

THE 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 3, 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 Hoefts	(289-362-0113)	pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
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Facebook:	Lisa Gall		www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email:	Judy Mason		chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw

Prayer: O Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us without all doubt to know Your Son Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life that, following His steps, we may steadfastly walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Jas. 2: 1-13	Wednesday: Zech. 7: 8-14	Friday: Heb. 2: 11-18
Tuesday: Matt. 10: 40-42	Thursday: Exod. 22: 20-26	Saturday: Jer. 2: 13-19

TODAY:

Worship: 10:00 am – Service of the Word & Prayer with a Labour Day theme
Musician: Mayumi Munoz
Reader: Chris Mason:

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Tuesday:	7:00 p.m. – Parish Ed ZOOM Meeting
Thursday:	10:00 -11:30 a.m. – SOUL
Saturday:	1:00 p.m. – Youth Foot-Golf (free) 2:00 p.m. – Family Day Mini Golf at Brock (free)
Sunday, Sept. 10:	9:00 – 9:50 a.m. – Sunday School RALLY DAY 9:10 – 9:50 a.m. – Youth Catechism 10:00 a.m.- Worship/Communion/ Installation of Council
Monday, Sept. 11:	10-11:00 a.m. – Luther Manor Bible Study

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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]

PLEASE NOTE: The Worship Committee Meeting for Tuesday, September 5th has been cancelled.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY!: September 10: Please be sure to pass the word on to family & friends. We will have Preschool in the nursery and Grades 1-6 together. Sunday School will be a weekly event from 9:00 - 9:50 a.m. with a **Coffee Hour** during--not just for families but a time of sharing for everyone!

YOUTH CATECHISM: Sunday, September 10, **9:10 – 9:50 a.m.**



MMM, what is that delicious smell?

Coming Soon...

CHRIST'S CAFÉ

where coffee and salvation are always free!

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

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please
contact Judy Mason 905-641-7546

Think of all the amazing things Paul
accomplished for the Kingdom.
He did it all without coffee.



WE HAVE COFFEE.
Just imagine what we're capable of.



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.



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 !!



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 30th. 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.





"BLITHE SPIRIT"

Produced by the



Club Capri

36 Cleveland St., Thorold, On

Wednesday, September 16th, 2023 7:00 p.m. ~ 9:00 p.m.

Indulge in an unforgettable night of tantalizing cuisine and pulse-pounding intrigue at our thrilling Murder Mystery Dinner Theater event. Delve into a captivating web of secrets, deception, and enigma, all the while savoring delectable dishes. Can you unravel the mystery before the final course? Get ready to put your detective skills to the test in an evening brimming with suspense and culinary delights. This event promises an immersive experience that will leave you on the edge of your seat.

Cost is \$55.00 per person. Call Judy Mason by Sunday, Sept. 3 at 905-641-7546 as time is of the essence!



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

Last Sunday Attendance: August 27th, 2023 Attn: 10 a.m. – 87

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current	297,841.00	5,840.02	1,838.00	137,982.76	(56,759.43)
LCC Missions	17,000.00	333.33	120.00	10,772.00	(343.38)
Property Improvement:			49.00	3,960.00	

THANKSGIVING DONATIONS / DISPLAY!!! As we do each year in thanks to God for

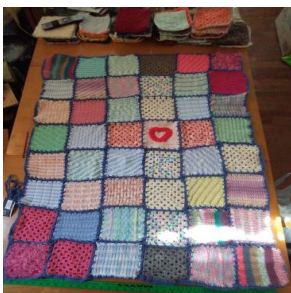


His rich blessings to us, we are gathering food, both produce & non-perishable goods to use in our Thanksgiving Display (October 9th). We display these things as a way of focusing our attention on God’s abundant blessings to us. We will then donate the food items to the Seminary Pantry, and so we multiply our thanks because of their thankfulness to God for our generosity. *Please place in the collection bin at the back of church. Thank You!!*

FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the glory of God by the John & Louise Gondosch & family to celebrate the occasion of John’s birthday yesterday.

