**Ninth Sunday After Pentecost**

**July 30, 2023**

**9:30am**



**Christ Lutheran Church**

6500 E. Stearns Street

Long Beach, California 90815

Phone 562-598-2433

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[www.clclb.com](http://www.clclb.com)

**Welcome to worship! We’re glad you’re here!**

To assist in your worship:

**bold** print means we respond together

**\*** meansstand as you are able,

+ you may make the sign of the cross should you so desire.

**TODAY’S worship THEME**

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today’s gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God’s reign, the great surprise is that God’s grace finds us first!



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**PRELUDE**  Roger Halvorson

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God, who greets us in this and every season,

whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy**.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Righteous God**, we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be**

**honest. We have lacked courage to speak. We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy**.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God’s mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. **Amen**.

**\*GATHERING SONG** *Gather Us In #532*

**\*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**

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**\*pRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray together. *A brief silence***. Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READING** [Romans 8:26-39](https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2023-6-11/0) PewBible New Testament Pg.165

 Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM** Psalm 119:129-136 PewBible Old Testament Pg. 631

9Your decrees are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.
 **130The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.** 131With open mouth I pant, because I long for your commandments.
**132Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your custom toward those who love your name.** 133Keep my steps steady according to your promise, and never let iniquity have dominion over me.

 **134Redeem me from human oppression, that I may keep your precepts.** 135Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.
 **136My eyes shed streams of tears because your law is not kept.**

\***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**\*GOSPEL** [Matthew](https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2023-6-4/2415) 13:31-33, 44-52 Pew Bible New Testament Pg. 15

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

**SERMON** Pastor Laurie Arroyo



 **\*SERMON SONG** *Holy, Holy (verses 1-4)*



**\*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 CHURCH**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF PEACE**

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

**OFFERTORY**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**



**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together. **God of field and forest, sea and sky, You are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, And multiply your graciousness in us, That the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus.*

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord,**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy…

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*SONG OF THANKSGIVING**



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**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit…in your church, without end. **Amen.**

**\*LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

We believe that this is Jesus' table. All are welcome and invited to commune.  We serve communion by “intinction”; receive the bread and dip it in the chalice of red wine. Currently we are offering individual communion cups as an alternative to intinction if you so desire. Both wine and grape juice (white) are offered in the tray. Gluten free bread is available; let your server know. Should you choose not to commune, please come forward to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms across your chest.





**lamb of god**

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**COMMUNION SONG** *Seek Ye First #122*

**Verse 1**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

And His righteousness

And all these things

Shall be added unto you

Allelu alleluia

**Verse 2**

Man shall not live by bread alone

But by ev'ry word

That proceeds

From the mouth of God

Allelu alleluia

**Verse 3**

Ask and it shall be given unto you

Seek and ye shall find

Knock and the door

Shall be opened unto you

Allelu alleluia

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together. **We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**\*BLESSING**

The God who faithfully calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed **☩** bless, keep, and sustain you, now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN** *How Great is our God*

**Verse 1**

The splendor of the King

Clothed in majesty

Let all the earth rejoice

All the earth rejoice

He wraps Himself in light

And darkness tries to hide

And trembles at His voice

And trembles at His voice

**Chorus**

How great is our God

Sing with me

How great is our God

And all will see how great

How great is our God

**Verse 2**

And age to age He stands

And time is in His hands

Beginning and the End

Beginning and the End

The Godhead three in one

Father Spirit Son

The Lion and the Lamb

The Lion and the Lamb

**Bridge**

Name above all names

Worthy of all praise

My heart will sing

How great is our God

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Roger Halvorson

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

**Interim Pastor**  Rev. Laurie Arroyo, lauriethere@msn.com

**Office Manager** Kim Croes, officemanager@christlutheranlb.com

**Preschool Director** Lisa Clinton, info@clplb.com

**Interim Choir Director** Kim Philips, kimsings@msn.com

**Accompanist** Roger Halvorson

**Percussionist** Nathan Latiolait

**Missionary to Colombia** Linda Gawthorne

**It is our joy to worship with your whole family this morning!**

We encourage everyone of all ages and abilities to worship together. If you do need to take a "time out", please do so in the narthex (gathering space at the entry), and return to worship when you are ready. A changing table is located in the restroom off the narthex. Activity bags, filled with crayons, paper and storybooks, are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.

**Mission Statement**

Living by Christ’s example, we welcome, serve, and love all through God’s grace.

**Vision Statement**

Embracing the truth that God’s love and grace is for all, Christ Lutheran Church is a vibrant and active community spreading the good news through acceptance, action, and benevolence.

**Our Position**

Christ is ALIVE!

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