



CHRIST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
&
PRESCHOOL

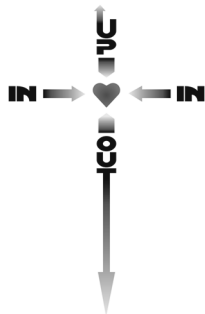
*A church of the
Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod*

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I have no pleasure
in the death of anyone

Ezekiel 18:32



AS WE GATHER~ From the beginning, God implanted His life-creating power into His creation with the command “Be fruitful and multiply” to animals (Genesis 1:22) and to humans (1:28), with one important difference. You are not an accident or only a product of biology. Every human being is a personal soul. So we confess, “I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them” (Small Catechism, Creed, Explanation of the First Article). Because of our inherited sin, however, “the soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:4). Nevertheless, God’s design is for life—eternal life. He declares, “I have no pleasure in the death of anyone” (18:32). Because God so loves you, He sent His Son to take away your sin by the shedding of His blood on the cross. Therefore, “we preach Christ crucified, . . . the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:23–24). Christ died to sin for you. By Holy Baptism, you died with Christ and are raised to new life in Him. The love of God is yours today by faith in the cross of Jesus Christ. The Father’s declaration of Jesus now becomes yours: “My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).

WELCOME FAMILIES WITH LITTLE ONES!!!

THE NURSERY: is available to parents for infants and young toddlers under 5 years old during worship in the nursery room in the fellowship hall. See an usher for assistance. **Quiet time activity bags are located at the back of the sanctuary hanging on the wooden cross for older children to use during the service.**

FAMILY ROOM :You will also find through the southeast door marked FAMILY ROOM, there are some quiet toys on the shelf if you want a quiet space for your little one.

WE are Live streaming!!!

Find us on – Facebook : “Christ Lutheran Church ”

Boxcast/Sunday streams : “Christ Lutheran Church Meridian, Idaho”

YouTube: “Christ Lutheran Church Meridian, Idaho”

ALSO on our web-site “CLCMeridian.org where there is a bulletin to follow

IF YOU DO NOT want your child filmed, we ask that they sit behind the pulpit. If you have any other concerns, please ask an Elder or Usher for help.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE COMMUNING...SEE BACK OF BULLETIN

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES AVAILABLE--Personal hearing devices are available to assist those attending worship services at Christ Lutheran. If you would like to use one, please ask an usher for assistance.

FOR THOSE WITH PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS, FEEL FREE TO STAY SEATED AS NEEDED DURING THE SERVICE AND STAND WHEN RECEIVING COMMUNION.

PLEASE! OUT OF RESPECT FOR THOSE AROUND YOU, PLEASE TURN YOUR CELL PHONE OFF (OR ON SILENT/VIBRATE) DURING WORSHIP.

Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement

Christ Lutheran Church exists to glorify God, by making disciples that reach up, reach in, and reach out.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST— PROPER 21

My Pleasure
September 27, 2026

WELCOME

OPENING SONG “Shout To The North”

1. Men of faith, rise up and sing
of the great and glorious King.
You are strong when you feel weak,
In your broken-ness, complete.

Chorus:

Shout to the north and the south.

Sing to the east and the west.

Jesus is Savior to all,

Lord of heaven and earth.

2. Rise up woman of the truth
Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power
of our awesome King of love? **Chorus twice**

Bridge:

We've been through fire, we've been through rain.

We've been refined by the pow'r of His name

We've fallen deeper in love with you.

You've burned the truth on our lips. **Chorus twice**

3. Rise up church with broken wings;
Fill this place with songs again
of our God who reigns on high.
By His grace again we'll fly. **Chorus four times**

Lord of heaven and earth, Lord of heaven and earth.

Lord of heaven and earth.

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 124:8; Isaiah 25:9*

Pastor: I will go to the altar of God,

People: to God my exceeding joy.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us.

People: This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.

CONFESSION and GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Pastor: God invites His whole creation to the great feast of His salvation. That we may boldly enter into His gates of mercy, let us lift up our prayer of repentance and faith.

People: Lord God, heavenly Father, with thanksgiving for Your great love and promise of new life and hope for living, we confess to You all our sins, our waywardness, our neglect of Your call, as well as our failure to be of help to our neighbor and one another. We humbly pray, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew and cleanse our hearts and minds, and give us true faith in Your promised grace and deliverance.

Pastor: The feast of God's salvation has already begun for you by your Baptism into Christ. Now receive the Lord's abiding forgiveness, faith, strength, and help to live in the certain hope of eternal life in fellowship with Him: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE OF THE LORD *(We greet one another in peace.)*

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us extend the peace of God to one another.

+ WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6* **People In Bold**

The Lord lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Lord lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.

KYRIE (pg. 204 in Hymnal)

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

SONG OF PRAISE “White as Snow” (TBOB) 241

White as snow, white as snow, though my sins were as scarlet,
Lord I know, Lord I know, that I'm clean and forgiven.
Through the power of Your blood, through the wonder of Your love,
through faith in you I know that I can be
white as snow. (2X)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all
honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy
Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all
truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

People: Amen.