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.

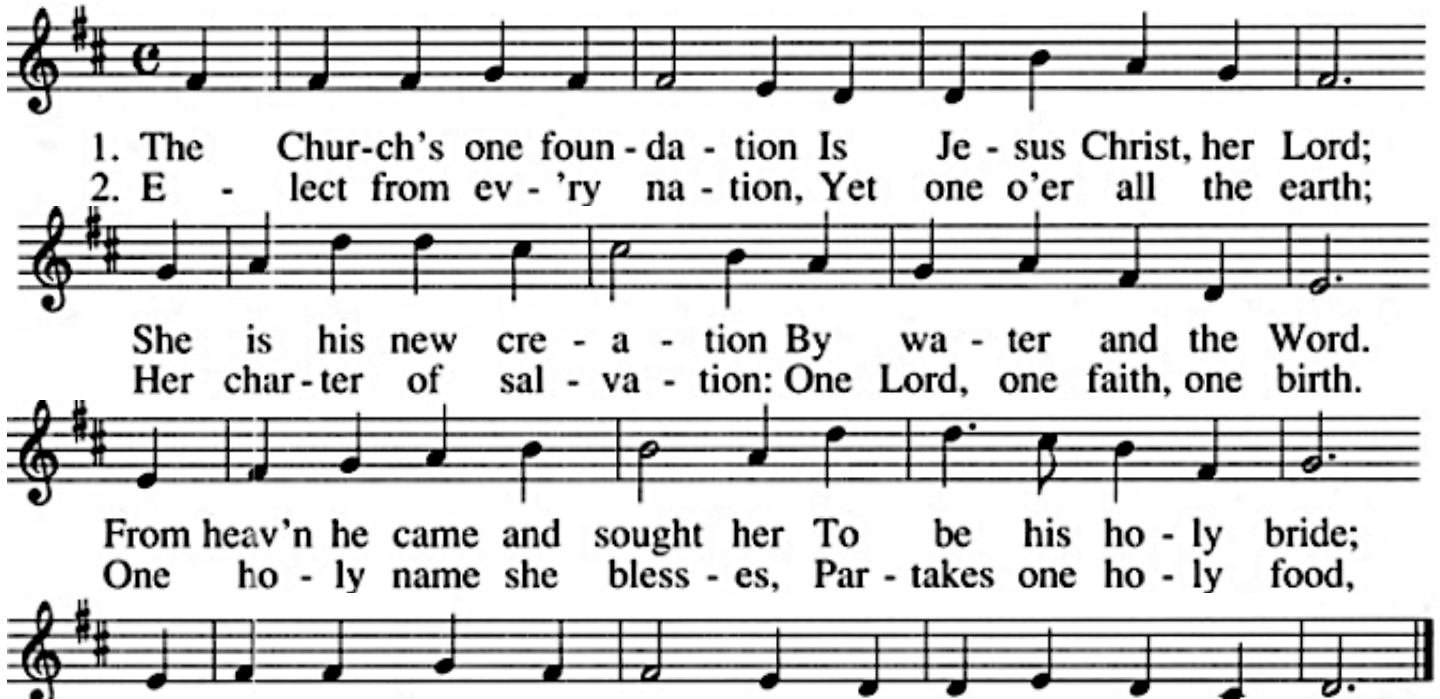
POWER POINT VOLUNTEERS: – The Worship Committee is urgently seeking two (2) volunteers to assist with the preparation of the weekly PowerPoint projection. Frequency of PowerPoint preparation would be on a rotating basis and dependent upon the number of helpers. PLEASE give prayerful consideration to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



Granny Squares still needed: 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)

The Service of the Word For Prayer
The 14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 3, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

GATHERING HYMN: *“The Church’s One Foundation”*



1. The Chur-ch's one foun - da - tion Is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, Yet one o'er all the earth;

She is his new cre - a - tion By wa - ter and the Word.
Her char - ter of sal - va - tion: One Lord, one faith, one birth.

