

NEW BEGINNINGS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost – September 1st, 2024 (11:11 am)

NEITHER DAY NEITHER NIGHT I FEEL ALONE

Psalm 121

Ephesians 6:10-20

Mark 7:14-23

We Are Cleansed and Sustained by the Word of God

Wickedness and evil come *“from within, out of the heart,”* and that is what defiles a person (Mark 7:21-23). Hence, we cannot save ourselves, because we are sinful and unclean from the inside out. But as the Lord Jesus *“declared all foods clean”* (Mark 7:19), so He cleanses us by His Word, the preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Therefore, *“listen to the statutes and the rules”* of the Lord, *“and do them, that you may live”* (Deut. 4:1). For His Word is righteous, and to live according to it is *“your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples”* (Deut. 4:6). Cling to His Word, and also teach it *“to your children and your children’s children”* (Deut. 4:9). Put on this *“armor of God”* by hearing and heeding what He speaks to you, that you may *“stand firm”* in the evil day (Eph. 6:11-13). Gird yourself with the righteousness of Christ, by faith in the *“gospel of peace,”* and take up *“the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,”* by confessing Christ Jesus and *“praying at all times in the Spirit”* (Eph. 6:14-18).

WELCOME – (Deanna)

GATHERING SONGS

HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You
So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me
King of all days
Oh so highly exalted

Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor
*And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross
And I'll never know how much it cost
To see my sin upon that cross*

CCLI Song # 3266032

Tim Hughes

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SPEAK O LORD

Speak O Lord as we come to You
To receive the food of Your holy word
Take Your truth plant it deep in us
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith
Speak O Lord and fulfill in us
All Your purposes for Your glory
 Teach us Lord full obedience
 Holy reverence true humility
 Test our thoughts and our attitudes
 In the radiance of Your purity
 Cause our faith to rise
 Cause our eyes to see
 Your majestic love and authority
 Words of power that can never fail
 Let their truth prevail over unbelief
Speak O Lord and renew our minds
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time
That will echo down through eternity
And by grace we'll stand on Your promises
And by faith we'll walk as You walk with us
Speak O Lord till Your church is built

And the earth is filled with Your glory

CCLI Song # 4615235
Keith Getty | Stuart Townend
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CALLING ON GOD'S NAME (Pastor)

P – In the name of the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT. Amen.

PSALM 121

My Help Comes from the LORD

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

²My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

⁵The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

**⁸The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.**

CONFESSION

Pastor – Lord Jesus, You opened the eyes of the blind, healed the sick, forgave the sinful woman, and after Peter's denial confirmed him in your love. Listen to our prayer:

ALL TOGETHER – Dear God, forgive all our sins, renew your love in our hearts, help us to live in perfect unity with our fellow Christians that we may proclaim your saving power to all the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

FORGIVENESS

Pastor – Hear the good news! ***“Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised - who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us”.*** (Romans 8:34). In Jesus Christ you are forgiven! The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Go in peace, yours sins are forgiven, in the name of the FATHER and the SON and the HOLY SPIRIT. Amen.

WORSHIP SONG – GIVE US CLEAN HANDS

We bow our hearts we bend our knees
Oh Spirit come make us humble
We turn our eyes from evil things
Oh Lord we cast down our idols

***Give us clean hands give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
Give us clean hands give us pure hearts
Let us not lift our souls to another
And oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob
And oh God let us be a generation that seeks
That seeks Your face oh God of Jacob***

CCLI Song # 2060208
Charlie Hall

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BIBLE READINGS – (Vince)

GOSPEL FROM MARK 7:14-23

What Defiles a Person

¹⁴ And he called the people to him again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him.”^[a] ¹⁷ And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸ And he said to them, “Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹ since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?”^[b] (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰ And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹ For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²² coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

EPISTLE FROM EPHESIANS 6:10-20

The Whole Armor of God

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

WORSHIP SONG – CHANGE MY HEART OH GOD,

***Change my heart oh God,
make it ever true.***

***Change my heart oh God,
may I be like You.***

*You are the potter,
I am the clay,
mold me and make me,
this is what I pray.*

MESSAGE – “Neither day, neither night I feel alone” (Psalm 121)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the Creator of all things, the source of all goodness and love. He is our God and we are His people.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, true God yet true man. He was crucified, died, and was buried for our sin – that we might be free and know the joy of life. He was

raised on the third day and ascended to heaven. He will come again in power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the power of God at work inside of us. We believe in the Church of God, the people of faith throughout the world. We believe that our sin is forgiven and that we will live together with God for now and throughout eternity. Amen.

[By: Handt Hanson; Source: The Other Song Book]

WORSHIP SONG (IN PREPARATION OF COMMUNION) - LORD I NEED YOU

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You're the one that guides my heart

***Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You***

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me
Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

*So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus You're my hope and stay*

***Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev'ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You***

'As a Lutheran Church, we believe that Jesus' body and blood are really and truly present in the Lord's Supper. And we believe that Jesus is giving real and true spiritual gifts to us through this eating and drinking: forgiveness, life, and salvation. It is pure gospel for our comfort and spiritual strength.

COMMUNION PREPARATION

These are our statements about Holy Communion:

- **I know I am a sinner.**
- **I believe that Jesus is my personal Savior.**
- **I believe that Jesus is really present in the bread and wine.**
- **I intend, with God's help, to change my sinful life and live for him.**
- **I understand that when I come to this table, I publicly state that I believe these things.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Pastor)

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said: "**Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**" In the same way also, he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "**Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.**"

DISTRIBUTION – SONGS: "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD" AND "BEHOLD OUR GOD"

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING (Pastor)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (Prayer)

LORD'S PRAYER (Prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

¹ "It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink."
(<https://catechism.cph.org/en/sacrament-of-the-altar.html>)

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINAL SONG – THE BLESSING

***The Lord bless you and keep you
Make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
The Lord turn His face toward you
And give you peace***

Amen, amen, amen

Amen, amen, amen

*May His favor be upon you
And a thousand generations
And your family and your children
And their children, and their children
May His presence go before you
And behind you and beside you
All around you and within you
He is with you, He is with you
In the morning, in the evening
In your coming and your going
In your weeping and rejoicing
He is for you, He is for you*

Amen, amen, amen

Amen, amen, amen