

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 3rd, 2021

LWML SUNDAY



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor:	Pastor Todd Hoefts	(289-362-0113)	pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Parish Assistant:	Louise Gondosch	(905-329-8579)	parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager:	Karen McCumber		business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary:	Pat Kimpel		secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook:	Lisa Gall		www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email:	Judy Mason		chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: O God, the Strength of all who put their trust in You, mercifully accept our prayer, and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without Your aid, grant us the help of Your grace, that, keeping Your commandments, we may please You in both will and deed; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Musician: Mayumi Munoz
Readers: 9 a.m. — Don Fretz 11 a.m. — Gloria Meyer

Children’s Message: (Oct. 3rd): “Jesus Loves Children” <https://youtu.be/5dGm37oxXgI>

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 1 Thess. 4: 9-12	Wed.: 1 John 4: 7-16a	Friday: 11 Cor. 8: 1-9
Tuesday: Gen. 4: 2b-15	Thurs: Deut. 30: 11-14	Saturday: Acts 5: 1-11

WORSHIP NOTE:

In compliance with Ontario Provincial Step 3, we can now offer in-person worship with allowances for social distancing.

- **Sunday Service will be live-streamed at 10 AM on Facebook:** (<https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC>).
- Following the service, a recording will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSq>).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.
- Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd (pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com). or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

EDUCATION HOUR FALL starting **October 3rd through Advent 2021: 10:10 AM — 10:45 AM**

- **Adult Bible Study** will be held weekly in the basement [SOUL area]
- **Sunday School** – Will be held on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month in basement classrooms
- **Youth Catechism** – Will be held on the 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month in the sanctuary pews

On the Sundays Pastor Todd teaches youth catechism, Louise will lead the adult classes (3rd & 4th Sunday). All other adult classes Pastor Todd will teach. 1st Adult study will be the book of JAMES.

SEMINARY GUILD MEMBERSHIPS are now available. Still only \$5.00. Please see Naomi Hohnberg!!

LWML Celebration Sunday! Lutheran Women in Mission praise the Lord for opportunities to share His message and love with people in all walks of life throughout our community and the world. Today the LWML invites you to join us in celebrating the joy of serving the Lord with gladness in this congregation. Together, we will offer our praise using the theme, **“Christ Lives in Me”** adapted from the 2021 National Convention based on Galatians 2:20 *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”* As the Gospel writers and St. Paul writings were encouraged by this knowledge may we too be encouraged to be diligent in sharing the Gospel message “for Christ lives in me”. Thank you for supporting the LWML through your mites and prayers. +

LWML-C/Mary Martha: It's that time of year again! We are so excited to invite you to join us at our LWML-C/Mary Martha meetings which will be held **in person!** *We will be still wearing masks and social distancing at our meetings. (You are welcome to bring your own beverage.)*

- Oct. 19· 7 p.m. LWML National Convention Highlights
- Nov. 16· 7 p.m. Pack socks for Warm Feet for the Street.
- Dec. 14· 5:30 p.m. Advent Tea

We are delighted to host the LWML Sunday & Fall Rally Worship Service at Christ Lutheran Church TODAY at 3 p.m. Please join us! Special guests will be Pastor Mohr and Brenda Ryan.

REQUEST REGARDING 2021 FALL BAZAAR: Our Bazaar this year will still be held similar to last year, with individual orders being filled, packaged and picked up at the door at a pre-arranged time. It seemed to work well that way last year and we were grateful for all the support. Prior to placing order forms in the bulletin this year, we would like to know if any of you have done or will be doing any specific things that you would be willing to contribute, that we can offer - for eg. canning and preserving (jams, jellies, pickles, fruit, sauces etc.) or specific crafts (sewing, knitting etc.)

Baking can and will be done according to whatever people place orders for, as it was last year, but these other kinds of items are usually done ahead of time and we will need to know details for them – kinds you have and amounts that you are willing to donate, so that they will be offered on a “first come, first serve” basis as would happen at a regular Bazaar. We will list those items and take orders for them only as long as they are available. Please let Carole know by email: carolepink121@gmail.com or by leaving a phone message: 905-682-9176 (or on my cell) Thank you.

