

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023



WELCOME VISITORS

*We invite you to pick up a Visitor's Packet as you leave the service today.
Thank you for joining us this morning! We are blessed by your presence.*

*Children are always welcome in church,
If desired, there is an unstaffed nursery for those age 4 and younger
located downstairs past the elevator, across the hall from the bulletin board.*

*Large print bulletins for today's worship are available,
please feel free to ask an usher if interested.*

THIS WEEK AT FIRST September 24 – October 1

Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Donuts and Coffee
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Worship
Monday	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Scouts
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Backpack Assembly in Quilting Room
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	ELCA Conference meeting at Luther Ridge
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Donuts and Coffee
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
	10:45 a.m.	Harvest Home Worship w/ Communion

Gathering

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Arioso

by JS Bach

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are called to proclaim the good news:

God is at work!

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

God is at work in the world still today!

In us and through us,

God is glorified in our work.

When we offer a helping hand,

God is praised.

When we share of our abundance,

God is known in the world and God is at work in us!

In our daily lives, let us live out and fulfill our baptismal calling.

God's Work. Our Hands.

God ☩ bless your hands and your work,

that through you, God's love may be known. **Amen.**

Come, let us worship the Lord with thanksgiving in our hearts!

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

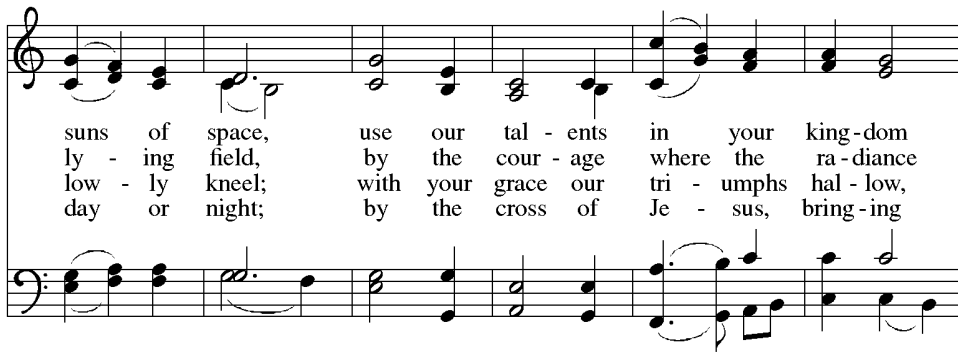
Please share the peace of the Lord with those around you.

Lord of Light

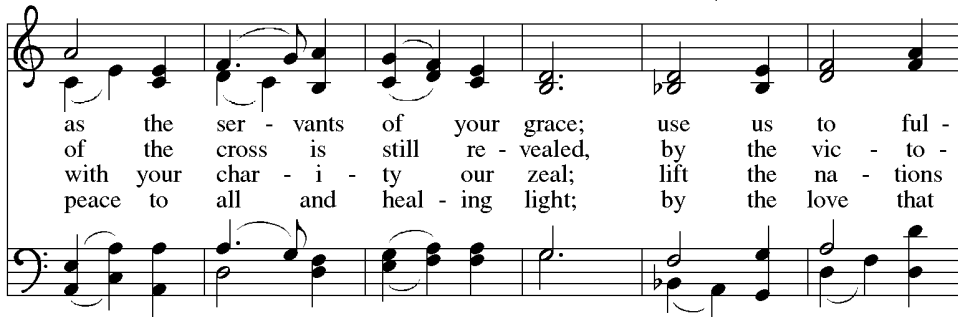
Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt. Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

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

- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.

We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Jonah 3:10--4:11

¹⁰When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

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

PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

²**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!
There is no end to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON *Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

PASTORAL PRAYER *Please stand as you are able following the prayer.*

Oh Jesus, I have Promised

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt. Music: MUNICH, Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

OUR RESPONSE

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church,
including the care of those in need. Online giving is available at www.felcc.org*

SPECIAL MUSIC

With Heart and Voice

by C. Nygard

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

God's Work, Our Hands

Tune: Earth & All Stars

God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

OFFERING PRAYER

**Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth
and the work of human hands, that they may be used to your purposes for life
and love in the world. Amen.**

APOSTLE 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 INTERCESSION

God, we pray, open our hands in love.

LORD'S PRAYER

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;
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.**

BLESSING

**The God of glory, ✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. Amen.**

Rise Up, O Saints of God

Text: Norman O. Forness, B. 1936 Music: FESTAL SNG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Paean (Praise To The Lord)

by D. Lasky

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INSTALLATION WORSHIP Memorial Lutheran Church in Shippensburg invites you to a worship service of installation for their new pastor, The Rev. Godfred Effisah. The service begins at 2:00 this afternoon.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED backpacks will be assembled on Wednesday September 27th in the quilting room at 9:30. Everyone is welcome to help.

