

St. John's Lutheran Church  
July 14, 2024 - 9:00 a.m.  
Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

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*(An usher rings the church bells 5 minutes before church service starts)*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Prelude** – Linda Ranney

*(Acolyte -When music starts light candles)*

**Confession & Forgiveness** *(Please Stand)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

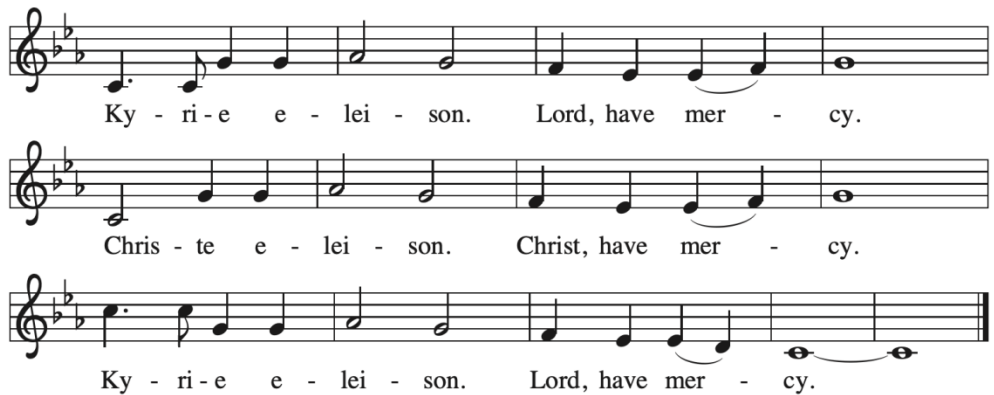
**Gathering Hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" ELW#807 v. 1-3**

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,  
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.
  
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
  
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;  
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

**Apostolic Greeting**

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.**

**Kyrie ACS pg. 31**



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff is accompanied by lyrics. The first staff has the lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy." The second staff has the lyrics "Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy." The third staff has the lyrics "Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy." The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some phrases ending in a fermata.

## Canticle of Praise ACS pg. 31; vs. 1,3

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## Reading: Amos 7:7-15

<sup>7</sup> This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by;<sup>9</sup> the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword." <sup>10</sup> Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King

Jeroboam of Israel, saying, “Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup> For thus Amos has said, ‘Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.’” <sup>12</sup> And Amaziah said to Amos, “O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; <sup>13</sup> but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.” <sup>14</sup> Then Amos answered Amaziah, “I am no prophet, nor a prophet’s son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup> and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’”

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Children’s Time**

**Gospel Acclamation ACS pg. 33** (*Please stand*)

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Repeat alleluia*

**Gospel:** Mark 6:14-29

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup> But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." <sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup> For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup> And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup> for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup> But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup> And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup> Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup> The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup> brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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

Sermon – Rev. Valerian J. Ahles (*Please Sit*)

Hymn of the Day “*Sometimes Our Only Song Is Weeping*” ACS#1050 vs. 1-2



1 Some-times our on - ly song is weep - ing; our on - ly  
2 Some-times we catch the faint-est hum - ming, a far - off



sound is gasp - ing breath. Some-times it seems that God is  
tune our hearts know well. Some-times we sense the Spir - it



sleep - ing while our brief lives are bound in death.  
com - ing. Our song re - turns; our voic - es swell.



Who hears the song our sor - rows swal - low and of - fers  
The Spir - it sings though we are shak - en, and Christ has



hope to calm our fears? When all our words seem frail and  
shared our heart - felt cries. Re - stored, our wea - ry souls a -



hol - low, God heeds the prayers with - in our tears.  
wak - en to join God's song that nev - er dies.

**Apostle's Creed**

**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 the People**

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

**Petition:** In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*(Ushers collect offering. Begin at the back of the sanctuary on the inside aisle and collect as you move to the front and continue around to the outside aisle returning with the offering to the Gathering Area. One usher collects offering from balcony.)*

**Offering** – *Wind Song (As the Wind Song Through The Trees)* by Swee-Hong Lim, arr. Helen Kemp; Text by Shirley Murray; Ensemble of St. John's Singers

As the wind song through the trees, as the stirring of the breeze,  
So it is with the Spirit of God.