SUMMER SAUSAGE: *(with proceeds as usual for the Bazaar)* will be available again this year, orders have to be in **BEFORE Thanksgiving**, so if you are interested, don't delay. Cost this year is \$18. There is a basket on the back table in the Narthex and slips of paper on which to write your name, contact information and number of sausage you want. So place your order today in the basket or you can also call or email Gloria directly: gloryb@primus.ca or 905-468-4002

Last Sunday Attendance: Sept. 26th, 2021 Attn: 9 a.m. – 36; 11 a.m.— 45; Total: 81

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (-)</u>
Current:	271,175.00	5,214.90	2,130.00	141,893.72	(61,487.53)
LCC Missions	20,000.00	384.62	128.00	12,494.50	(2,505.50)
Property Improvement:			102.00	4,357.50	



THANKSGIVING FOOD DONATIONS AND DISPLAY: We will again be collecting food donations of canned and dry goods and fresh garden produce to adorn our church on Thanksgiving Sunday which will be given to the CLTS Food Pantry. There will be a basket at the back of the church to put these donations in. Thank you!!

FLOWERS FOR ALTAR: If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign your name at the back of the church or email: secretary@christlutheransc.ca. Cost is \$25/bouquet

THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN: The Canadian Lutheran is available to read online at: WWW.CANADIANLUTHERAN.CA

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC: It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS: Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at:

http://christlutheransca.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church-Canada, East District Corporation
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3
Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1
or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tnq-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ).

Silver Spire United Church – Communal Shower Replacement Project:

<https://www.silverspire.ca/shower-project>

We have been contacted, as one of the downtown congregations, to support Silver Spire in this major undertaking to assist the homeless community in the downtown core. Estimated cost is \$200,000.

Council discussed the request and have decided to encourage our members that wish to support this project to do so by sending your donations directly to Silver Spire. All donations will be tax deductible.

If you prefer you can make a donation to Christ Lutheran Church and mark it "Silver Spire – Showers" the amount will be receipted by Christ Lutheran and forwarded to Silver Spire on your behalf.

Below you will find a link to the article that appeared in the Standard recently and the website for Silver Spire.

The request letter is posted at the back of the church on the bulletin board for you to review.

<https://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/news/niagara-region/2021/07/08/st-catharines-church-fundraising-for-showers-for-the-homeless.html>



CHRISTMAS URN WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2021

At "The Watering Can" in Vineland

Doors Open AT 6 p.m.

Workshop Starts Promptly at 6:30 p.m.

TRADITIONAL URN = \$75

proceeds to our Syrian Refugee family

Deadline for sign up and payment is Sunday, November 7th

If interested please notify Wendy Shook —905-380-6544

++MASKS MUST BE WORN DURING THE WORKSHOP++

Participants can bring in their own drinks but no drinks or food is to be shared



NIAGARA ZONE FALL RALLY

Christ Lutheran Church, St Catharines, ON

OCTOBER 3rd, 2021

REGISTRATION: 2:30 PM

THEME VERSES: Romans 10: 14,15

*“But how can they call on Him if they haven’t believed in Him? And how can they believe in Him if they haven’t heard Him? How can they hear if nobody preaches? How can men preach if they’re not sent? Just as the Bible says: How beautiful is the coming of those who bring good news?”
(Beck)*

SPEAKERS: REV RON MOHR; Lutheran Bible Translators
BRENDA RYAN; author, Journey Through the Bible

****Pandemic protocols remain in effect. Please wear a mask while inside**

INGATHERING: Lutheran Bible Translators—Canada (LBTC)

ONTARIO DISTRICT, LWMLC

Mission Grant Goal for 2019-2022: \$50,000

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Webinars, Concordia Reformer Seminary, Dominican Republic | \$ 7,200 |
| 2. Pastor/Missionary Suchart Chujit, Thailand | \$12,000 |
| 3. Quinte Lutheran Church, Trenton, Ont. | \$ 8,000 |
| 4. Deaconess Support, Cambodia | \$ 5,000 |
| 5. Seminary Cupboard, CLTS, St. Catharines | \$ 6,000 |
| 6. ACC Device for “Y’AWESOME” program for handicapped adults, St. Catharines, ON. | \$ 7,400 |
| 7. Interim Mission Opportunity Fund | \$ 4,400 |

MITES FOR MISSIONS:

Based on the biblical story of the widow’s mite (Luke 21:1-4 KJV), “Mites” are collected by women of Lutheran Church–Canada.

