

September 11, 2022
14th Sunday after Pentecost



NARROW STRIVE TO

ENTER THROUGH THE DOOR



LUTHERAN CHURCH
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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #235:1-4

“O Holy Spirit, Enter In”

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C *♩* Amen.

P Pastor

Confession of Our Sins

C Congregation

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C *♩* **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C *♩* **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P O Almighty God, our Maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given us His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives the power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C *♩* Amen.

The Introit

Ps. 117; 96:6;115:18

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** Splendor and majesty are before him; we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!
- C** **Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!**
- P** For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!
- C** **Splendor and majesty are before him; we will bless the Lord from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!**
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
- C** **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Gloria Patri

TLH #528:15

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

- C** ♪ **My heart for joy is springing And can no more be sad,
'Tis full of mirth and singing, Sees naught but sunshine glad.
The Sun that cheers my spirit Is Jesus Christ, my King;
That which I shall inherit Makes me rejoice and sing.**

Collect Prayer of the Day

A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.

- P** O Lord, You have called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Guide us by Your Word and Spirit, and lead us now and always into the feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** ♪ **Amen.**

Isaiah 66:18-24

"For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, ¹⁹ and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. ²⁰ And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the

LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. ²¹ And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD. ²² "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the LORD, so shall your offspring and your name remain. ²³ From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD. ²⁴ "And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh."

Hebrews 12:18-24

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

We boldly confess what God has taught us to believe.

I BELIEVE...

**in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was
conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and**

buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #605

"The World is Very Evil"

Luke 13:22-30

He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, ²⁴ "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷ But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' ²⁸ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹ And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

"Will / Fit Through Heaven's Narrow Door?"

- I. Strive with sanctimony, and you'll be sorry
- II. Strive with repentance, and you'll be saved



The Offertory

In this prayer we offer our hearts, asking God for the best gift, the Holy Spirit.

- G** ♪ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me Cast me not away from Thy presence; And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; And uphold me with thy free spirit. Amen.**

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

Hymn: TLH #417:1,2,6,7

"How Can I Thank Thee, Lord"

✠ **The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** ✠

The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

The blessing given by God for His people.

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

- G** ♪ **Amen, amen, a – men.**

Hymn: TLH #342

"Chief of Sinners, Though I Be"

Elders Meeting after church today.

CLC Call News: Pastor Nathanael Mayhew of Grace Lutheran, Sleepy Eye and Faith Lutheran New Ulm **has received** the call to serve Immanuel Lutheran, Winter Haven, FL. + Pastor Rob Sauers of Luther Memorial Lutheran, Fond du Lac, WI, **has received** the call to Redemption Lutheran, Lynnwood, WA.

Looking ahead:

September 14th – Bible Class 9:30 am

September 15th – Garden View 10:30 am

September 18th – Kansas City Service 5:30 pm

September 21st – Bible Class 9:30 am

September 28th – NO Bible Class, Pastor at SEPC in Wash. DC

September 4th Offerings:

	\$ 866.50
Weekly Offerings needed for budget	\$ 1,607.69
General Fund Balance	\$19,224.81
Faith-Blue Springs Balance	\$27,420.34
Total Cash All Funds	\$61,980.99

“Are You a Christian?”

Assumptions can be dangerous. Even though you don't specifically remember, you assume that your homework is done, only to realize in class Monday morning that you have nothing to hand in. You assume that the car insurance must have been paid, until the police officer asks to see proof of insurance and you discover the policy has lapsed.

What about our Christianity? Are you a child of God? For proof would you point out that you've read the entire Bible this year, that you attend church every Sunday, and that you are honest and hard-working? What about those times when we've been lazy in our attention to God's Word and when we have lied or held a grudge toward someone?

Jesus warns about taking salvation for granted and assuming that we are God's children based on what we do. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven...Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’” (Matt. 7:21-23)

However, it is also a dangerous assumption to think that therefore we can *never* be sure of our place in God's kingdom. We can be absolutely sure of our salvation by looking to what Jesus has done, not to what we do. He did everything for us. Our lives today will fall far short of God's holy standards, but Jesus has already fulfilled the law for us. Nothing we do can make up for a single unkind word or a work of love left undone. But Jesus has already suffered the wrath of God for us. “For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.” (1 Pt. 3:18)

Are you a Christian? Martin Luther offers a simple test in a few questions: “Do you believe that you are a sinner?”... “Are you sorry for your sins?”... “Do you also hope to be saved?”... “What has Christ done for you that you trust in Him?” Luther's answer: “He died for me and shed His blood for *me* on the cross for the forgiveness of *my* sins.” Are you a Christian? By Spirit-created faith in Jesus alone, you can answer with a resounding, “Yes!” There's no better way to begin another day of grace.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions; Sept. 12 - 17, '22

Mon Luke 15:1-10 The Pharisees and scribes grumbled about Jesus receiving sinners. He responded with a double parable about one lost sheep of a hundred being worth finding, and one lost coin out of ten being worth finding. Then He pointed out that the angels in heaven were not grumbling but rejoicing over one sinner who returns to God.

Tues 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 The Corinthians had excluded a manifestly impenitent man. Now he had repented, but some perhaps thought it too easy for him if he was simply received back. Paul urged them to show their love and receive him. We are reminded again how Jesus received tax collectors and sinners seeking forgiveness.

Wed Hosea 3:1-5 Hosea's life was used by God as a parable to call out to His people who were guilty of spiritual adultery, going after other gods. His purpose in all of this was that the children of Israel should return and seek the Lord their God, and come to His goodness in the latter days (v5).

Thurs Exodus 32:7-14 Once the spiritual adultery of the children of Israel showed itself on mount Sinai, where the people made a golden calf and worshiped it. When the LORD expressed his anger, Moses interceded for them, reminding the LORD of His gracious promises. The LORD was favorable to such reliance on His sure Word.

Fri 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Paul cannot speak enough about the grace that overflowed to him with faith and love in connection with Jesus. He counted himself foremost among sinners, a blasphemer and persecutor, and yet Christ Jesus came into the world to save even him! Surely such a Savior deserves our honor, glory and trust!

Sat Psalm 51:10-15 David, guilty among other things of murder and adultery, repented and found forgiveness in the Lord. Now he prays for a clean heart that finds in the Lord's salvation both joy and a willing spirit. "Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you" (v13).