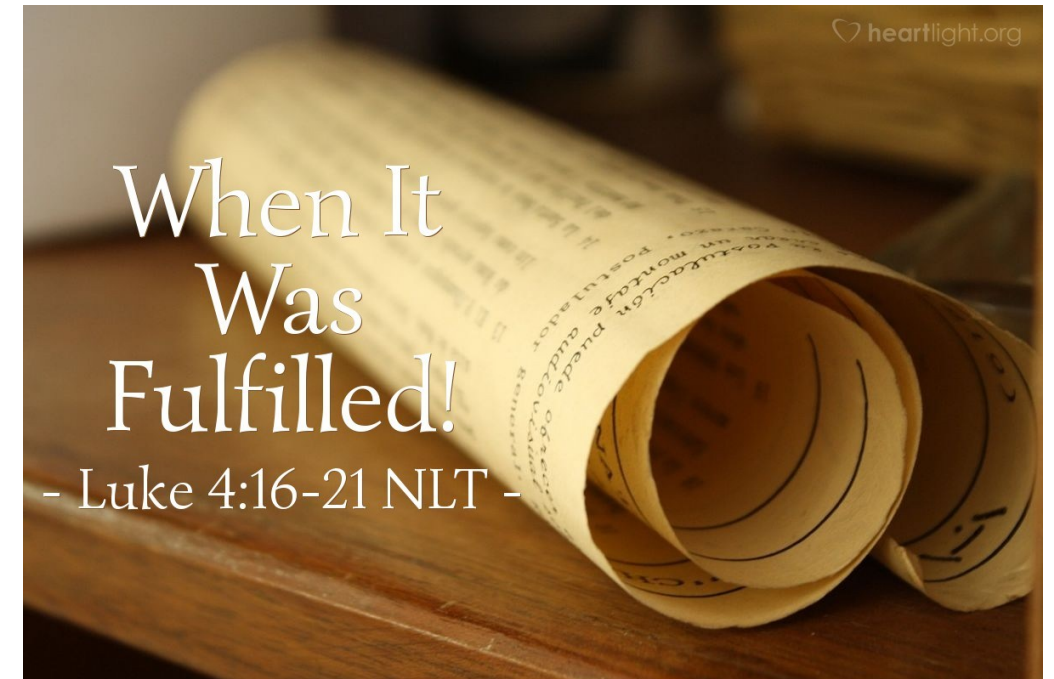




When It
Was
Fulfilled!
- Luke 4:16-21 NLT -

Lutheran Church of the Covenant
Maple Heights, OH

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant welcomes you to worship!
Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life together!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.

We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!

Portions marked with * are when we invite you to stand as you are able to do so. There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local ministry as well as the wider church.

A children’s table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you’ll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Presiding Minister	Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Lector	
Reader	Jane Skowronski
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

Dismissal

Siblings in Christ, go now in peace, to speak the Word,
to embody the Word, to live the Word. **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:
Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Olive Evanofski, Bill Flick, Barbara Fossa, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Linda Johnson, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Rich Petro, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 8/31/2025:\$ 1657.00

Sending Hymn: *Christ Be Our Light* ELW # 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 a.m. September 14th, 2025

Rooted and Renewed: Word

What makes a worship service? The basic pattern of ELCA worship—Gathering, Word, Meal, Sending—gives us a structure that allows flexibility while focusing on what the church holds in common. Each Sunday this month, we will focus on one of these four elements in order to explore and affirm what worship means to us.

This week we are focused on the Word. God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. The Word of God is proclaimed by the gathered assembly. The first reading, from the Old Testament, is followed by a Psalm in response. The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church. We also proclaim God’s Word in singing and in professing our faith.

We proclaim the Living Word, Jesus Christ, to be present in the gospel reading. Preaching brings God’s Word into our time and place, to awaken us, nourish our faith, and encourage us in our lives.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, One God, the Word who was in the beginning, the word who became flesh and dwelled among us, the Word who speaks life into our hearts. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the Word that speaks mercy and life.