From heav'n he came and sought her To be his ho - ly bride;
One ho - ly name she bless - es, Par - takes one ho - ly food,

With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.
And to one hope she press - es With ev - 'ry grace en - dued.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900, alt.; tr. by Lefferd M. A. Haughwout, 1873–1952
Tune: AURELIA, 7 6 7 6 D; Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

https://hymnary.org/text/the_churchs_one_foundation

INVOCATION:

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

You are a people for the Lord’s treasured possession, as He has promised you;

a people holy to the Lord our God! *(Deut. 26:18-19)*

You shall therefore lay up these Words of Mine in your heart and in your soul; teach them to your children.

Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. *(Deut 11:18-20)*

Man does not live by bread alone;

But by every Word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. *(Deut. 8:3)*

PSALM 26: 1-8

International Children’s Version

Lord, defend me.

I have lived an innocent life.

I trusted the Lord and never acted out any disbelief.

Lord, try me and test me.

Look closely into my heart and mind.

I see your love. I live by your truth.

I do not spend time with those who speak in false tales.

I do not make friends with people who hide their sin.

I hate the company of evil people. I won't sit with the wicked.

I wash my hands to show I am innocent.

I come to your altar, Lord.

I raise my voice in praise.

I tell of all the miracles you have done.

Lord, I love the Temple where you live. It is where your greatness is.

SCRIPTURE SONG:

Rev. 7:10, 15:3-4

1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a -
broad his won-der-ful name; the name, all-vic-tor-ious, of
Je-sus ex-tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o-ver all!

**Our God rules on high, almighty to save,
and still He is nigh, his presence we have;
the great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our King.**

**"Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son;
the praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Music: attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

LYONS
10 10 11 11

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

We pray: Watch over Your church, O Lord God, with Your constant mercy, because without Your never-failing support we would fall. Keep us from what might hurt us, and lead us to what is good for 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.**

WORD

The Old Testament: *Jeremiah 15:15-21*

O Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice, under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore thus says the Lord: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Romans 12:9-21*

[St. Paul writes:] Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE: *"To God Be The Glory"*

www.hymnary.orgAGPS

The image shows the musical notation for the Gospel Verse "To God Be The Glory". It consists of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics: "To God be the glo - ry, to God be the". The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "glo - ry, to God be the glo - ry for the things He has". The third staff continues with lyrics: "done. With His blood He has saved me; with His pow'r He has". The fourth staff concludes the verse with lyrics: "raised me; to God be the glo - ry for the things He has done."

The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 16: 21-28

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 'For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom. '.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN RESPONSE TO THE WORD: "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me"

Unison
N.C.

Dm A7
E

Dm A7 Dm Am Dm N.C.

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me; I want
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; in my
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in

Je - sus to walk with me; all a - long my pil - grim
tri - als, Lord, walk with me; when my heart is al - most
trou - ble, Lord, walk with me; when my head is bowed in

jour - ney, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
break - ing, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
sor - row, Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual

WALK WITH ME
Irregular

MESSAGE

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith -

praying in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

Keep yourselves in the love of God,

waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, that leads to eternal life.

(Jude 21)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.

The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!

(2 Cor. 5:17)

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another:

(Brief silence for reflection and self-examination)

Most Gracious Father, we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words and deeds. We have committed sins against our neighbour and against You, O Father. Have mercy upon us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins. Those sins which are known to us, and those which are unknown. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that by faith we may be sorry for our sins, repent of them and serve You in newness of life to the honour and glory of Your Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

