

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



August 13 & 14, 2022

PRELUDE

LITANY

Leader: There are worlds beyond comprehension created by God.

People: Praise God for this world of wonder.

Leader: There are acts of mercy beyond belief bestowed by God.

People: Praise God for the protections around us.

Leader: There are powers beyond controlling set into motion by God.

People: Praise God for the unseen hosts.

Leader: Praise God for St. Michael and all angels, the princes of this world:

People: Terrible in their power,

Leader: Terrifying in their presence, awe-inspiring in their missions.

People: Alight with the radiance of God. Amen.

Praise Songs

“Shout to The Lord” #821(Red Hymnal)

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you. All of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love. My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength; let ev'ry breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King. Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands; forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand. Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

“Joyful, Joyful” #836 (Red Hymnal)

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Praise the Lord who reaches out to the hungry of spirit and heart.

People: Blessed be God, our breath and our life.

Leader: Praise the Lord who is the source of all creation, hope and inspiration.

People: Blessed be God, our breath and our life.

Leader: Praise the Lord who speaks to our needs of mind and soul and body.

People: Blessed be God, our breath and our life.

Leader: Praise the Lord who is Creator, Savior and Counselor.

People: Amen. Praise the Lord!

Special Music

THANKSGIVING

Leader: We praise you, O God, for your creating Word! You set the foundations of the world and gave breath to every living thing. There is no Rock like you. Blessed be God, forevermore; our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

We praise you, O God, for your liberating Word! In your steadfast love you led the people whom you redeemed, you guided them by your strength to the land of promise. You have lifted up the lowly. Blessed be God, forevermore; our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

We praise you, O God, for your life-giving Word! Your Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth. You have looked with favor on the lowliness of your servants. Blessed be God, forevermore; our hearts sing of your mercy and might!

Blessed be God, from this time on and forevermore, from the rising of the sun to its setting. With Miriam, Hannah, and Mary, we give you thanks and praise for your creating, liberating, and life-giving Word! Send us forth in the power of your Spirit to sing of your greatness and serve all people, following Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

(ELCA service of the word Thanks giving for the word-Exodus 15; 1 Samuel 2; Psalm 113; Luke 1; John 1)

“Beautiful Savior” #838 (Red Hymnal)

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy,
my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of
blooming spring; Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our
sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars
on high; Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the
angels in the sky.

Scripture Readings

A Reading from Ruth

(Ruth 1:1-22)

¹In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. ³But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁴These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, ⁵both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband. ⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the

land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹¹But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹²Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." ¹⁴Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵So she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." ¹⁶But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God. ¹⁷Where you die, I will die — there will I be buried. May the LORD do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" ¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. ¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰She said to them, "Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. ²¹I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the LORD has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" ²²So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Here ends the reading.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (Matthew 5:3-9)

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ

MESSAGE

HYMN "How Great Thou Art" #856 (4 verses) (Red Hymnal)

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art!
How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!**

When through the woods and forest glades I wander, I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art!
How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!**

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing, sent him to die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my burden gladly bearing he bled and died to take away my sin;

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art!
How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!**

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation, and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!"

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee, how great thou art!
How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!**

APOSTLE'S CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

A brief silence.

Leader: Arise, O God, and sustain your church. We pray for all who dedicate their lives to serving your people. Renew our commitment to our siblings in faith around the globe and bless the work of our ecumenical and interfaith partners. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Arise, O God, and sustain your creation. We pray for all places affected by natural disasters. Transform the devastation of floods and fires into fertile ground for new life and growth. Fill heaven and earth with your life-giving Spirit. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Arise, O God, and sustain the nations. We pray for all elected officials. Kindle in them a desire to administer your justice. Strengthen their resolve to defend those who are vulnerable and to stand publicly against all forms of oppression. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Arise, O God, and sustain those who are oppressed. We pray for people harmed by racist discrimination, ableist discrimination, and all people discriminated against based on their gender identity or sexual orientation. Rescue us from all systems that degrade our fellow human beings. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Arise, O God, and sustain this assembly. We pray for this community, celebrating with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. In our joy and in our tears, be near us. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, we remember the saints who have gone before us. May we run with perseverance the race set before us until we find our rest in you. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Leader: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

People: Amen.

GIVING THANKS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Through Jesus' death and resurrection, God conquered sin, death, and evil, and did so for the sake of all creation.

People: We are here in response to Jesus' invitation and command, here to receive our Lord – who is truly present – in this bread and cup.

EUCCHARIST (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Pastor: For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray with confidence the prayer our Lord taught us:

People: 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

People: Amen.

BLESSING

Leader: The God of peace, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Now Thank We" #840 (Red Hymnal)

Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way with
countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us, and keep us
all in grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all
harm in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given, the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven, the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

SENDING

Leader: Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

People: Thanks be to God.

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