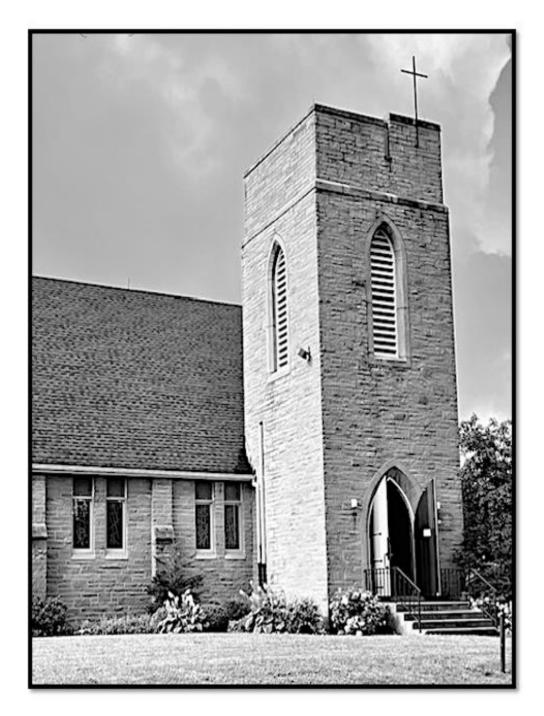
THE 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 27, 2023



Christ Lutheran Church of St. Catharines, ON

140 Russell Avenue St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1 Church: 905-685-8294 www.christlutheransc.ca ***********************************

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 Hoeffs(289-362-0113)pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.comParish Assistant:Louise Gondosch(905-329-8579)parish.assistant@christlutheransc.caBusiness Manager:Karen McCumberbusiness.manager@christlutheransc.ca

Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca

Facebook:Lisa Gallwww.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSCBulletin by email:Judy Masonchairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKTI9c_OIBbMqGwLw

<u>Prayer</u>: Merciful Father, since You have given Your only Son as the sacrifice for our sin, also give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work and daily follow in His way; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Mark 1: 21-28 Wednesday: Jas. 5: 13-18 Friday: Mark 5: 22-43 Tuesday: 11 Kings 20: 1-7 Thursday: Matt. 9: 35-38 Saturday: Luke 4: 38-44

Today's Service: Pentecost 13/ Communion LSB Setting One

Musician: Mayumi Munoz **Reader**: Howard Bogusat

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR JASON GILLARD----TODAY (August 27), at 4:00 p.m. at Christ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Grimsby. Preacher - Saulo Bledoff. Liturgist - Joel Kuhl, Lector - Richard Juritsch. A dinner will follow the service.

SEPTEMBER 2023 WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sept. 3rd – Service of the Word & Prayer with

Labour Day theme

Sept. 10th – Creative Holy Communion setting 3

Sept. 17th – Scripture & Son Service (The Band)

Sept. 24th – Holy Communion setting

Church News for September!

SOUL Ministries begins Thursday, September 7th -- 10-11:30 AM

Youth Catechism class begins Sun., September 10th-- 9:10-9:50 AM

Luther Manor Bible Study begins Mon., September 11th-- 10-11 AM

[prophet Nahum]



See you downstairs for Coffee, Tea and Treats Sunday September 10 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.

MMM, what is that delicious smell?

Coming Soon...

CHRIST'S CAFÉ

where coffee and salvation are always free!





YOUTH at FOOT-GOLF

(just before Mini-Golf):

Saturday, September 9, 1:00 p.m.

Join us at Brock Golf for a fun time.

The golf itself is paid for by the Youth Board. So come & bring a friend.

YES--you can choose to bring your own soccer ball.

Stay for the free 'mini golf' family fun-day at 2 p.m.

Those needing a ride talk with Louise 905-329-8579.

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact Judy Mason 905-641-754



FAMILY DAY "MINI GOLF"

at Brock Mini-Golf Saturday, September 9, 2:00 pm

Friends are Welcome!

Please sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend !!



ONTARIO DISTRICT LWML-C FALL RALLY

"FOLLOW THE ROAD RETREAT"

ONTARIO DISTRICT CHRISTIAN GROWTH RETREAT CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO

Friday, October 13th and Saturday, October 14th, 2023 Registration is due September 5TH

Friday: Rev. Jim Keller - opening and closing

Rev. R. Orlowski - speaker

Saturday: Morning - Heather Keller, RD, PhD, FDC, FCAHS

Schlegel Research chair in Nutrition and aging at University of Waterloo Kinesiology

and Health Sciences

Afternoon - Speaker is the Lion (mystery)

(We will have people acting as Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin Man and Lion)

This is the weekend for us to get together to study God's word and enjoy the company of old and new friends.

