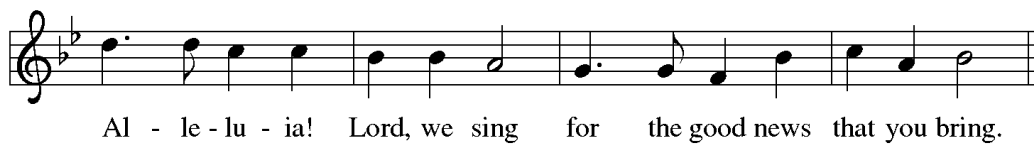
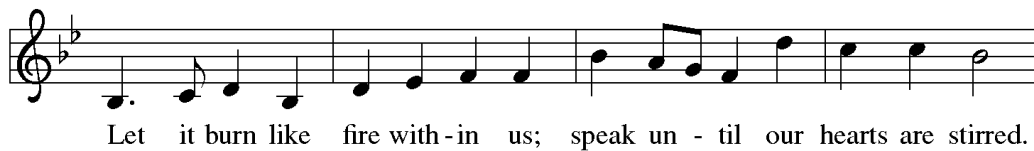
A reading from 1 Timothy.

¹² I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-10

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ Just so, I tell you,

there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound (ELW 779)



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of Care for Creation, let us pray: Creator God, the parables through which Jesus taught are full of care for creation, whether it be the shepherd seeking the lost sheep, the farmer allowing the 'weeds' and the wheat to grow together until harvest time or the mustard seed growing into a plant that will shelter the birds of the air. May we follow him in having that same care for creation today.

Lord hear us.

Creator God, you showed us how to live on this earth when you were present among us in the person of Jesus. May we live out the values he embodied, especially in his appreciation of the ordinary wonders of life: the lilies of the field, the sparrows that fly, the way the wind blows.

Lord hear us.

Creator God, inspire our Church to develop partnerships of action with others to address the pressing issues of our planet especially climate change.

Lord hear us.

Creator God, the sun, the wind and the waves are your gifts for the flourishing of the whole community of life on earth. Help us to use them creatively to produce sustainable energy for all.

Lord hear us.

Creator God, we pray for visionaries, artists and writers, that through their work we may see Creation afresh.

Lord hear us.

Creator God, we pray for the United Nations, for all international, national and local leaders and for managers of companies that they may be guided by your Spirit to make wise decisions about sources of sustainable energy for all.

Lord hear us.

Creator God, you have generously blessed us with an abundance of gifts in this, your world. Help us to share in that generosity by ensuring that your gifts will be available for the poor and for future generations.

Lord hear us.

God of the universe, we thank you for Your many good gifts. For the beauty of Creation and its rich and varied fruits, For clean water and fresh air for food and shelter, animals and plants. Forgive us for the times we have taken the earth's resources for granted. Transform our hearts and minds so that we would learn to care and share, To touch the earth with gentleness and with love, respecting all living things. We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste, greed and indifference. Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species. And help us to willingly share your gifts today and always.

AMEN

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

CHORAL OFFERING

“Offertory”

CLC Choir

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.
When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Thanks be to God!

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit
✠ bless you and give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

Take My Life, That I May Be (ELW 685)



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

DISMISSAL

The service has ended. **The ministry begins!**

Go in peace! Live by the Spirit!

Thanks be to God.

CHRIST LUTHERAN IS A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION:

We, the members of Christ Lutheran Church, seek to be grounded in the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe all people have been created in the image of God and affirm that everyone is of infinite worth and has a valuable story. Called by Christ to share God's Good News of reconciliation and wholeness, we welcome all who are seeking God. We embrace those of strong, uncertain, or undiscovered faith. We welcome people of all racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds; all ages and economic means; and all LGBTQIA+ identities. We welcome all marginalized people. We therefore intentionally educate ourselves and strive to become more effective in our social ministry and as advocates of equity for all God's people. In the words of the hymn, we are building "a house where love can dwell and all can safely live": a house where the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face, a house where we join together to bring an end to fear and danger, a house where all are welcome.