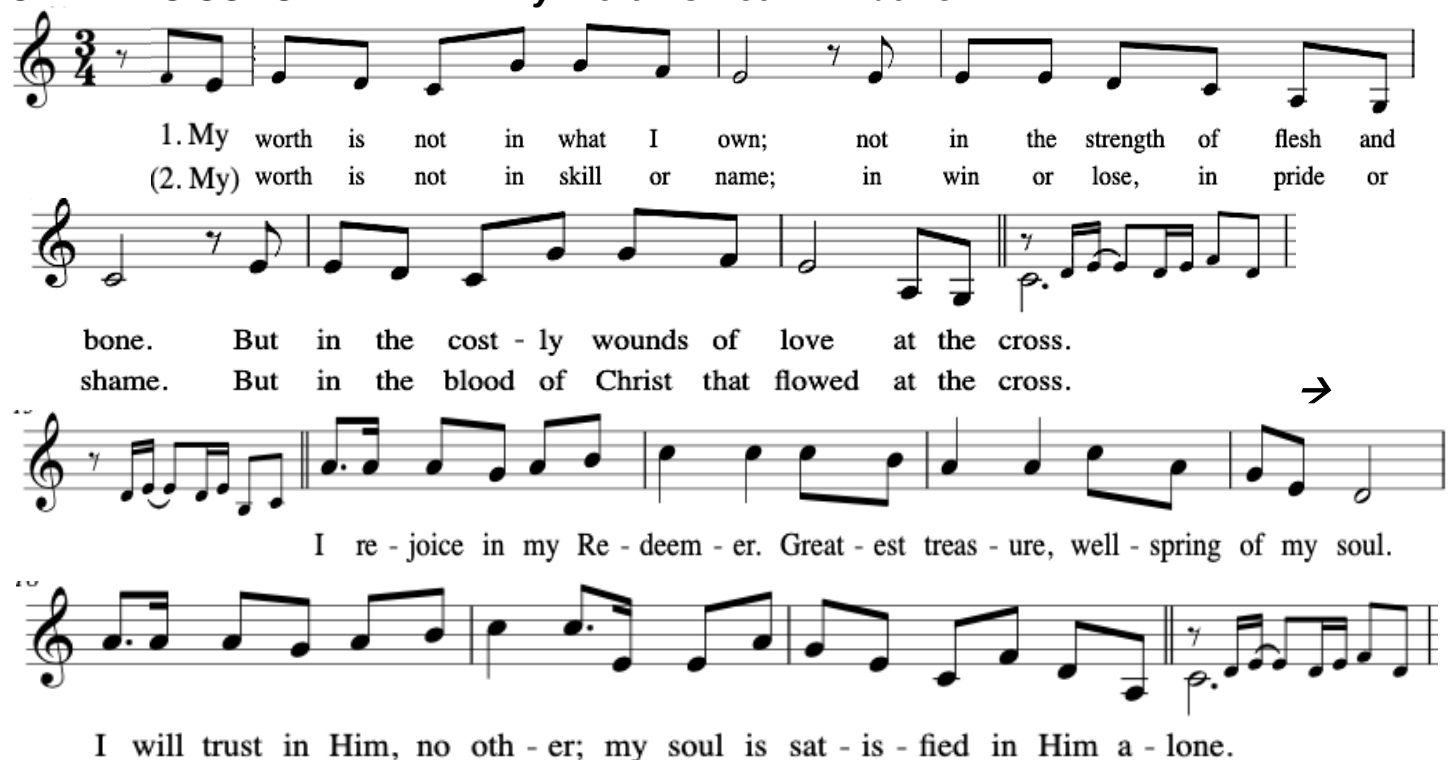
In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always: **And also with you.**

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered.*

OFFERING SONG:

"My Worth Is Not In What I Own"



1. My worth is not in what I own; not in the strength of flesh and
(2. My) worth is not in skill or name; in win or lose, in pride or
bone. But in the cost - ly wounds of love at the cross. →
shame. But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross.
I re - jice in my Re - deem - er. Great - est treas - ure, well - spring of my soul.
I will trust in Him, no oth - er; my soul is sat - is - fied in Him a - lone.



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THE PRAYERS

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for your generosity in the wonders of your creation, giving us life and supplying all we truly need day by day. Touch the hearts of all who have been blessed with many gifts to give thanks every day and to avoid faithless hoarding and worry about the future.

Hear us O God – Your mercy is great.

Thank you, dear Father, for the gifts of salvation through Jesus Christ. Thank you for his faithfulness to you, and for telling us of him in the scriptures. Help us to study, believe and trust the Scriptures, and to entrust our whole lives to what you reveal in its saving message. Touch the hearts of all who have been blessed with the riches of your grace to tell of your forgiveness and redemption.