LWML-C Zone/National Events: You are invited to any or all of the events below.

September 23: Niagara Zone Retreat in Stevensville: Registration 9:30am – Ingathering to

Niagara Life Ministries

October 1: LWML-C Sunday

October 13 – 14: Retreat in Cambridge "Follow the Road!"

October 31: Deadline for submission of Mission Grant Proposals. Those mission grants will

be voted on at Convention in London, Ontario in July, 2024. Please see Lorraine

for details.

LWML-C/Mary Martha Christ Lutheran Events:

Tuesday, September 19, 7 p.m: Bible Study

Tuesday, October 17, 7 p.m.: Planning for the Bazaar and flower arrangements.

Tuesday, November 21, 7 p.m.: Packaging "Warm feet for the Streets" Care Kits for the "Out of

the Cold" program

Saturday, November 25: Christmas Bazaar

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 5:30 pm: Advent/Christmas Potluck (blessing) Dinner & Program



LOOKING AHEAD: Watch for details in the Fall for a WESTERN JAMBOREE

The Fellowship Committee is planning on hosting a fellowship event on **Saturday**, **September 30**th. Cost would be only to cover expenses. Live band, pulled pork & beans,

photo booth, etc. It should be a lot of fun, watch bulletin for more details as it gets closer.



Last Sunday Attendance: August 20th, 2023 Attn: 10 a.m 91									
	Budget	Weekly Need	Last Sunday	Year To Date	+ or – ()				
Current	297,841.00	5,840.02	1,838.00	137,982.76	(56,759.43)				
LCC Miss	ions 17,000.00	333.33	120.00	10,772.00	(343.38)				
Property I	mprovement:		49.00	3,960.00					

2023/2024 SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Christian education of our children is important to all of us. We are looking for people to help "team teach" our Sunday school children this year; September - December; January - June. If you are excited to share God's Word with inquisitive minds, we invite you to speak with our Parish Education Chairman, Brandon Kemp, or Louise.

GREETERS: A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board and we would ask that anyone who is interested in assisting for the coming year to please sign up. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know everyone in the congregation.

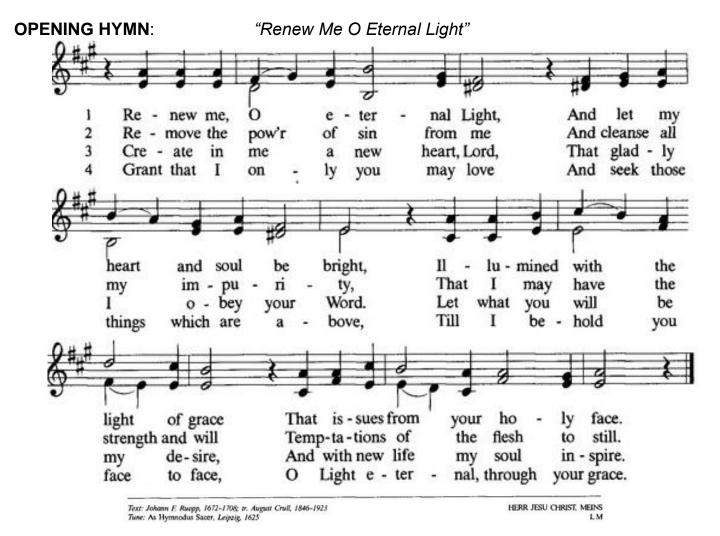
POWER POINT VOLUNTEERS: – The Worship Committee is urgently seeking two (2) volunteers to assist with the preparation of the weekly PowerPoint projection. Frequency of PowerPoint preparation would be on a rotating basis and dependent upon the number of helpers. PLEASE give prayerful consideration to serving our Lord in this capacity. For more information, please speak to Kathy Kuhl, Judy Slingerland or Pastor Todd.



<u>Granny Squares still needed</u>: This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. Once there are enough, we will make a Caring Squares blanket for whoever may be in need of a hug. On behalf of the Caring Squares, if you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

HOLY COMMUNION LSB DIVINE SERVICE SETTING ONE

August 27th, 2023 + 10 AM Worship



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Brief silence for reflection]

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your Holy Name. Amen.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake, forgives you all of your sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SPOKEN KYRIE: Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

HYMN OF PRAISE:



PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: O God our Father, give to us, we pray, the help needed to grow in faith, hope, and love; and make us love what You want, so that we may receive what You promise. 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: Isaiah 51: 1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness, you that seek the LORD. Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him but I blessed him and made him many. For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation; for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly, my salvation has gone out and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats; but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended. This is the Word of the Lord.

