

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH



PENTECOST
May 27 & 28, 2023

~~~~~ **GATHERING** ~~~~~

**Psalm 138:1-3**

Pastor: <sup>1</sup>I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;

**People: before the gods I sing your praise;**

Pastor: <sup>2</sup>I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness;

**People: for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.**

Pastor: <sup>3</sup>On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.

***GREETING***

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***People: And also with you.***

***GATHERING SONG: “Many and Great” #837 (Red Hymnal)***

Many and great, O God, are your works, maker of earth and sky. Your hands have set the heavens with stars; your fingers spread the mountains and plains. Lo, at your word the waters were formed; deep seas obey your voice.

Grant unto us communion with you, O Star-abiding One. Come unto us and dwell with us; with you are found the gifts of life. Bless us with life that has no end, eternal life with you.

***“How Great Thou Art” #856 (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!**

### ***CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS***

(Please stand as able)

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: You have come to make confession before God. You are free to confess before me, a pastor in the church of Christ, sins of which you are aware and which trouble you.

**People: Merciful God, I confess that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I repent of all my sins, known and unknown. I am truly sorry, and I pray for forgiveness. I firmly intend to amend my life, and to seek help in mending what is broken. I ask for strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life.**

Pastor: Cling to this promise: the word of forgiveness I speak to you comes from God. In obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.** (Please be seated)

## SPECIAL MUSIC

### ***A Reading From Acts 2:1-4***

<sup>1</sup>When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. <sup>4</sup>All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Here ends the reading.

### ***A Reading From Romans 8:14-39***

<sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ — if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; <sup>20</sup>for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; <sup>23</sup>and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. <sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined

to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. <sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." Here ends the reading.

### **The Gospel according to St. Matthew**

Matthew 28:16-20

(Please stand as able)

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, O Christ**

(Please be seated)

### **MESSAGE**

***HYMN "Neither Death Nor Life" #622 (Red Hymnal)***

**Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come, neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your body shall die, in Christ you shall rise through the Spirit who brings you to life.

**Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come, neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

All who are led by the Spirit shall live as children of God, and heirs with Christ Jesus, God's adopted and chosen and loved.

**Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come, neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

All of the suffering we now must endure is nothing to the glory so soon to be revealed when creation itself is set free.

**Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come, neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

All of creation awaits the new birth, the fullness of redemption, through labor pains of love, and so we wait in patience and hope.

**Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor trials in the present, nor any trial to come, neither height, nor depth, nor all of creation can ever separate us from the love of God poured out in Christ Jesus, our Lord.**

### ***APOSTLES CREED***

**People: 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**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**People: And also with you.** (Please stand as able)

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Pastor: 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 PEOPLE**

Pastor: United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Pastor: Passionate God, you sent your Spirit through the gifts of fire, wind, and word. As you equipped the disciples for their work, equip us to bring the good news to all those who long for you. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Restoring God, wind and flame bring life and destruction throughout the world. We pray for those who work with wind energy, for migratory birds, for protection for lands facing destructive fire, for forestry managers and firefighters. Renew the face of the earth. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Ever-present God, your spirit embraces all. Send your spirit of understanding to immigrants, refugees, and any experiencing language barriers. Bless the work of translators, ESL teachers, ambassadors, and international peace organizations. Safely guide those fleeing war and danger. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Merciful God, you anoint us with your spirit. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who seek your comfort. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Generous God, you impart a variety of gifts. Set aflame the desire to learn from one another, especially those who differ from us. Make your presence known through missionaries, peace workers, and through the outreach ministries of our synod and community. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Life-giving God, we give thanks for those who have died to new life in you. As we observe Memorial Day, we remember those who died in military service. Comfort all who mourn, and usher in a world where war is no more. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### ***GIVING THANKS***

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: 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, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup>In 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." <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



***HYMN: "LORD'S PRAYER" #168 (Sing Joyfully)***

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 debts As we forgive our debtors And lead us not into temptation But deliver us from evil For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power And the glory forever Amen amen

***DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION***

***COMMUNION PRAYER***

(Please stand as able)

Pastor: Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. With your word and this meal of grace, you have nourished our life together. Strengthen us to show your love and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**People: Amen.**

***BLESSING***

Pastor: The God of all, who raised ✝ Jesus from the dead, bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit to live in the new creation. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN: "Children of" #781 (Red Hymnal)***

Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;  
unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.

Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
his the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.

## **SENDING**

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **Serving God Today**

### **Saturday**

Radio Tech: Steve Benoit

Assisting: Kathy Benoit

### **Sunday**

Assisting: Wally Hamlin

Usher: Karen DeBolt

Counters: Virgil Hyte & Barb Sears

*Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23380. Other hymns: For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) Portions of the service used from Lisa's Liturgies Copyright Lisa Frenz. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission."*