

Saturday/Sunday, September 23/24, 2023
Lectionary 25



Christ Lutheran Church

"A Place Where You are Always Welcome"

Services: Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 10:00 am

Sunday School: 9:00 am

600 North Main Street, Stockton, IL 61085 Office: 815-947-2033

Email: clc600@mediacombb.net <http://www.christlutheranstockton.com>

Ministers: ALL members of the congregation

Pastor: Rev. Chrissy Salser chrissytherev@att.net **815-988-9450**

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

WELCOME: *Thank you for joining us for worship today. We are glad you are with us. Communion will be served in your pews or in the aisle. All are welcome to share at this meal. Jesus is our host and invites everyone.. As you entered worship you could have received your communion element, at that part of the service, you are invited to take the bread and wine (or grape juice) when Pr. Chrissy leads. Those who would like to come forward, bread and wine will also be available in the front. When directed by the usher, come forward down the center aisle, Pr Chrissy will give you bread (she will be masked and wearing cloves) and then you will take a cup of wine (grape juice) from the tray. After taking communion you will return to your seat by the side aisle. To reduce passing, offering is collected as you enter or leave worship.*

Introduction: Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P. Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C. Amen.

P. Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,

C. you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

P. Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN:**Open Now The Gates of Beauty****ELW #533**

- 1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

GREETING:

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Let us pray together. 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.**

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

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

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

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

²Every 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.

⁴One 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.

⁶They 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.

**⁸The 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

C. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

ELW 599



GOSPEL READING: Matthew 20: 1-16

P. The holy Gospel According to Matthew

C. Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 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.”

P. The gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**MESSAGE**

HYMN OF THE DAY : **There is a Wideness in God’s Mercy**

ELW #588



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

†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 INTERCESSION:

P. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

†PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

Meal: *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

OFFERING: *Offering is collected as you enter worship.*

HYMN:

As the Grains Of Wheat

ELW #465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Let us pray together: God of power, God of plenty, C: all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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:

P. So, come to this table, You who have much faith and you who would like to have more. You who have been to this sacrament often, And you who have not been for a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, eat what is good. *Please come down the center aisle, take the bread, then receive a cup (wine is dark, juice is light, return to your seats via side aisle.) Those who prefer to take communion in your pews, we will take all together after all is served.*

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION (Saturday Only)

P: This is the body of Christ given for you. *(All take bread).*

P: This is the blood of Christ shed for you. *(All take the wine).*

COMMUNION HYMN: We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW #479

1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
 2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased cease,
 3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,

To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
 from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
 and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay

not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
 with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

†TABLE BLESSING:

P. May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C. Amen.

†PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

P. Let us pray together. Blessed be your name, **C: O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SENDING: *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

BLESSING:

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

†SENDING HYMN:

On Our Rejoicing

ELW # 537

1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;

Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;

Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,

who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain
On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,

hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

†DISMISSAL:

P. Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

In our prayers today: Darlene and Walt Steffes, Dorothy and Bob Schreck, Delores Wampflar, Marge Arnold, Ruth Fox, Shirley North, Clyde Pohl, Jeff Warner, Terry Lee, Keith Anderson Karli Weltzin, Audrea Fulton, Vadium Saratovtsev, Dave Julius, Greg Wurster, Jim Sager, Family and friends of Bob Schiess, Nathan Heidenrich, Julie Haas; For the births of Hudson Arnold Ven Huizen and Evelyn Rose Chenong
Celebrating birthdays/anniversaries this week: Jared Hermann, Karen Dick, Jason Werner, Charlotte Ernst, Beckitt Ernst, Caley Feltmeyer, Aiden Larson, Payton Broshous, William Heidenreich, Bob Kappes, Kristin Wright, and Tim & Heather Larson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATION RETREAT: you are invited to join us on Saturday, October 14 from 9 til noon. We will look at who we are as individuals and people and as a church. We will spend some time looking at where God may be leading us. Please make plans to attend. The more who come the more can be a part of this conversation.

5K FUN WALK FOR LOMC: LOMC will be hosting a 5k on Saturday, October 14 at LOMC, but we will be having a group do it here in Stockton on that morning at 8 am. Those who would like to participate please let Pastor Chrissy know. Donuts and coffee will be served when the walk is over. We will be raising money to support LOMC. To make a donation please see Pastor Chrissy or www.lomc.org/5k/ and donate "Christ Stockton".

BIBLE STUDY: join us on Wednesdays at 10 am, in the narthex weekly to study the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Come for a chance to explore the word together and pray over those on our prayer list. This will meet every Wednesday unless otherwise noted. Please contact Pr Chrissy if you have any questions.

9/27- Matthew 21:23-32

10/4- Matthew 21:33-46

10/11- Matthew 22:1-14

10/18- Matthew 22:15-22

ANDERSON HOUSE APARTMENTS: an LSSI home and new ministry partner to us, here in Stockton. We will include info for the October birthdays. We are asking you to send cards to the residents. This will be part of our birthday celebration for each resident.



James's Bday is October 15, he will be 65 years old. Cards can be sent to 200 E King Ave, Stockton IL 61085

BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER: We will join together once a month for a chance of fellowship with others from Christ. We are hoping to bring everyone from both Saturday night and Sunday morning to share in a meal and fellowship together. We will meet Saturday, October 21 at 9 am at Stella's.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED: We are looking for those who may be interested in helping teach youth Sunday School. Please consider volunteering for one Sunday a month. Please talk to Darcie Rabb or Pastor Chrissy.

August TOTALS: As a way to improve communication around finances, we are sharing the information below

August	2023	
	Month	Year to date
Offerings:	\$6,767	\$72,212
Expenses:	\$10,691	\$78,702
Overall Gain / Loss	(\$3,924)	(\$6,490)

Thanks be to God for your gifts for the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church				Offering/ Attendance Report 9/10/23	
Current Expense	\$1825.00	Sunday School	\$20.00	September 9	14
		Building Fund	\$10.00	Sunday School	39
Benevolence	\$30.00			September 10	55
		Total	\$ 1885.00		
Thanks be to God for your gifts for the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church				Offering/ Attendance Report 9/17/2023	
Current Expense	\$1785.00			September 16	15
		Building Fund	\$10.00	Sunday school	21
Benevolence	\$130.00			September 17	44
		Total	\$ 1925.00		

Upcoming Events

- September 23- 5:30 worship
- September 24- 9 am Sunday School all ages
- September 24 – 10:00am worship
- **September 24- 11:30- Confirmation Meeting with parents and students**
- September 27- 10 am Bible Study
- September 30- 5:30 worship
- October 1 - 9:00am Sunday School
- October 1 - 10:00 worship
- October 8 2023- 11:30-1:30 Confirmation Class
- October 12- 10 am WELCA Annual Meeting Bottle Shed
- October 14- 8 am 5k fun walk for LOMC- meet at church
- **October 14, 2023- 9 am -Noon- Congregational Retreat**
- October 18, 2023- 7 om church council
- October 21- 9 am Breaking bread together fellowship Stella's
- October 21, 2023- 8:30-6 Confirmation
- **October 22, 2023- 2pm-5pm Open House at Pastor Chrissy's house**
- October 31, 2023- Trunk of treat- church parking lot