Mite contributions amount to thousands of dollars, supporting LWML–Canada District and National grants to mission projects around the world as well as implementing the LWML–Canada program.

40% – For national mission grants and mission program

60% – For district mission grants and mission

NATIONAL MISSION GRANTS 2021 - 2024

\$12,000	Street Reach Ministry, Regina, Sask.
\$18,900	Youth Worker, Richmond and Vancouver, B.C.
\$10,000	Land purchase for church, Costa Rica
\$ 5,000	National Youth Gathering, 2021
\$15,000	Electronic library upgrade, CLS, Edmonton
\$14,000	French Sunday school materials
\$12,000	New Mission site, Lviv, Ukraine
\$ 8,500	Youth Camp, Jackfish Lake, Roblin, Man.
\$ 8,600	Diaconal support, Nicaragua
<u>\$26,000</u>	Mission Opportunity Fund
TOTAL:	\$130,000

THE 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada Sunday

9 a.m. MISSION FOCUS SCRIPTURE SERVICE

October 3, 2021 9 a.m.

WE GATHER

FIRST HYMN:

"I Love To Tell The Story "

**I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story, because I know its true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.**

Refrain:

**I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.**

**I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest;
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.**

Refrain:

**I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.**

INVOCATION:

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

Amen.

Praise the Lord, all you people.

Praise him, all you heavenly hosts.

Praise him for his mighty acts.

Praise him for his greatness.

God calls us to be his people,

A royal priesthood and a holy nation,

To proclaim aloud the Lord's name,

To tell all the world the wonders of God's works.

For he satisfies the thirsty,

And fills the hungry with good things.

He has pity on the lowly and the poor.

He redeems the lives of those who call upon his name.

Whom shall the Lord send to them, and who will go for us?

"Here am I, Lord! Send me!"

Fellow partners in God's mission, let us confess our sins to God our Father, and ask Him to forgive us through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

[Brief prayerful silence]

Lord God, our heavenly Father, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from You and have chased after our own sinful desires. We fail in love, neglect firm faithfulness and ignore Your truth. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In Your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again back to You, and uphold us by Your Spirit, so that we may love and serve You in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Joyful are those whose sins are forgiven,
whose wrongs are pardoned.

Joyful is the one whom the LORD does not accuse of doing wrong
and who is free from all deceit.

As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. In the place of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive you all of your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

[Amazing Grace tune]

**Have mercy on Your people, Lord;
Have mercy Jesus Christ—
Have mercy on Your people, Lord;
Have mercy; grant us peace.**

HYMN OF PRAISE:

“Lord I Lift Your Name On High”

**Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us
You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high**

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The Lord be with you—

And also with you.

Let us pray: Gracious God and Father, Whose almighty power is made known most greatly in showing mercy and pity, so give unto us the fullness of Your grace that we may be partakers of Your Heavenly Treasure; we ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE WORD

The Old Testament: *Genesis 2: 18-25*

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Hebrews 2: 1-13*

Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while God added his testimony by signs and wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed according to his will. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, subjecting all things under their feet.' Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE:

"One Lord For Ev'ry Land"

hymn verses

**One Lord for ev'ry land, will be our theme for pray'r,
To spread the love of God's own Son, to people e'vrywhere:
One faith, one hope, one Lord for ev'ry land.**

**One Lord for ev'ry town and village where we live;
In city, home and neighbourhood, the love of Christ we'll give:
One faith, one hope, one Lord for ev'ry land.**

J. Fritsche, LCC © 1995, Central District LWML

Tune: Rejoice O Pilgrim Throng [Marion]

The Holy Gospel: *St. Mark 10: 2-16*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.' People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

GOSPEL HYMN FOR LWMLC: *“Lord Jesus You Have Called Us”*

Theme Hymn

MESSAGE

THE PRAYERS: Litany of Missions and Outreach

O God the Father in heaven:

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of all our souls:

Have mercy upon us.

Holy Trinity, one God:

We praise you and give you thanks.