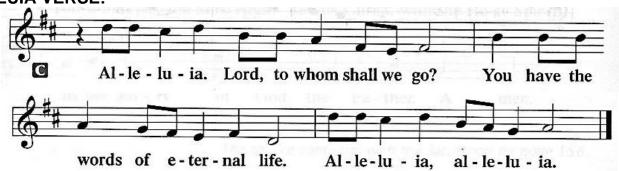
Thanks be to God.

The Epistle: Romans 12: 1-9

[St. Paul writes:] I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE:

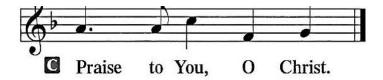


The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 16: 13-20

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter:



Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE NICENE CREED:

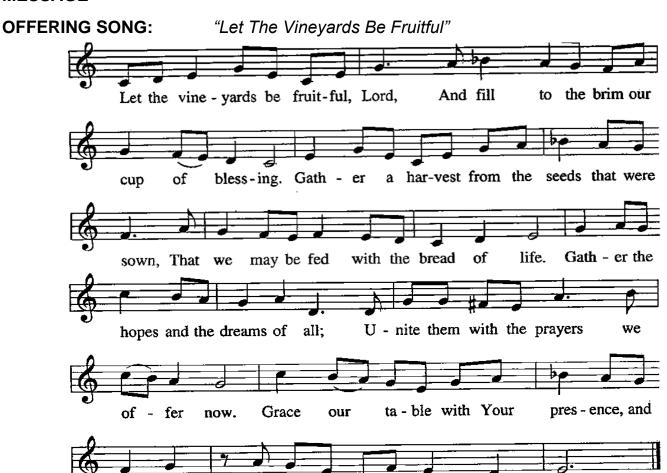
I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.





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MESSAGE



THE OFFERINGS are gathered

give us

PRAYERS

A fore-taste of the feast

to

come.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your marvelous mercy which adopted us into your true Israel by baptism, and which works faith in Christ through the gospel. Send messengers to take this good news to all who need renewal, and to all who neglect their faith, and bring them to a change in heart and life.

Hear us, O God, Your mercy is great.

We are weak Lord, but you are strong. Protect your church and build its faith so that we may not despair in times of trouble, but be sure that not even death and hell can overcome what you build. And so protect and strengthen all who suffer persecution for their faith, and in particular all suffering Christians around the world.

Hear us, O God, Your mercy is great.

Guide the pastors of your church, that they may use your authority to forgive sins with wisdom and compassion. Bring each person of the church to know the gifts you have given them, and to serve you in word and deed accordingly.

Hear us, O God, Your mercy is great.

Unite all the members of our families in faith and devotion to you Lord. Thank you for the faithful families of this congregation and for their service to your church, and give each a clear sense of their gifts and calling.

Hear us, O God, Your mercy is great.

Heal and help the sick, O Lord, and support those with chronic pain, medical intervention or disability, especially [Names added]. Meet the needs of all we know who are in trouble and whom we now name in our hearts... (brief silence)

Hear us, O God, Your mercy is great.

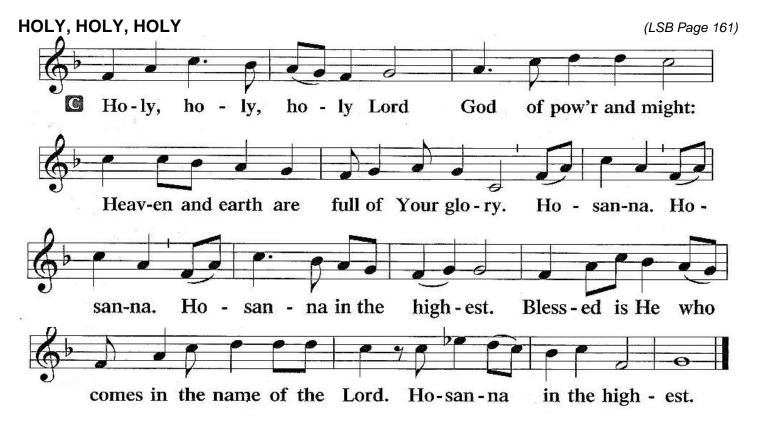
Heavenly Father, move us to offer ourselves in service to you, so that your love may be seen also through us. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

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 Him thanks and praise. It is truly good, right and joyful, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord; 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 the church on earth, and the company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:



THE LORD'S PRAYER: Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name....

WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "Take, eat; This is My + Body which is given for you, this do, in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

LAMB OF GOD:



HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

For those who have need, please feel free to stand at the rail if kneeling is difficult. The common cup and trays of individual glasses are available. Gluten free wafers are also available. Light purple glasses of Communion wine mixed with water are in the centre ring of the silver trays.

COMMUNION HYMNS: "Blessed Assurance" vs 1 & 3 www. Hymnary.org

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood

Chorus: This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long. Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest, Watching and waiting, looking above, filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Chorus: This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long; This is my story, this is my song, Praising my Savior all the day long.

Words: Fanny Crosby, 1873 Public domain



Daniel Schutte ©1981.https://www.firstpreswh.org/daily-devotional/i-the-lord-of-sea-and-sky-here-i-am-lord-hymn-69/

"This Is The Day"

This is the day, this is the day, that the Lord has made. We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

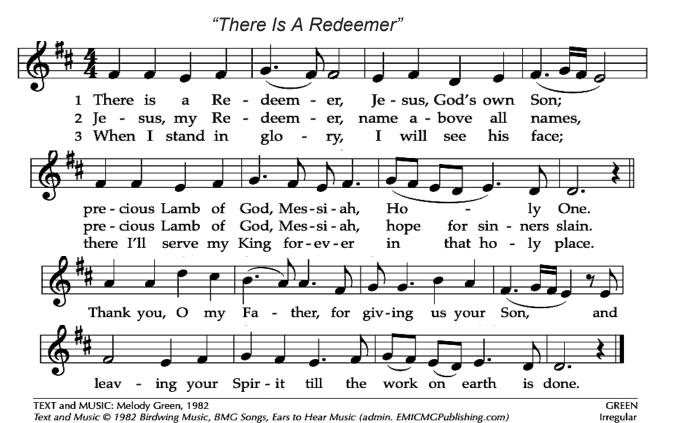
Open to us, open to us, Your gifts O Lord, Your gifts, O Lord. Here we receive, here we receive and share Your Meal; and share Your Meal. Here we receive Your Body, Lord, Here we receive Your Blood, dear Lord. Open to us, open to us Your gifts, O Lord.

You are our God, you are our God; we will praise your name, we will praise your name; we will give thanks, we will give thanks for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.

You are our God; we will praise your name; we will give thanks for your faithfulness.

You are our God, you are our God; we will praise your name.

Words: Les Garrett © 1967, 1980, Scripture in Song. Admin by Integrity Music., alt.



https://saintjamespres.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/443-There-Is-a-Redeemer.pdf

"Built On The Rock"



- 1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e ven when stee ples are 2 Sure ly, in tem ples made with hands God the Most High is not
- 3 Christ builds a house of liv ing stones: we are his own hab i -
- 4 Yet in this house, an earth ly frame, Je sus the chil dren is
- 5 Through all the pass ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall crum-bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are ing; dwell ing high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing tion; he fills to praise his name, bless hith - er we come faith in ing; may come hear your Word, who here this ring ing, man - y



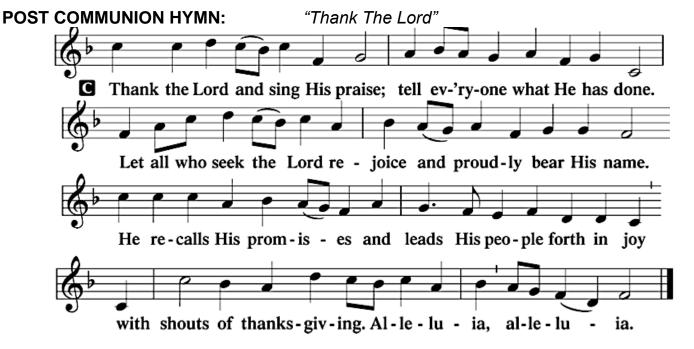
chim-ing and call - ing—call - ing the young and old to rest, call-ing the tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a - life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their Sav - ior con-fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak-ing with prom-ise is bring - ing: "I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



of those dis-tressed, long - ing for life souls ev - er - last ing. bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem ple. bless-ings up - on them be - stow midst will show his grace, cov - e - nant, grant-ing his chil-dren the his king dom. my peace I leave with you. world, my face shall see; \mathbf{A} men."