God who speaks, Voice from Heaven,
we confess that we have ignored your voice, turning to other words that promise life but cannot give it. In the noise of the world, we do not always take the time to stop, quiet ourselves, and listen to you. We close our ears to the scriptures, and we close our hearts to your teachings. We speak words that wound others, and do not speak up when your Word has called us to pursue justice. Forgive us. Speak to us again your words of grace, faith, life, and hope. Open our ears and our hearts to hear your Word, remind us of the trust we have in you, and guide our feet along the paths of your righteousness and love.

Siblings in Christ, hear the good news! The Word become flesh and dwelled among us, full of grace and full of truth. For his sake, all our sins are forgiven. God's Word is alive and active, living in our hearts, speaking grace and raising us to new life. **Thanks be to God.**

We are here now, with our questions, and with our awe,
and the God who broods over the chaos meets us in this place.

We are here now, full of energy, or fighting weariness,
and the God who breathes new life into the dust meets us in this place.

Sending

Blessing

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

May God, **Word of Promise,**
write the covenant on our hearts.

May Christ, **Word Made Flesh,**
dwell among us still.

May the Holy Spirit, **the Word that Advocates,**
bring the Word alive in all of us.
And may every step we take be rooted in the Word,
so that our lives be a living testimony
to the God that speaks, saves, and sends. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

God of all creation, your claim on us is total; your desire for us, complete. We ask that you would receive us this day and use what we bring for the good of your church. Keep sending your Spirit into our hearts, to your holy purpose. For we long to give our lives to you; we long to know the fullness of your joy. We pray in the name of Jesus, who gave his life out of love for the world. **Amen.**

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

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.

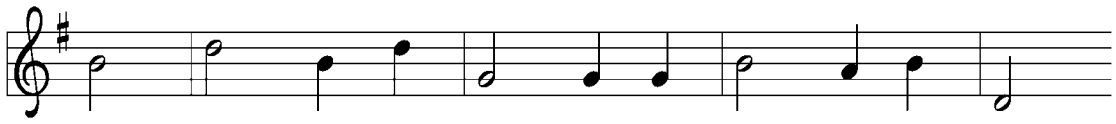
Gathering Song: *How Firm a Foundation* ELW # 796



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."

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.**

Hymn of Praise This is the Feast

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Meal

Music Interlude: *Voices Raised to You* ELW #845

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your
5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the

songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
works dis - play. Art and mu - sic. gifts you lend us.
thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—

for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!
Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936
Text © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music © 1996 Carolyn Jennings

Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain. Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, we remember in love those who have departed this life. Console those who mourn, and give them the hope of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

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

Prayer of the Day

Living Word, we thank you for the gift of the Scriptures. We thank you for establishing justice and for dealing with us not according to our faithfulness, but according to your mercy. Put your persistent Spirit within us so that we may work tirelessly, and cry out day and night, until your will is done in all the earth. We pray to you who helps us, in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Word

Children's Moment

First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

⁴“Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

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

Psalm: Psalm 119:89-99, 102-105

⁸⁹ The Lord exists forever;
your word is firmly fixed in heaven.

⁹⁰ **Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.**

⁹¹ By your appointment they stand today,

Apostles 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

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Hymn of the Day: *O Word of God Incarnate* ELW # 514



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

for all things are your servants.

⁹² **If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my misery.**

⁹³ I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have given me life.

⁹⁴ **I am yours; save me,
for I have sought your precepts.**

⁹⁵ The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,
but I consider your decrees.

⁹⁶ **I have seen a limit to all perfection,
but your commandment is exceedingly broad.**

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law!
It is my meditation all day long.

⁹⁸ **Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
for it is always with me.**

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers,
for your decrees are my meditation.

¹⁰² **I do not turn away from your ordinances,
for you have taught me.**

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste,
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ **Through your precepts I get understanding;
therefore I hate every false way.**

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.

Second Reading: James 1:19-26

¹⁹You must understand this, my beloved brothers and sisters: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger, ²⁰for human anger does not produce God’s righteousness. ²¹Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²²But be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶If any think they are religious and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Luke 4:16-22

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you O Lord.**

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isai-ah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:
¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”
²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”

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

Sermon