For your gifts of life, relationships and purpose, and for the abundant blessings which you continually bestow upon us:

We praise you and give you thanks.

For our redemption through Christ's blood, for our adoption as children of God, for the holiness that you give us in baptism, and for the promise of eternal life:

We praise you and give you thanks.

For the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Canada, for the guidance and protection of the Holy Spirit to the present time, and for our renewal in faith and mission at home here and in other lands:

We praise you and give you thanks.

Continue to lead and guide us, O Lord, along pathways of truth and righteousness.

Lord, increase our faith.

Inspire us with your holy Word; love us with your life-giving Sacraments; teach us to find you in the depths of prayer; lift us with the songs of faith; and make us wholly yours.

Lord, increase our faith.

Help us to trust in you fully, so that we will give our lives, our loved ones, our cares, our resources, our church, and our mission entirely into your hands.

Lord, increase our faith.

Relieve us of our fears and anxieties; take away those things which hinder our faith, silence our witness, or stifle our mission.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Forgive us our sins and take away our guilt; refresh our souls, our spirits, and our minds through the healing power of the Holy Spirit; and make us bold as we live in the shadow of Christ's cross and resurrection.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Above all, use us, O God, as instruments of your love in the world.

Use us, O God.

Use us to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in a world where bad news abounds.

Use us, O God.

Use us to reach out to the lonely, the despairing, the poor, the despised, the sick, the grieving, the dying, and the hopeless -- those we know and those we do not know; help us to touch them with your healing power that they might find hope and renewal, forgiveness and faith, wholeness and purpose in you.

Use us, O God.

Use our lives as living examples of Christ in the world, giving himself in love.

Use us, O God.

Use our talents to bring Christ to all people and to bring them to him.

Use us, O God.

Use our resources and our offerings to undergird and continually expand our ministry in our community, in our synod and in our world.

Use us, O God.

Use our church as a place for all people, a refuge in the storm, a focus for faith, a house for worship, a portal of peace, a fountain of forgiveness, a school for learning, a resource for equipping, and a center for mission.

Use us, O God.

Almighty and all-loving God, we are nothing without you and without your love. And yet with you, we have all that we need: for life, for love, for faith, for strength, for purpose, for mission. Because you have called us, loved us, and saved us through your Son, we are your Church in this place. Guide and direct this, your Church, in your love. Bless our work to the increase of your kingdom. Work miracles among us and with us and through us, so that our ministry may continually grow, and so that many more may be called, loved, and saved through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

SENDING OUT

BLESSING:

The Lord Almighty order our days and our deeds in His peace.

Amen.

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The blessing of our Almighty God, the Father, the Son + and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

LAST HYMN:

"Here I Am, Lord"

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my peo-ple cry.
All who dwell in dark-ness now
My hand will save.**

**I who make the stars of night,
I will make their dark-ness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.
I have heard you call-ing in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn a-way.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love a-lone.**

**I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.
I have heard you call-ing in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.**

**Fin-est bread I will pro-vide,
Till their hearts be sat-is-fied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.
I have heard you call-ing in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.**

David Schutte words and music

<https://livingwaterunity.org/music-program/songs-of-celebration/here-i-am-lord/>

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
THE 19TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Lutheran Women's Missionary League Canada Sunday
Adapted from Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Creative worship resources 1989

THE ORDER OF MATINS

October 3, 2021 + 11 AM Traditional service

OPENING HYMN: **"I Love To Tell The Story " Verses 1 & 3**
I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory, of Jesus and His love;
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true,
It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest;
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

SPOKEN MATINS RESPONSES:

O Lord, open my lips!

And my mouth will declare Your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Make haste to help me O Lord.

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.

Praise to You, O Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Glory to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Oh come, let us worship Him.

PRAISE PSALM VENITE

COME, LET US PRAISE:

Psalm 95: 1-6 © Hope Publishers 1984

Come, let us praise the Lord,
with joy our God acclaim,
his greatness tell abroad
and bless his saving Name.

Lift high your songs
before his throne
to whom alone
all praise belongs.

Our God of matchless worth,
our King beyond compare,

the deepest bounds of earth,
the hills, are in his care.
He all decrees,
who by his hand
prepared the land
and formed the seas.