Hear us O God – Your mercy is great.

Lord, open our eyes to see poverty and human need, and then to respond as you would have us. Move us and all people to be rich in good works, in response to what we have received from you. Touch the hearts of all who have been blessed with material riches to share them generously.

Hear us O God – Your mercy is great.

Bless all those in government and positions of authority. We pray for the legal system: judges, lawyers, courts, juries, penal and correctional institutions, and personnel. Help them to serve wisely and justly, so that people may be restrained from wrongdoing and encouraged to live good lives. Provide for refugees, for the poor and needy, and for all who are disadvantaged.

Hear us O God – Your mercy is great.

Remove any injustices perpetrated by the greedy and powerful on the poor and weak. Bring relief to refugees displaced from their homes. Thank you for the financial support given to those in need here in our land, and move all in authority to ensure the best and fairest possible assistance. Touch the hearts of all who have been blessed with supportive community to reach out in love and friendship.

Hear us O God – Your mercy is great.

Watch over the sick, the elderly, and those who are struggling in their personal lives. Touch the hearts of all who have been blessed with health and happiness to share the burdens of those who suffer. And support those known to us personally in need and whom we now name in our hearts (*brief silence*)

Hear us O God – Your mercy is great.

King of kings and Lord of lords, you dwell in unapproachable light, but you have graciously given us access to your love and mercy through your Son Jesus Christ. Hear the prayers we offer in his name, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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. 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

BLESSING & BENEDICTION:

Let us praise the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

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

SENDING HYMN: *"Where He Leads Me I Will Follow"*

1. I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing,
2. I'll go with Him thru the gar - den, I'll go with Him thru the gar - den,
3. I'll go with Him thru the judg - ment, I'll go with Him thru the judg - ment,

I can hear my Sav - ior call - ing, "Take thy cross and fol - low, fol - low Me."
I'll go with Him thru the gar - den, I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.
I'll go with Him thru the judg - ment, I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

Chorus

Where He leads me I will fol - low, Where He leads me I will fol - low,
Where He leads me I will fol - low, I'll go with Him, with Him, all the way.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR PRAYER is an adapted version which is contained in the "With One Voice" Hymnal Supplement to the Lutheran Book of Worship. Published by Augsburg Fortress in 1998.

REV. TODD HOEFFS

PENTECOST 14

Scripture: St., Matthew 16: 21-28

September 3, 2023

I love the popular "Footprints in the Sand" poem. It describes a dream. A person is walking on a beach with Jesus. They leave two sets of footprints in the sand behind them. Looking back, the tracks show various stages of this person's life. At some points the two trails change to one, especially at the lowest and most hopeless times. When questioning Jesus, assuming He must have abandoned him during those times, Jesus explains beautifully: 'During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you'. This isn't directly from Scripture, But it does highlight Jesus' amazing bond with us – It's a nice comfort in times of stress and darkness. We all want to believe that we walk through life with Jesus and we're never without Him. Jesus remains not only a part of our life, HE IS OUR LIFE. He isn't remote or watching from around the corner, For the believer, He's inside. United with our bodies. He is our strength and faith and life when ours is gone. Does your daily life sound like the one imagined in the FOOTPRINTS poem? So serene, so peaceful, such a lovely walk along the sandy seashore? Is that a scene you long for but seems so out of reach? Or is that reserved for the other side of the shore in Heaven? In actuality, most of our life is spent making our own marks, following our own ways, tracking our own footprints in life's sand. We like to go it alone and construct life our way to feel like we're in control. And sometimes it does feel like you're against the world, doesn't it? Like the people of old from the Scriptures, they had NEVER been left alone. Whether a pillar of cloud by day as shade from the scorching sun or pillar of fire by night as light for their evening walk or Moses' voice of reason or the tabernacle smoke and wind: the Lord remained with them then as He is with the disciples in the Gospel as He is with you today. With even more – you and I enjoy a deep internal presence by faith and baptism. He's got your very life in the palm of His nail-printed Hands. And when you're tempted to feel alone, You're reassured For Jesus' life-Blood flows in your life-blood So His power is your power. Unfortunately, life in this world brings each and every person, some form of hardship or suffering. We can't escape life without it.