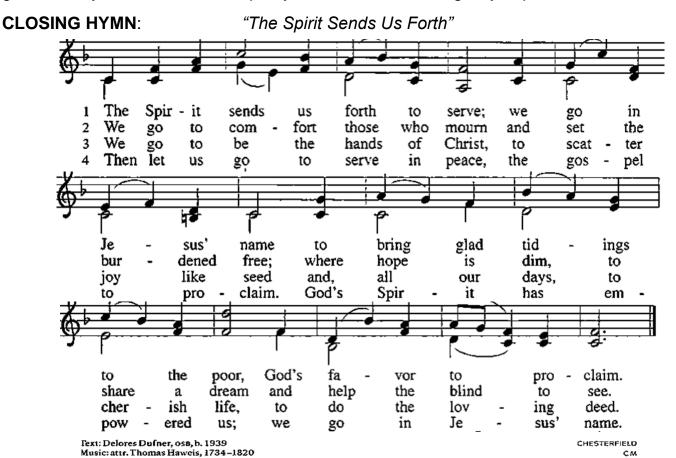
Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt. Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMEL HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887 Text © 1958 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress

https://redeemerlutheran.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Aug-27-2023-Bulletin.pdf



POST COMMUNION PRAYER: O Father, as You fed Your children with the True Manna, the Living Bread from Heaven, give unto us, we humbly pray You, that the Body and Blood of Your Son may be our support throughout our earthly pilgrimage, until we reach that land where there is neither hunger nor thirst, Your magnificent Heavenly Banquet; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and rules with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

BLESSING: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour and + give you peace. **Amen**.



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REV. TODD HOEFFS PENTECOST 13 Matthew 16:13-21

Lose Your Life: Share The Gospel

We learn at an early age the world is full of bullies. Bullying is an easy way by forcefully grab power. Bullying looks attractive to some. Seems strong. But it's not. Bullying is weak. Ego driven, deeply insecure and fear based. My parent's advice for bullies when I went to school: The bigger they are the harder they fall! "Make a fist and plough `em on in the mush"! Truth. A couple times in life I've had to do that. Proper advocacy against bullying is crucial and healthy in any place. And the church is no place for it either. Satan is like a bully. Arrogant, evil, nasty, and chained up to hell. His fate is sealed. Jesus' shed blood sweeps Satan into the eternal abyss While at the same time Jesus' Blood sweeps us all into Heaven. We can face Satan toe to toe with all the faith-filled confidence Jesus gives. The subject of Satan and hell makes many uncomfortable. It need not. Hell here is Hades in Greek. Understood as the land of the dead. A temporary place awaiting the lake of fire that burns it all up on the last day. Satan's fate is eternal death. Making his threats harmful but empty. Like a bully, they can only draw power from the fear they create. While Jesus walks the earth, Satan is looking to thwart God's plans. Jesus doesn't ask His disciple's identity questions for no reason. He's well aware of His widespread yet misunderstood reputation. Jesus walks through Caesarea Philippi, a Roman town in Northern Israel right on the Syrian border. There are many religions in the area. 14 different temples honouring 14 different gods dotted the map. Israel King Herod the Great had just finished building a large temple for the Romans to worship Caesar. Nearby, there's a large rock cliff, hundreds of feet high. Underneath a cavern, called the Gates of Hades. A sacred yet fearful space. At this location is the ROCK where Jesus calls Simon "Petrus." Peter. Don't think ROCK, think small stone, like a garden rock. Even a pebble. ON THIS ROCK means JESUS takes a hold of Peter and picks him up like a child and sits him down onto Himself, WHO IS THE ROCK. On the Rock of Christ, not Peter, the future church is built. It's no let down. With Peter, because of the faith we have been given in Christ, we are all stones, built upon the Solid Rock foundation of Jesus. The church will rest on Jesus and be safe—In the midst of evil and all different kinds of beliefs. No wonder Jesus asks "who do people think I Am"? Well, they say You're John the Baptizer, or Elijah, or like other prophets, Maybe Jeremiah? OK. Who do YOU say that I Am? YOU ARE THE CHRIST, the SON of the LIVING GOD! This Christ title is just like the OT MESSIAH. We think of Messiah like Saviour or Redeemer; For them, it holds strong political identity. The Jewish Messiah is a warrior like the great King David. The Messiah will lead a religious army to defeat Rome [so many think]. Peter acts as a soldier in the Messiah's army when he pulls out a sword while Jesus is arrested before His crucifixion. This is a critical Gospel journey juncture. As they are just 12 people among many different people and things and towering landscape. Peter speaks this faithful sentence to Jesus. A solid confession of faith. Only the Father can make this so. Because we know and believe in what the Messiah has done. Peter is living in the strange feeling between knowing the answer to Jesus' question and waiting to see the outcome of this question. To not only understand, but believe and proclaim that the war this Messiah fights Will only bring about His death, not ours, And in that death, all of us can live a new life. A lot of religious assumptions swirl around in our heads about Jesus. When we're angry, we want Jesus to destroy them [after they suffer.]