In worship bow the knee,
our glorious God confess;
the great Creator, he,
the Lord our Righteousness.

He reigns unseen:
his flock he feeds
and gently leads
in pastures green.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let my mouth be filled with Your praise --

And with Your glory all the day long.

Let us pray: Gracious God and Father, Whose almighty power is made known most greatly in showing mercy and pity, so give unto us the fullness of Your grace that we may be partakers of Your Heavenly Treasure; we ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

The Old Testament: *Genesis 2: 18-25*

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Hebrews 2: 1-13*

Therefore we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. For if the message declared through angels was valid, and every transgression or disobedience received a just penalty, how can we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? It was declared at first through the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while God added his testimony by signs and wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, distributed according to his will. Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere, 'What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honour, subjecting all things under their feet.' Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour

because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, 'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.' And again, 'I will put my trust in him.' And again, 'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.' This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSES: ***“Lord Jesus You Have Called Us”*** hymn verses [1 & 4]

The Holy Gospel: *St. Mark 10: 2-16*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.' People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN:

“All Children Jesus Calls”

[Tune: *Within the Father's House*]

All children Jesus calls, to His most dear embrace.

He holds them all with His strong arms through faith's baptismal grace.

Let all approach, He says, nor bar this humble claim.

The heirs of Heav'n are such as these, for all like these I came.

**With joy we seek You, Lord, both young and old to You,
And pray, as You show love to us, so love all children, too.**

P. Doddridge, 1826

SERMON

TE DEUM HYMN:

“We Praise You, O God”

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.**

**We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

**We worship you; God of our fathers, we bless you;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.**

**When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
with You, Lord beside us, Your strong arm will guide us
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.

THE PRAYERS:

Litany of Missions and Outreach

O God the Father in heaven:

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world:

Have mercy upon us.

O God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier of all our souls:

Have mercy upon us.

Holy Trinity, one God:

We praise you and give you thanks.

For your gifts of life, relationships and purpose, and for the abundant blessings which you continually bestow upon us:

We praise you and give you thanks.

For our redemption through Christ's blood, for our adoption as children of God, for the holiness that you give us in baptism, and for the promise of eternal life:

We praise you and give you thanks.

For the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of Canada, for the guidance and protection of the Holy Spirit to the present time, and for our renewal in faith and mission at home here and in other lands:

We praise you and give you thanks.

Continue to lead and guide us, O Lord, along pathways of truth and righteousness.

Lord, increase our faith.

Inspire us with your holy Word; love us with your life-giving Sacraments; teach us to find you in the depths of prayer; lift us with the songs of faith; and make us wholly yours.

Lord, increase our faith.

Help us to trust in you fully, so that we will give our lives, our loved ones, our cares, our resources, our church, and our mission entirely into your hands.

Lord, increase our faith.

Relieve us of our fears and anxieties; take away those things which hinder our faith, silence our witness, or stifle our mission.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Forgive us our sins and take away our guilt; refresh our souls, our spirits, and our minds through the healing power of the Holy Spirit; and make us bold as we live in the shadow of Christ's cross and resurrection.

Hear our prayer, O Lord.

Above all, use us, O God, as instruments of your love in the world.

Use us, O God.

Use us to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in a world where bad news abounds.

Use us, O God.

Use us to reach out to the lonely, the despairing, the poor, the despised, the sick, the grieving, the dying, and the hopeless -- those we know and those we do not know; help us to touch them with your healing power that they might find hope and renewal, forgiveness and faith, wholeness and purpose in you.

Use us, O God.

Use our lives as living examples of Christ in the world, giving himself in love.

Use us, O God.

Use our talents to bring Christ to all people and to bring them to him.

Use us, O God.

Use our resources and our offerings to undergird and continually expand our ministry in our community, in our synod and in our world.

Use us, O God.

Use our church as a place for all people, a refuge in the storm, a focus for faith, a house for worship, a portal of peace, a fountain of forgiveness, a school for learning, a resource for equipping, and a center for mission.

Use us, O God.