As the heart made strangely warm, as the voice within the storm,  
So it is with the Spirit of God.

Never seen, ever known where this wind has blown  
Bringing life, bringing pow'r to the world,

As the dancing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep desire,  
So it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain, as the hope that's born again,  
So it is with the Spirit of God.

As the green in the spring, as a kite on a string,  
So it is with the Spirit of God.

Making worlds that are new, making peace come true,  
Bringing gifts, bringing love to the world.

As the rising of the yeast, as the wine at the fest,  
So it is with the Spirit of God. So it is with the Spirit of God.

*(Acolyte will collect the offering from the ushers to place on the altar during Offertory)*

*(Observe a time of silence and reflection)*

**Offertory "Take My Life, That I May Be" ELW#583 v.1,3**

*(Please stand)*

*Refrain*

Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

1 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain*

3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;  
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. *Refrain*

**Offertory Prayer**

Let us pray. 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**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## Holy, Holy, Holy ACS pg.36



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

### Invitation to Table *(Please Sit)*

*(Acolyte- comes forward for communion. The 2 ushers will go to the front of the Sanctuary and begin releasing worshippers to receive a wafer and wine.)*

## Lamb of God ACS pg. 40



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## Communion Hymn "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" ELW#697 v.1-3

### Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea; daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

- 1 I am weak but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee. *Refrain*
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain*
- 3 When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. *Refrain*

### Post Communion Blessing (Please stand)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray. 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.**

## **Mission Trip Blessing**

**Pastor:** Claimed by God, crafted with your own authentic gifts, you are a brave community of disruptive disciples, called to be participants in the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering. In this, there will be times when you feel energized, and times when you feel exhausted. Times when you enjoy every activity planned, and times you wish you were in charge. Times when the Holy Spirit will show up in joy, and times when the Holy Spirit will show up in challenge. And so, I ask you: Will you use your braveness for the sake of the Gospel as you step into the journey ahead? If so, respond with “we will and we ask God to help us.”

**We will and we ask God to help us.**

Will you use your authenticity to enrich the gathering and the community of New Orleans?

**We will and we ask God to help us.**

Will you freely participate in the gathering and with the people of New Orleans with the love and compassion of Jesus?

**We will and we ask God to help us.**

Will you seek to disrupt injustice, working together in solidarity for the sake of your neighbors?

**We will and we ask God to help us.**

Will you be respectful, curious, helpful, open and kind?

**We will and we ask God to help us.**

**Pastor:** And now, I ask the congregation - Will you, led by the Holy Spirit, pray for these youth gathering participants in your daily prayers, asking for God’s guidance, love, safety and blessing in their endeavors? And upon their return, will you receive them and their stories/experiences with love and openness?

**ALL: We will and we ask God to help us.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God guide, bless, and keep you. Amen. Thanks be to God.

## **Blessing**

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

**Sending Hymn** “*Rise, O Church, Like Christ Arisen*” ELW#548 v.1-2  
(*Acolyte – Extinguish candles*)

- 1 Rise, O church, like Christ arisen, from this meal of love and grace;  
may we through such love envision whose we are, and whose, our  
praise. Alleluia, alleluia; God, the wonder of our days.
  
- 2 Rise, transformed, and choose to follow after Christ, though wounded,  
whole; broken, shared, our lives are hallowed to release and to console.  
Alleluia, alleluia; Christ, our present, past, and goal.

**Sending**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** – Linda Ranney

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**Altar Flowers:** In honor of Elaine Krause’s 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on July 16 by Larry and LaVonne Krause.

**Serving at worship today:**

Pastor – Rev. Valerian J. Ahles

Worship Assistant – Margaret Kinderman

Lector – Ruth Lundblad

Acolytes – Xavier Olsen, Lauren Leonardson

Ushers – Bryan Sedlander, Norb Kirk

Greeters – Arlene McAdam, Jean Jirovec

Communion Servers – Diana Hogenson, Cora Klawiter, Julie Kersten, Pam Sorebo

Camera System – Scott Olsen

Power Point – Brett Isaacson

Musicians- Linda Ranney, organ/piano; Mark Lundin, Director of music; St. John’s Singer Ensemble