



Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,
and Caring through Christ***

September 8, 2019

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
the strength of our ancestors, the host
of this meal, the builder of the city that is
to come.

C: Amen.

P: If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful. *(A brief silence.)*
God our helper,

C: We confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples. We have not finished what we began. We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers. We have been captivated by our possessions.

**Lift our burdens, gracious God.
Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin.
Raise us to the new life you have chosen
for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and
Lord. Amen.**

P: There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Lift High The Cross”

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.**

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.**

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.**

Refrain

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory!**

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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship today, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ.

Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of the Christ in the blessed sacrament and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life" – to choose life in God as our own.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. (*A brief silence.*)

Direct us, O Lord,

C: **in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



Join us in Children's Church!

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A reading from Deuteronomy, the 30th chapter.

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess.

But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him;

for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A RESPONSIVE READING FROM PSALM 1

R: Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

C: Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

R: They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

C: It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

R: Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

C: For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

SECOND READING: Philemon 1

A reading from Philemon, the 1st chapter.

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus.

I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love - and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.

I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced.

Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back forever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother - especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

P: The holy gospel according to Luke,
the 14th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Once when large crowds of people were going along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, “Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well. Those who do not carry their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciples.

If one of you is planning to build a tower, you sit down first and figure out what it will cost, to see if you have enough money to finish the job. If you don't, you will not be able to finish the tower after laying the foundation; and all who see what happened will make fun of you. 'You began to build but can't finish the job!' they will say. If a king goes out with ten thousand men to fight another king who comes against him with twenty thousand men, he will sit down first and decide if he is strong enough to face that other king.

“When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON
“Choose Life”

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Take My Life, That I May Be”

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

**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.**

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

**Take my silver and my gold,
not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine.**

**Take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, if all for thee.**

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: Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation. *(A brief silence.)* Turn our hearts, O God. Make us attentive to your call to take up the cross-shaped way of life, and to share your good news with a world in need. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Turn our hearts toward life in all its infinite varieties. We pray especially for all vanishing and endangered creatures who struggle to find a home in this world. Open our eyes to the value of our interconnected relationships within your natural world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Turn our hearts toward all who yearn for calm and fairness. Where there is violence and conflict, grant peace. Where there is disparity, grant justice. Where there is hatred and fear, grant compassion and empathy. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Turn our hearts toward all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We pray for those in bondage to sin, addiction, poverty, physical slavery or human trafficking, and those incarcerated or detained. For those in any need we pray (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Turn our hearts toward the ministries of our congregations that feed the hungry, share with the needy, advocate for the silenced, and work for your justice. Embolden our hearts to labor without fear.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Turn our hearts toward your eternal reign. We give thanks for our sisters and brothers who have died, trusting the promise of life for ever with you. Marked by the cross of Christ, inspire us by their examples to live in faith. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

~VIDEO DURING OFFERING ~

“Symphony”
by Newsboys

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks and praise to
the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God of blessing, at this table we have seen you face to face, and in the gift of Christ's body and blood, our hearts have been refreshed. Send us now to shine with your goodness and bear witness to the one we have received: Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Almighty God + bless you with grace, mercy, and peace, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “*Choral Benediction*”

May the light of God shine on us today.

May the light of God shine on us today.

**May it show us where to travel,
lead us back if we should stray.**

May the light of God shine on us today.

May the love of God live in us today.

May the love of God live in us today.

**May the warmth we feel within us,
show in all we do and say.**

May the love of God live in us today.

**May the peace of God be with us today.
May the peace of God be with us today.
May it guide us and protect us,
as we go our separate ways.
May the peace of God be with us today.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**











