

# Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

## September 21, 2025 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

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

69 Mill Street • Athens, OH • (740) 593-3144

info@clcathens.org • [www.clcathens.org](http://www.clcathens.org)

*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: Elyce Friedman; Time with Children: Puppets!; Ushers: Tim Prange, Wanda Weinberg; Greeter: Mark Sunderman Acolyte: Eliza; Tray Server: Jim Sillery; Livestream: Doug Debrick*

### 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

*A Choral Introit* by Christian Yoder

CLC Choir

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.  
Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,  
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.  
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,  
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.  
You surround us with patience, kindness,  
and generosity,  
but we grow weary in doing what is right.  
In your mercy, forgive us.  
Do not give up on us.  
Heal us, break our bonds,  
and show us the path of life.  
Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.  
In the cross of ✝ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

### *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (ELW 686)

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:

all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

## 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.

**God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another.  
Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to  
the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

### **FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7**

A reading from Amos.

<sup>4</sup> Hear this, you who trample on the needy,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
<sup>5</sup> saying, "When will the new moon be over  
so that we may sell grain,  
and the Sabbath,  
so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier  
and practice deceit with false balances,  
<sup>6</sup> buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

<sup>7</sup> The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 113**

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;  
praise the name of the LORD.  
<sup>2</sup> **Let the name of the LORD be blessed,  
from this time forth forevermore.**  
<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its going down  
let the name of the LORD be praised.  
<sup>4</sup> **The LORD is high above all nations;  
God's glory above the heavens.**  
<sup>5</sup> Who is like the LORD our God,  
who sits enthroned on high,  
<sup>6</sup> **but stoops to behold  
the heavens and the earth?**  
<sup>7</sup> The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust  
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,  
<sup>8</sup> **enthroning them with the rulers,  
with the rulers of the people.**  
<sup>9</sup> The LORD makes the woman of a childless house  
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

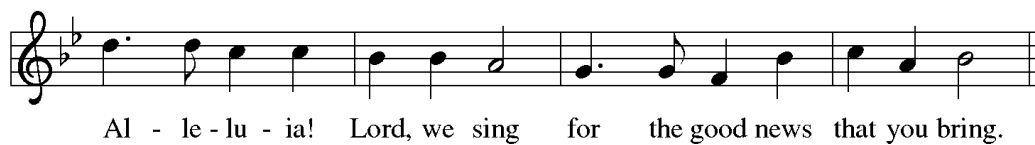
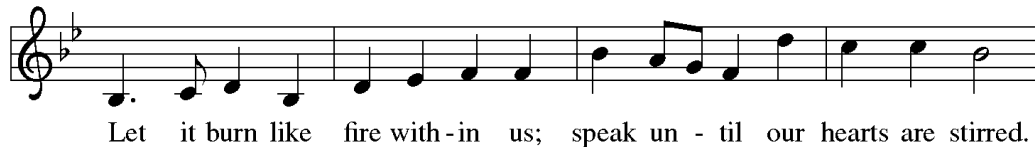
### **SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7**

A reading from 1 Timothy.

<sup>1</sup> First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup> This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of

the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God;  
 there is also one mediator between God and humankind,  
 Christ Jesus, himself human,  
<sup>6</sup> who gave himself a ransom for all  
 —this was attested at the right time.<sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I  
 am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.  
 The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

## HYMN

### *All Depends on Our Possessing (ELW 589)*



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and  
 2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y  
 3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -  
 4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing  
 5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry



con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.  
 joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.  
 new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.  
 hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.  
 soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are  
 God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly  
 To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing  
 I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so  
 Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.  
 guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.  
 I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build.  
 be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way.  
 way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

Text: Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
 Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God our Father, in whose eyes all life is precious, help us to value the worth of every individual, who you have created in your image.

On this Sunday in the Season of Care of Creation, I invite you to join me in dedicating ourselves to care for the Earth

Let us join with the Earth and with each other to bring new life to the land, to restore the waters to refresh the air, to protect all creatures. We pray for the victims of violence, whether humans, other creatures, plants or the climate. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

We join with the Earth and with each other to celebrate the seas, to rejoice in the sunlight, and to sing the song of the stars. Let us also celebrate our families and our friends who have been like families to us and let us share here any prayers, concerns or joys... Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We join with the Earth and with each other, to re-create the human community, to promote justice and peace. We pray for those who have been the cause of hurts to others. Enable them not only to admit their mistakes, but also to use their time and energy for the benefit of others and to join with others to promote healing of the earth Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We join with the Earth and with each other. We pray that the causes of division and hatred may be brought down. Where there is prejudice because of color, language, religion or culture, help us to see things through the eyes of others and act towards them as we would like to be treated ourselves. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

We join with the Earth and with each other, to pray for healing of the lands that have been so scarred by war and to heal the people living there, those caught up in problems not of their making. We pray especially for the children that they may have good friends and wise counselors to help them through this horror. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Let us join with the earth and each other to work towards the healing of the Earth and the renewal of all life.

In Jesus' name we pray. **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

## *Cherubim Hymn No. 7*

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

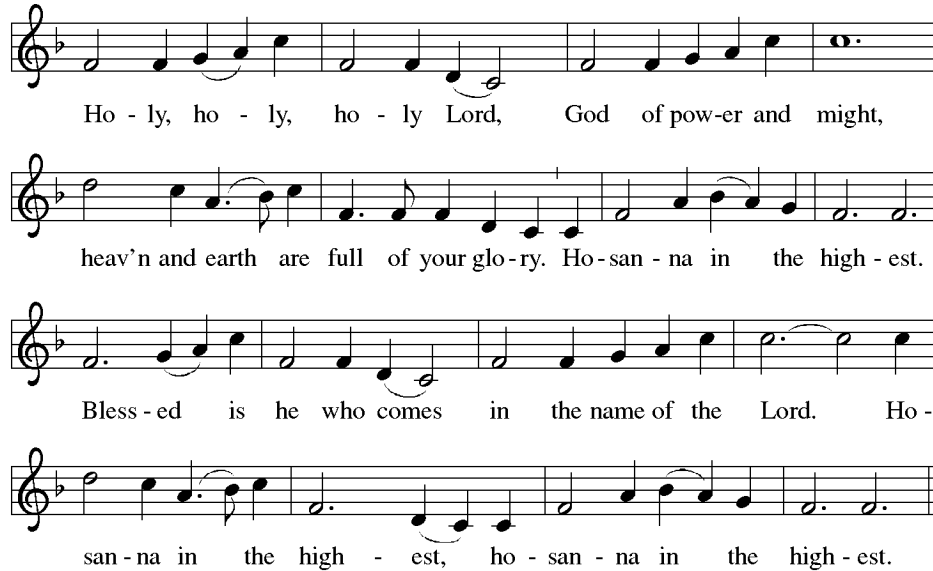
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### 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

### *Rise Up, O Saints of God! (ELW 669)*



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king-dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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## 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.*