Please remember in your prayers ...

Healing: Joanne Fisher (10/4), Leslie Gotwald (10/5), Denise Heinbaugh (9/28), Shirley Martin (10/7), Joyce Morschhauser (10/19), Sam Mull (10/18), Martha Willson (10/19).

Long Term Care: Pat Dent and Joe Pine

Military: Tawny & Brad Arnold and Paul Whelan (imprisoned in Russia).

ATTENDANCE September 17 61 in person 15 on line



Also a special welcome to **Ferree LeFevre** who serves as our organist this morning. We appreciate your leading us as we praise the Lord with song.

COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED In November we will be electing council members for a three year term to serve from January 2024 through December 2026. If you have an interest in being nominated or finding out more about this opportunity, please talk with Tim Gotwald.

HARVEST HOME Sunday October 1. We are collecting food and financial contributions for the Meals on Wheels Program. Donations may be brought to the sanctuary on the first of October or placed outside the office door prior to that. Please place monetary contributions in an envelope marked for Meals on Wheels. Food items are needed: medium noodles, macaroni, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, small jars of alfredo sauce, sugar free canned fruit, vanilla cake mixes, canned vegetables, low salt chicken broth, sugar free cookies and Grapenut cereal. Also dark colored dish clothes.



QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION Did you know that a Qualified Charitable Distribution allows individuals who are 72 years old or older to donate up to \$ 100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA or 401k instead of taking their Required Minimum Distribution? As a result, the donor may avoid paying federal income tax on the distribution while also possibly avoid being pushed into a higher income tax bracket. Contact your financial advisor and/or your tax advisor for more details and procedures to make it happen.

ELCA's National Youth Gathering is coming to New Orleans in July of 2024. Kate Nienstedt will be attending along with a group of five youth from Trinity Lutheran. Their first fundraiser is now underway. Kate will be selling Sweet Rollers cinnamon rolls (\$6), packs of 2 chocolate chip cookies (\$5), and bags of coffee (\$12) after church through October 22nd. See Kate or her mom Kristy to place an order. Items will be delivered on Sunday, November 5th. Thanks in advance for your support of this church wide youth event!

FALL FOLIAGE DAY Sunday, October 22, 1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. at Nawakwa. Come for a fall afternoon! An evening meal provided. Register by October 13. \$15 per person (4 & under free).

QUILT AUCTION November 5 (Oct 29-Nov 3 Online Bidding) at Nawakwa 2:00 p.m. Silent Auction, 3:00 p.m. Live Auction. Dinner following Live Auction. All proceeds from the day benefit the Camping Corporation's Endowment Fund, making camping possible for generations to come! Please register for the in-person event by November 1. This is a free event, and includes an evening meal.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

	<u>September 24</u>	<u>October 1</u>	<u>October 8</u>
Lector:	Dia Schumacher	Jane Love	Gary Fleegal
Soundboard:	Bob Lawyer	Mark Nicholson	Marlin Maclay
Communion Assistants:		Tom Kriner Deb Fleegal Becky Hoover	
Greeters:	Dot Hammer Bob Hammer	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson	Bob Wildeson Nancy Wildeson
Altar Guild:	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods	Barb Evans Karin Woods
Ushers:	Barb Evans Rick Gates Denny Love Mark Nicholson Rose Wilson	Jim Brown Rick Gates Don Shoop Kathy Shoop Bob Wildeson	Jim Brown Rick Gates Don Shoop Kathy Shoop Bob Wildeson



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Pastor

The Rev. Jane Nicholson

Pastoral Assistant

The Rev. Charles Kampmeyer

Director of Church Music

Freda J. Dorand, Deacon

Parish Administrator

Cheryl Christman

Treasurer

Sally Herritt

Financial Secretary

Carol McCoy

Custodian

Jennifer Flores

Church Office Hours – Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We welcome visitors this morning.

Please pick up a **visitor's packet**. They are located at the top of the steps.
at the rear of the church or on the table at the elevator entrance.

Our Mission

The mission of First Lutheran Church is to be the light of Jesus,
burning brightly and vigorously in our community.

Sunday Schedule

Donuts and Coffee at 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages at 9:30 a.m.

Worship at 10:45 a.m.

also on Facebook at First Evangelical Lutheran Church
and on our webpage at www.FELCC.org

ALL are invited to hear and receive God's blessing in Jesus,
and to worship with us.