

Peace Lutheran Church of Lake Zurich



August 25, 2024
Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

WELCOME

Peace to all who enter here. You are welcome in this place.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**
Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share.
**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**
We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.
We take offense at your teachings and your ways.
Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?
Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.
Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG "Lead On, O King Eternal!" (ELW 805)

1 Lead on, O King eternal!
The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest
your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation
your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal,
we lift our battle song.

2 Lead on, O King eternal,
till sin's fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper
the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing,
nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy
the heav'nly kingdom comes.

3 Lead on, O King eternal:
we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning
where'er your face appears.

Your cross is lifted o'er us;
we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest;
lead on, O God of might!

GREETING (*ELW p. 147*)

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*ELW p. 150*)

Let us pray. Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal.
Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth,
that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

You may be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children from birth through Sunday School are invited forward for a special moment of preparation before the proclamation of God's word in the assembly.

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 (*pg. 187*)

A reading from Joshua.

In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." ¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;

¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22 In Unison (pg. 441)

**¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God's ears are open to their cry.**

**¹⁶The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

**¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.**

**¹⁸The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

**¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from everyone.**

**²⁰God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

**²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.**

**²²O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20 (pg. 952)

A reading from Ephesians.

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*ELW p. 151*)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69 (*pg. 868*)

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

You may be seated.

MESSAGE

Rev. Daniel Morris

A moment of silence for reflection is kept after the message.

Please rise as you are able to proclaim the gospel in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY *“You Are the Way”* (ELW 758)

1 You are the way; to you alone
from sin and death we flee;
all those who search for God, you find
and by your grace set free.

2 You are the truth; your word alone
true wisdom can impart;
you only can inform the mind
and purify the heart.

3 You are the life; the rending tomb
proclaims your conqu'ring arm;
and those who put their trust in you
not death nor hell shall harm.

4 You are the way, the truth, the life;
grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win,
whose joys eternal flow.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

CREED (ELW p. 152)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Give every good gift to those we remember in prayer this week, especially Mike, Wally, Chuck, Stephen, Tom, MaryKate & Ivy, Bruce & Anne, Susan. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Hear now the prayers we offer aloud and in the silence of our hearts...(*...long pause.....*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

Amen.

PEACE (*ELW p. 152*)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

All may greet one another with a handshake in the name of the Lord, saying "Peace be with you." Afterwards, you may be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Your offering this morning supports the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING “Father, We Thank You” (ELW 478)

1 Father, we thank you that you planted
your holy name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus your Son to us imparts.
Lord, you have made all for your pleasure,
and giv'n us food for all our days,
giving in Christ the bread eternal;
yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise.

2 Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mercy,
save it from evil, guard it still;
perfect it in your love, unite it,
cleansed and conformed unto your will.
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,
was in this broken bread made one,
so from all lands your church be gathered
into your kingdom by your Son.

Please rise as you are able when the offering is brought forward.

OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 152)

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 our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE (*ELW p. 153*)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*ELW p. 153*)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (*ELW p. 153*)

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.
In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*ELW p. 154*)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

You may be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord Jesus Christ welcomes you to the table. He is truly present for you in the eating and drinking offering forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and salvation to all who trust his words. Children are welcome to commune, "for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" (Luke 18:16). The ushers will invite you forward to encircle the Lord's Table and receive the bread with wine (red) or grape juice (white). Gluten free wafers are available upon request. You may join hands to receive the blessing before returning to your seat.

LAMB OF GOD (ELW p. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN “*You Satisfy the Hungry Heart: Gift of Finest Wheat*” (ELW 484)

Refrain

You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat.

Come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.

2 With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heav'nly food. **Refrain**

4 The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. **Refrain**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

1 As when the shepherd calls his
sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your fam'ly, Lord,
we follow and rejoice. **Refrain**

3 Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? **Refrain**

5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. **Refrain**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise as you are able for the blessing.

BLESSING

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG “*Blessed Assurance*” (ELW 638)

1 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.

Refrain

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.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **Refrain**

3 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. **Refrain**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

GRATITUDE

So much gratitude for everyone who has contributed to worship today.

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