MY GREAT AUNT & UNCLE. 13 years apart. No kids. He took care of her.

Shielded her from all kinds of suffering and troubles. Until....one morning in the bathroom he collapsed at the age of 86 of a massive heart attack. Died in minutes. Her life was never the same again. 1st time any hardship came her way. She lived another 20 years...but never the same again. Remedy for suffering is found in an actual END to suffering. Not to be confused with a removal of suffering. The END is JESUS. As we live and die and rise anew with Him. His Way for the earthbound journey is a Hope-filled way. As the end of all suffering ends in His suffering. All death ends in His death. Life in Him is renewed in His new life. By having your sins die in His death, you are made clean in His Blood. This is why Jesus strongly tells His disciples He MUST go to Jerusalem, suffer, die and on the 3rd day rise from the grave. Not maybe, not accidental, not the Romans fault...HE MUST. Peter is scared and unsure. Just think of the first words that would come out of your mouth if one of your parents or someone you know and love says: "I'm going to die soon, it's necessary." Well, why? Why

now? No, can't be. Our imperfect human character makes us deny. Wishing a lie might be the truth. We can't always handle the real truth. Our 1st line of defense. If I deny it, it pushes the pain a little bit farther away. It promises relief, but never delivers. That's why we all get easily addicted to pain killers. It can be in so many forms. Pills. Booze. Food. Spending money or hoarding it. Saving, collecting, being busy or not busy; humans are addicts. That's how we cope. Jesus says it's not necessary. Because His death IS necessary. He is literally addicted to saving us. The cross untangles our anxious knots of hurt and pain. You can totally see now why Peter takes Jesus aside, to correct Jesus' terrible future prediction? Surely God will spare His Only Son, the Messiah won't be rejected. God wouldn't let Jesus suffer that kind of shame and humiliation. And He just can't die either—it will ruin everything. Peter's offering his fisherman's brawn as protection for Jesus, like a hit man or body guard, He's too special to die. He's the Saviour, the Chosen, the King?...where's Peter's good old faith, the faith he's heard since childhood? Well, we're the same. Stress over the future, overly simplify and sentimentally churn up the past, ignore the present. If Jesus dies, in Jerusalem, the city of the living God, what will happen to the disciples and to this church on the Rock He's just said hell can't beat? "Get behind me, Satan!" Strong rebuke. No soft sell here. This pushback is over. Peter is Satan in that moment. He forgets HOW the city of peace will get peace. Peter isn't connecting the dots between miracles and calm seas and death on a cross. Peter, the stone placed upon the Rock, is called a stumbling block! In the Greek word choice, its where we get our word SKANDAL. Death on a cross is a skandal. SKANDAL IS stumbling block. A terrible event that causes some to fall, others to grow [stand tall]. Jesus becomes the scandal, the sacrifice, the suffering servant, the One in who we all can have forgiveness. He MUST go to a place where none can follow. From Gethsemane to Golgotha Jesus walks alone and no one walks beside Him and no one follows Him. He walks alone to do what we cannot do. He walks alone for you, for me. His hands are nailed to wood before they hold your hand. His feet are pierced and bleeding before they leave footprints in your life and on your path. Only One set of footprints to the cross and garden grave. Only after His trail leads up into heaven and the Spirit is sent down can all of us believers follow Him. Only then will His Church be strong on the Rock. Only then can suffering be healed with the sharing of the Gospel. Only after dying for sins can sins be forgiven in His name. Only then can all people everywhere access Jesus in the Bread and Wine. Even Peter will one day be led away to a place he doesn't like to go and die in a way that is no longer humiliating but is directly tied to His Lord, His Rabbi, the world's Redeemer. Jesus keeps picking us up and grabbing us away from the ledge of life and keeps remaining in our hearts and lives 24/7. He makes sure you endure suffering as He carries you. Truth be told, there's always only ONE set of footprints. When we walk in the way of Jesus, we place our needs last and carry His cross. All of life is in service to others. By carrying the cross, we see life as He sees life. When we look out our windows through the cross, We see an entire world for which Jesus died in order to save it. Doesn't mean we won't take care of our own needs and those of people in our family, friend and neighbour circles. It means those are attainable because of Christ in you. HE knows what you need better than you. He will place work and people and trials in your path Where His cross will be your only tool. Timely to have this come up at Labour Day week end. When we think of time off and relaxation and one last Getaway before the fall [school, jobs, activities, etc...]. Jesus tells us Don't leave the house without His cross. Follow as you forge ahead. Indigenous [walk into the future backwards, to see where you've gone]. And the next time you see that beautiful "Footprints" poem, trust and be peacefully safe journeying through life in the hands of Jesus as the Body of Jesus one footprint at a time. Amen.