Almighty and all-loving God, we are nothing without you and without your love. And yet with you, we have all that we need: for life, for love, for faith, for strength, for purpose, for mission. Because you have called us, loved us, and saved us through your Son, we are your Church in this place. Guide and direct this, your Church, in your love. Bless our work to the increase of your kingdom. Work miracles among us and with us and through us, so that our ministry may continually grow, and so that many more may be called, loved, and saved through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER:

I thank You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day, also, from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION:

Let us praise the Lord:

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God the Father and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, + be with you all.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

"Here I Am, Lord"

**1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark-ness now
My hand will save.
I who make the stars of night,
I will make their dark-ness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.
I have heard you call-ing in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
I have wept for love of them.**

**They turn a-way.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love a-lone.
I will speak my words to them.**

Whom shall I send?

**Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.
I have heard you call-ing in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.**

**My hand will save.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide,
Till their hearts be sat-is-fied.
I will give my life to them.**

Whom shall I send?

**Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.
I have heard you call-ing in the night.
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.
I will hold your peo-ple in my heart.**

David Schutte words and music

<https://livingwaterunity.org/music-program/songs-of-celebration/here-i-am-lord/>

REV. TODD HOEFFS

PENTECOST 19 (series B) LWML Sunday

Scripture: St. Mark 10:2-16

Title: "Marriage & Mission -- It takes Two, at least...."

October 3, 2021

Message from Mark's Gospel, chapter 10, where Jesus teaches about divorce, marriage, God's divine union and speaks of faith in this way: "whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

There's an old African saying that goes: A Good marriage is between a blind wife & a deaf husband. Wife can't see his mess and he can't hear her complaints. A Christian marriage is when 2 people come together as one, joined by God with Jesus Christ as the centre of their lives together; Christ as the life source, as storehouse of nourishment, as support, providing a divine scaffolding, giving them everything needed to make marriage work.

By being at the centre of a marriage, the ability to forgive and love and communicate is available through the working of the Holy Spirit. That's what I tell couples getting married. The point of a Lutheran marriage is getting Christ to be the centre of your lives. So Jesus runs into a discussion on marriage and divorce in Mark's Gospel. Rather than rubber stamp divorce with a divine seal of approval, rather than pointing out who's to blame, Jesus goes to the basic beginning:

What God joins together no one should separate. And without child like faith in God's purpose and plan for His people, nothing good will ever come of anything in this life. That's the framework of the Gospel today. This even connects appropriately to Missions, even LWML, which is all about cultivating good human relationships as the message of Christ is cherished and shared.

Jesus' Love for us and all people of this world is where we begin. Even where He begins, with the creation of humanity. Christ is not only the centre of our lives, but He IS who we are. His life in us is our identity as Baptized believers. No one viewed Jesus as this kind of gift back when He lived on earth. Marriage, divorce and remarriage was a very hot topic in Jesus' time. The religious leaders around Jesus want to trap Him – because they think they know what God says. If Jesus says divorce is wrong --he negates Moses and 1000 years of marriage history; If Jesus says divorce is right, He opens up God's Word to all kinds of interpretation. Roman culture then allowed divorce in a similar manner which we would in our world today. Roman women had just as much rights legally as men. Jewish law, not so much. Men could divorce for any reason. Women could not. And children were like property. A divorced woman was as good as dead as her future was negatively sealed.

So Jesus is asked if divorce is lawful? What kind of question is that, anyway? Is it lawful?

Meaning, is it OK. Is it permissible? Why ask? Are the Pharisees looking to dump their wives?

"What did Moses command you?" Jesus answers, throwing it back in their faces! He always does that. That leaves the field wide open for interpretation. Moses wrote the Torah – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Now they must feel the pressure, consult their own faith memory and come up with the verse themselves. Not surprisingly, they choose a legal loophole. "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away."

From Deuteronomy 24. It was an accommodation given by God to Moses. A way to let people live on in spite of the separation. With a written receipt [much like our vaccination proof], women could live without fear. She could even re-marry carefully. But this was done "because of the hardness of the human heart." Hard hearts grow cold and evolve into unbelieving hearts. Hard hearts eventually die. Grow bitter and cold toward life and God. Allowing marriages to live on with anger and hatred and infidelity and strife Would be merciless, which our God is not. Hard hearts can't receive the gifts of God, including the spouse God has given. This is why He made a way out of human relationships through Moses. That's how much love and compassion our God has for His people. Because what He joins together stays joined, but what we join together is always stained with sin.

