

September 10, 2023
14th Sunday after Trinity



in the
CROSS
of
CHRIST
GLORY



LUTHERAN CHURCH
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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #430:1-4, 8

"What Is the World to Me"

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

C Amen.

Confession & Absolution

P We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from conception. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin and take away my guilt.**

P God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will!

C Amen!

The Introit

Ps. 37:4-7

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

P Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

C **Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.**

P He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.

C **Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!**

P Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Kyrie & The Gloria Patri

Latin for "Lord, Have Mercy" and "Glory be to the Father"



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:



We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Collect Prayer of the Day

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

- P** Almighty God, Your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow Him wherever He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Judges 16:22-31

But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.²³ Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand."²⁴ And when the people saw him, they praised their god. For they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us."²⁵ And when their hearts were merry, they said, "Call Samson, that he may entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars.²⁶ And Samson said to the young man who held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them."²⁷ Now the house was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there, and on the roof there were about 3,000 men and women, who looked on while Samson entertained.²⁸ Then Samson called to the LORD and said, "O Lord GOD, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes."²⁹ And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other.³⁰ And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life.³¹ Then his brothers and all his family came down and took him and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had judged Israel twenty years.

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing

you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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 #423:1-2, 5-6

"Jesus, I My Cross have Taken"

Matthew 16:21-26

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

Focus on the Cross

And you'll see: { I. The necessity of Christ's
II. The privilege of our own



The Offertory

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

☞ *♫ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #390 "Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast Blest"

✠ 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.

C Amen!

Hymn: TLH #354

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Prayer Opportunities:

- Continue to pray for **Carol Benter**. The Lord has blessed her stay at New Haven Care Center. Ask that He would continue to grant her strength and healing.
- Continue to pray for **Tim Lewis**. The Lord has blessed his recovery from his stay at the hospital. Ask that He would continue to strengthen him that he may return to work.
- Pray for the **students** across our synod and across our country. Ask that the Lord would keep them safe throughout the year and bless their studies.
- Pray for **all who are suffering**. Ask that the Lord would use these sufferings to bring them closer to Him, and that they would have faith in His promises.
- Pray especially for our **brothers and sisters-in-Christ** overseas who suffer greatly for their faith in Christ. Ask that the Lord would continue to bless them, grant them freedom to worship, and keep them strong in the faith to bring them home to heaven.

Looking Ahead: Sept. 21-24 – CLC ManUp! Retreat

Sept. 24 – Lay Service (Led by Art Pontow)

Sept. 26-28 – SEPC Pastoral Conference (SC)

Sept. 27 – No Bible Class (Pastor Out of Town)

Oct. 15 – Confirmation Sunday

CLC Call News: Pastor David Pfeiffer of Holy Trinity Lutheran in West Columbia, SC **is considering the call** to be the third pastor at Messiah Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI.

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

September 11 - September 16, '23

Mon John 5:1-9a A man at the pool of Bethesda has been afflicted by almost four decades of suffering, with no relief in sight. Jesus knows this and shows mercy greater even than the man's affliction. His healing enables the man at once to follow His Word, to take up his bed and walk.

Tues John 5:9b-14 Where Jesus shows mercy (yesterday's reading), others are more concerned about their rules for keeping the Sabbath. Jesus, who heals in order to help, not to gain fame, slips away into the crowd, but later reminds the man that it is to a new life (sin no more, v14) that he has been called.

Wed 1 Timothy 1:12-17 The apostle is full of thanksgiving for the mercy shown to him by the Lord Jesus. That Christ Jesus came into the world to save not the worthy, but sinners, blasphemers, persecutors, and violent people is nothing short of astonishing! To God be the glory!

Thur Psalm 50:14-20 The Lord speaks to His people in this Psalm, inviting their offerings and requests for help in the day of trouble. For those who recite the words but rely on sinful ways, He has sterner words.

Fri Psalm 50:21-23 Although God knows what the wicked are doing and will surely come in judgment, He still calls to them, and mercifully holds before them the salvation of God. Oh, that they might turn from their evil ways!

Sat 1 John 5:14-21 The fruit of God's mercy toward us is that we pray with confidence to Him, that we pray for one another, and that we avoid sinful ways. As Jesus told the man at Bethesda to sin no more (Jn5:14), so the apostle urges here: "Dear Children, guard yourselves from idols" (v21).