People from the New Testament

N F S W X H O E Q R B R D R S I P M A S Z Y N B X M S C Q Q
G T K Q M S A R U K L R A K J K Y C R H J R Q J O S E P H O
A Z Q Y E T I M O T H Y C R A Y E D A D U E L X M Z K B T V
K V D M P U M K J R O Z M G M W E P F P J Y Q S Y A X B I X
R R K R Y W T S G D G K T P E K V D Z L I F C D H S R H I U
W K K Q H F N M V J U O U X S S U I L E N R O C T T F Y N K
O B Y U X K S A B A N R A B S M K B A P F O T A E A T U O Y
I P A H T R A M L W M E V O I Y T E A U J T E D B B A U M E
V D I G E J B Q T S O J M K U X B U Z J M M D G A I O T I J
F L Q T I N L R X B A B Z B S K L M D K T C V K Z T N A S C
U J J U L C I U V Q S E Q X G P B S O U Z C F J I I H F O U I
P I R L P C V R Z A X T V Y I V D F Q P S S Z X L A J M M S
U N G H B T I G L I I B R Q W B N A E W R W L M E O J O H N
P R I S C I L L A H Q Q T K C S U E A H C C A Z H V P X V N
E W K V P X R G D T H U C W E P J B E I R S L N F W U C K X
K U H V P H F U K T N E H P E T S G W Q K B T F B D M O D E
U Y Q E S P C I K A S A D U J E P J S I Y H B A R S A B A S
L D T E P A E D P M Q W Y T A B J I L E E S C G B J L D F P
R E E R L U X P V B A U G Z J L A H W B V Y E G C E Y K V G
R B H D E M Q P S Z C B O A A C R R A T N P G V K S D N G S
T R Y Y T A K H D G Z C C Z A G Y P T P H I L I P U I G I Z
O L M E M X Z W Y B Q E A C O B T K G H V F C L Z S A L M R
M R L C P T L Q E Z T R B X E I L Z L N O T E K L Q A Q A X
C S A X K U V A Z S U D R E S O A A D J W L H U Z S V V R S
U C A I R H T U N S Y A L T D Q G H V J S N O O D C W Z K Q
N U K P B Q Y U U D Y X E K L E M Z J F R P E M M V L B N I
U W D M A T T H E W R D M Q Y E E D K N I D Z N E A Z E R W
R D C J Q R V V B N G E E C S A S U E A D D A H T W S A M G
S B M F R D Z K Y E J I W L T O X Z S C C A P X R Y M W R V
R Y U M G X M K A Q U I L A L B O U H T L P D M S K W I A W

Andrew
Aquila
Barnabas
Barsabas
Bartholomew
Cornelius
Elizabeth
James
Jesus

John
John the Baptist
Joseph
Judas
Lazarus
Luke
Lydia
Mark
Martha

Mary
Matthew
Matthias
Paul
Peter
Philip
Priscilla
Silas

Simon
Stephen
Tabitha
Thaddaeus
Thomas
Timothy
Zacchaeus
Zebedee