When we're sad, we want Him drying our tears and giving us a way out. When we're desperate, we demand instant rescue.

Or we get a bad attitude and entitled and think God never should've allowed anything bad to happen in the 1st place. As if our faith, like a warrior shield, protects us, making us bullet proof. It's easy crafting Jesus into a nice little trophy, as if we earned it And He better do what we expect. This is why God lets us walk close to the edge, or suffer a few battle scars, To remind us that HE is in control, that HE has our backs and the ending is already written in Jesus' red Blood. One aspect of a worship life in the church that is so good is -We are divinely tapped on the shoulder and reminded, yes, I am your God, I love you and I dwell within you. Our Lord Jesus is here, He is in the words, the music, the thoughts, the hearts, the conversations The water, the bread, the wine. People get lost when they think God is just out there, far away, not too concerned except making our life hard...Its easy being an atheist when you forget God has come to live in you by faith. When He's a negative bad guy boss sitting up high on a golden throne. He represents every nasty overlord we could dream up. Satan likes that, too. Then he has you believing his lies. Discipleship is a lifelong journey of falling down and having God pick you up. Because Jesus promises, As His living Body in the every day world, nothing can stop you. The Holy Spirit keeps winging you in safety and hope. What can harm you? Satan? No. The gates of hell shall NOT prevail against you. Those gates, like the ones leading down into that deep dark Greek god cavern, Are no defence against followers of Christ. Gates are for protection and defence. Jesus blows them off their hinges the moment He rises from the dead and proclaims to them in word and glorious bodily example! I win. Every man, woman, child, person, animal, soil, flower, river -WINS! Death loses. The war is over. Even though the spiritual battle rages on. Hell's gates will not withhold the army of believers beating against them. Hell is like a broken-down old house. Rusty, dry rotted and indefensible. That's what prevail here means. It's a Greek Military term. Your enemy will not overpower you, because your army will take them down! Good idea for Matthew to use a military term when this is all happening in the middle of Roman occupation. Jesus is at the beginning of starting the skirmish in battle. Calvary is the end, the Hill HE dies on. His cross is His weapon, nails, crown of thorns, spear, these make up His arsenal. He suffers. He hurts. He bleeds. He absorbs all the hades we escape, and then the act of death is killed. Jesus overcomes evil with good, and makes all things new. The land of the dead is powerless. And its gates won't hold back any faithful soldier of Christ. That includes us too. It's not that hell can't overcome the Church; but hell can't withstand nor prevail the Gospel of Jesus and His Body in the world, which is the Church. The devil's dominion over the world is also gone. We forget that our Lord's church is not just a building on Russell Ave, But the living, active real body of Jesus. The Church calls her people in by the Gospel, gathers them with the Spirit around Scripture, Songs, Hymns, Prayers, forgiveness, welcome, care, concern and Holy Communion. And all of this then draws us back out into the world as Jesus' hands, feet, mouths, eyes, ears and hearts. Isolation from spiritual gathering unhealthy. Gathering is for the good of all of us. Like bricks in a home, we're inter-connected on the Rock foundation of Christ and remain strong. An unbeatable family.

Thriving on grace. Radiating out the compassion we receive.

Advocating those needing help. Speaking up to bullies.

Protecting the lost or struggling....

Supporting each one of the stones so we all remain

Looking after each other, looking only to the ROCK upon which we live.

Amen.

Bible Wordsearch 🖔



Puzzle #81

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Exodus 20:1-21

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AARON LIKENESS ADULTERY LORD BORDERS MERCY CHILDREN MORNING CLOUD MOSES MOTHER COMMAND COVENANT MOUNT DESTROY NEIGHBOUR FACE OBSERVE FALSE PARDON FATHER REST SABBATH GRACE SACRIFICE GRAVEN HOLY SEVENTH HONOUR SIN IMAGES SPOKEN INCENSE STEAL ISRAEL TABLES KILL TENT LEAVEN VAIL

WITNESS

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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