God always planned for two people to become one with His Son at the centre. With faithfulness toward Him and each other. This defines our lives as individuals and as married people. This defines our daily routine. Without Christ, we are without hope. Which is why it makes sense for Jesus to show off child-like faith. For God is showing a way of renewing human relationships through Jesus. The religious leaders want Jesus to pat them on the back for being so good, for staying married, for allowing divorce and yet treating people so poorly and stacking up so many rules and legalities keeping everyone farther away from access to God. Divorce is lawful, but adultery is not. Living outside the bond of marriage sins against God and each other. Adultery says to God I know better I don't want what you've given me I want more, I want what I want at the moment And I want to hide it so no one ever finds out I want to feel good about it And I want to keep it up as long as I can. Its about breaking promises and not only distrust of the marriage partner but distrust of God. It means the person with whom you share your life isn't good enough And what God has given is not good enough. It ruins so many lives and can take years to overcome fully. This is also why Jesus explains this in more detail with His disciples privately. Being married and getting a divorce just so you can go off and marry someone else God also sees as wrong and as unfaithful. That's what the religious leaders wanted to be OK'd. They wanted to play the field and move on from spouse to spouse. They who knew God's Word desired to go against it. This is precisely what's not only at the heart of adultery, But at the heart of all of our sinning. We don't want God to be enough. We don't want Christ at the centre of our lives to be our only life source. We want ourselves to be our life source. Forgetting that we can do nothing apart from Christ Who is our strength. But just so our human hearts do not get hardened toward our God, He comes to us in the person of Jesus. While Jesus is hard on the religious leaders, He was filled with compassion and mercy toward those caught in sinful behaviour. No one is without some form wrongdoing or wrong thinking. The church only gets into trouble when they try to isolate certain sins and make them the worst of the worst. Historically the church as an institution has had a habit of looking down upon Single mothers Divorced people, Alcoholics, drug addicts, People with AIDS, Women who've had abortions, People of colour, Gay people, Street people---There's always a danger when one particular issue is isolated as a problem Or treated poorly or ignored --And made into being worse than other things—Because it makes the rest feel superior. Like the religious leaders Jesus is dealing with. This is why He cuts to the heart and condemns unfaithfulness Their own unfaithfulness -- And lifts up child-like trusting faith. This is the faith Jesus gives to all who believe in Him. A faith that never lets go of Jesus Always believes He has our best interests at heart Who is always faithful to us Who never lets us down Who always gets us through. He is the One we by faith can rely on and run to every time we're in trouble And He will always be there for us On our side Giving us the grace to repent when we are wrong And live new when we are forgiven. This is what happens when Jesus remains the centre of our lives. We become one flesh with His Flesh and Blood by Baptism. Remember, Jesus is the one who leaves Father and mother at the cross. He is forsaken by the Almighty Father, and He gives His mother over to John. He's the One Who bleeds and dies. He's the One Who welcomes all into His death, as our sinful self is brought kicking and screaming to the cross and our new self is renewed and relaxed trusting in the Lord who removes all sin and death and evil from our lives. And when God joins us to His Son, no one can separate that. Only a faith that simply trusts like a child can remain joined this way. It's why we bring our babies to Baptism. That Jesus may touch them and bless them with water and the Word. Children are the only ones in the Gospel reading who "get it" in the way of faith, the only ones who have nothing to lose but depend on God for everything. Children & babies. Not the Pharisees. Not even the disciples. Kids. They're the picture of the kingdom of God. Because no matter how old we get, we are always dependent upon God for everything. We can only be faithful in our trust of God because He is faithful to us. And it is in this faithfulness that we can be good, honest witnesses. We can meet people with compassion and understanding. Then people will see that we aren't quick to condemn but swift to care The church is nothing more than a family of people surviving on forgiveness and grace who in turn welcomes without question and loves unconditionally. Let's help each other love one another as Christ loves us.

And in the child-like simplicity of faith, you get to enjoy a new start each day,
To have your unfaithfulness lifted,
To have your child-like faith fed and supported,
to love the Lord,
love your spouse, your children,
the very life God has given,
to be a true kid at heart
entering trustingly into God's Kingdom.
Amen.