+ SERVICE OF GOD’S WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32* (“I have no pleasure in the death of anyone.”)

¹The word of the Lord came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life.

²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 2:1–4 (5–13) 14–18* (Christ's example of humility)

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:23–27 (28–32)* (The authority of Jesus is challenged.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

MESSAGE SONG “Because He Lives” (TOSB) 11

1. God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal and forgive
He lived and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my savior lives

**Chorus: Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living, just because He lives**

2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy He gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain day, because He lives **Chorus**

SERMON “ Being Humble” Philippians 2:1-11

OFFERING

“I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all. But whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.” — **Martin Luther (1483-1546)**,

OFFERTORY “Take My Life and Let It Be “ (LSB) 783 vs. 3 and 4

- 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.
- 4 Take my silver and my gold,
 Not a mite would I withhold;
 Take my intellect and use
 Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (*Pastor invites prayer requests*)

After each petition Pastor will say, “ Lord in Your mercy”

Our response:

People: hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

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.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [*Colossians 3:1*]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [*Psalm 136*]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (pg. 208 in hymnal)

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace + of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI *(p. 163 in hymnal)*

Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world Have mercy on us

Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world Have mercy on us

Lamb of God You take away the sins of the world Grant us peace

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Let Us Break Bread Together” (TOSB) 126

1. Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

2. Let us drink wine together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

3. Let us bow 'round the Altar on our knees, (on our knees)
let us bow 'round the Altar on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

4. Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)
let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy if you please. (if you please)

"We Bow Down" (TBOB) 233

1. You are Lord of creation
And Lord of my life
Lord of the land and the seas
You were Lord of the heavens
before there was time
And Lord of all lords You will be

**Chorus 1. We bow down
And we worship You, Lord
We bow down
And we worship You, Lord
We bow down and we worship
You, Lord
Lord of all lords You will be**

2. You are King of creation
And King of my life
King of the land and the seas
You were King of the heavens before
there was time
And King of all kings You will be

**Chorus 2. We bow down
And we crown You the King
We bow down
And we crown You the King
We bow down
And we crown You the King
King of all kings You will be**

(repeat Chorus 1 and 2)

"Lord I lift Your Name on High " (TBOB) 151

Lord I lift your name on high
Lord I love to sing your praises
I'm so glad you are in my life
I'm so glad you came to save us

Chorus: You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift your name on high
Lord I lift your name on high (cont.)
Lord I love to sing your praises
I'm so glad you are in my life
I'm so glad you came to save us

Chorus: You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift your name on high **(repeat Chorus)**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *"Thank the Lord" (LSB 164)*

Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
Tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord
Rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises
And leads His people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You
that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the
same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one
another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to
you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG “When Peace Like a River” (LSB) 763

- 1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

ref: It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

- 2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. **Refrain**

- 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! **Refrain**

- 4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul. **Refrain**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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FOR THOSE WHO ARE COMMUNING...In keeping with Scripture, visitors who are active members of LCMS congregations (or from church bodies in fellowship with the LCMS) are asked to speak with the pastor or elder prior to the Sacrament. Because those who eat and drink the Lord's **Body and Blood** unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11:29) and because Holy Communion is a confession of faith that is confessed at this altar, all other visitors are asked to make an appointment with the pastor to discuss the Lord's Supper prior to receiving the Sacrament.

Members and visitors alike, who have been instructed in the Christian faith, are encouraged to use the following questions:

Do I believe that in the Lord's Supper I receive Jesus' true **Body and Blood** with the bread and wine?

Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my personal Savior, who paid for all of my sins on the cross and thereby saves me from eternal punishment?

Do I believe that I am a sinful being without hope of eternal life, except for God's mercy in Christ?

Do I repent of all sin, and set aside any grudges or refusal to forgive and love as God forgives and loves us?

Do I intend, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to turn away from my sins and strive to live a Godly life?

This is not a judgment of an individual's faith but a matter of proper preparation and pastoral care of souls. (1 Corinthians 11:26-30) Thank you for your deference to the Biblical doctrine of this congregation.

Note: The red wine in the Communion tray is Non-alcohol and is available for those with medical limitations. GLUTEN FREE WAFERS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

***IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE COMMUNION AT YOUR SEAT
PLEASE TELL THE USHER AND YOU WILL BE SERVED TOWARD THE
END OF COMMUNION.***

About the Cover: The Israelites thought they could weigh the scales of justice and found God at fault. However, the Israelites ignored God's Law, which showed their ways to be unjust. We cannot tip the scales of justice in our favor by disregarding God's Law, which condemns sinners to death. God, however, does not take pleasure in death. He desires mercy. In Christ, both perfect justice and perfect mercy were delivered when He took the sin of the world upon Himself and suffered the punishment for our sin in our place.