

# NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 3rd, 2021



## 9:15am - Hybrid Worship Lutheran Church of the Living Christ

*“A Future with Hope” is a stewardship campaign built around Jeremiah 29:11: “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” The rhythms of diaspora and gathering, exile and return, gathering and sending, have been part of the life of faith for generations. As we come together, we are also sent out. As we have received, we give with grateful hearts. In this season, we invite you to join us in giving thanks for all the resources – spiritual, theological, physical, and financial – that support our mission and ministry in this place. With a past so full of grace, our future, thanks be to God, is likewise full of hope.*

**Notes about our worship service:** Guidance and extra information is printed in *italics* throughout the bulletin. “P” indicates the speaking part of the presiding minister; “L” indicates a speaking part of a lay leader; “C” and parts in boldface indicate speaking parts of the whole congregation.

Worshipping in this time continues to be impacted by the Delta variant. As such, the following precautions remain in place: Masking is required. You will drop off your offering and pick up prepackaged communion supplies and bulletins on your way in. You may choose to sit where you like (no capacity limitations). Sharing of communion and peace will remain distanced. We will sing only the last song of the service. Finally, please be mindful of others’ comfort with touch. Ask before giving a handshake or hug.

PRELUDE - "In a Holy Place" Gilbert M. Martin

## WELCOME

*The assembly is invited to stand as worship begins.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

P: By the waters of Babylon, there we wept when we remembered.

**C: By the waters of the kitchen sink, there we wept.**

**And on the living room couch, and in the empty school room,  
and beside the makeshift dining room table office.**

P: How could we sing God's song in a strange land?

**C: How could we sing God's song over Zoom?**

P: By the waters of Babylon,

**C: There we wept when we remembered.**

P: We remembered that ancient rhythm of separation and homecoming,

**C: Exile and return, going out and coming in.**

P: You who are by the waters of Babylon: Come!

**C: From kitchens and home offices,  
Sidewalks and parking lots, we come!**

P: You who remember and you who do not: Come!

**C: Sometimes remembering clearly,  
sometimes confused by nostalgia, we come!  
By car and by computer, we come!**

P: God goes with every exile;

**C: God rejoices with every return.**

P: In Babylon and Jerusalem, in strange lands and familiar rooms

**C: In sanctuaries and on screens, in pews or couches,  
ALL: We come to be together and worship God.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OPENING HYMN - God is Here!, ELW #526**

*You are invited to listen to the hymn tune and reflect on the lyrics below.*

- 1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.
- 2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.
- 3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
- 4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

## **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: Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another.  
Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast. As you gather us in, transform us by your  
love. As you send us out for service and mission in your name, we may reflect the  
image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING - Jeremiah 29:10-14**

*This passage is from a letter from Jeremiah to the Israelite exiles in Babylon. The prophet is declaring the good news that God will “bring you back to this place” from exile – and at the same time cautions them not to believe false prophets announcing a quick return and advocating violent rebellion.*

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon’s seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. <sup>12</sup> Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, <sup>14</sup> I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 8**

L: O Lord our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth! –

**C: you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of children  
you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

L: When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

**C: what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,  
human beings that you should care for them?**

L: Yet you have made them little less than divine;  
with glory and honor you crown them.

**C: You have made them rule over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet:**

L: all flocks and cattle,  
even the wild beasts of the field,

**C: the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

L: O Lord our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

## **SECOND READING - Acts 2:43-47**

*Here we are given a vision of what the church ought to be. Communities of faith are marked by shared meals and prayers, awe or reverence, portents and signs, communal sharing and redistributive economics, ritual faithfulness, joy, good will, and growth.*

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands for the reading of the gospel.*

## **GOSPEL READING - Mark 6:1-13**

*Being sent out is part of what it means to be followers of Jesus. The disciples imitate Jesus by calling for repentance, casting out demons, and healing.*

[Jesus] left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. <sup>2</sup> On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! <sup>3</sup> Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house." <sup>5</sup> And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. <sup>7</sup> He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup> He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; <sup>9</sup> but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. <sup>10</sup> He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. <sup>11</sup> If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that

is on your feet as a testimony against them.”<sup>12</sup> So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent.<sup>13</sup> They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Following the reading the assembly is seated.*

**SERMON** - Pastor Melissa Woepfel

**MUSIC FOR REFLECTION - Beautiful Things, ACS #925**

*You are invited to listen to the hymn tune and reflect on the lyrics below.*

1 All this pain, I wonder if I'll ever find my way?  
I wonder if my life could really change, at all?

*Refrain:* You make beautiful things, You make beautiful things out of the dust.  
You make beautiful things, You make beautiful things out of us.

2 All this earth, Could all that is lost ever be found?  
Could a garden come out from this ground, at all? *Refrain*

3 All around, hope is springing up from this old ground,  
Out of chaos life is being found in you. *Refrain*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers reflect the wideness of God's mercy – for the church and its ministry; for the well-being of creation; for peace & justice; for the poor, oppressed, & sick; for all who suffer; for the congregation; & for special concerns/occasions.*

As children of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Holy One, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout history. Empower those discerning a call to ministry and all seminarians, especially Elizabeth, that they continue to be formed for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have established a diverse and beautiful creation. Remind us of our role as stewards and partners of care for all that you have made. Revive declining species and preserve endangered lands. Cultivate in us a sense of wonder for the world you created. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You desire for us not to be alone and to live in community with one another. Strengthen relationships between nations and peoples, that we celebrate and support one human family. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You share in our experiences and struggles. Bless all who live with any mental or physical disability. Inspire creative communities, spaces, and environments that are accessible and hospitable. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You have established and nurtured relationships that extend beyond those gathered here today. Bless members who can no longer travel to worship with us or who worship with us from afar. Remind us of their continued role in this community of faith. Continue to bless ministry that is shared through Zoom and other virtual means. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We pray for Bishop Alexander Scheiermann, Missionary Braden Buerkle, Pastor Vitaly Mohn, and all of the people of the Lutheran Churches in Russia. May our Christian partnership continue to be a source of encouragement and faithfulness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You promise eternal life to all your children. Thank you for the people of faith who have gone before us. Strengthen our trust we have in you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The assembly is invited to stand.*

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Share a sign of peace by waving, flashing a peace sign, or other form of **distanced** greeting.*

*If you are joining us online, type a message or share a brief word of peace.*

## CALL TO OFFERING

P: The people gather and disperse, gather and disperse.

**C: It is the way of life with God.**

P: As with the people, so with our money:

**C: gather and disperse, gather and disperse.**

P: As with the people, so with our money:

**C: the more we gather, the more we can disperse.**

P: As with the people, so with our money:

**C: the gathering is good, but the giving, the sending out into the world, is even better!**

P: Friends, we lift up now the offering that has been gathered and will be sent.

**C: We trust in God's future with hope.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*We continue to be the church together during this time through prayer and financial support. Your giving ensures that the ministries of this congregation continue now and into the future.*

P: God of love and generosity, for the gifts you have dispersed into the world, we give you thanks:

**C: the people, the money, the hope, and the life.**

P: For all that has been gathered here from that dispersal,

**C: the people, the money, the hope, and the life, we give you thanks.**

P: Give us the strength to be separated, the courage to be commissioned, the generosity to give, and the wisdom to send ourselves and our money where you would have them go. Send your Spirit on us and in us, wherever we are, O God, and on this gathering of your gifts, for we have gathered ourselves and our offerings in the name of our Good Shepherd, the One who lives in exile with us, the One who leads us home: In Jesus' name we pray,

**C: Amen.**

## CHOIR ANTHEM - "Lord, Make Us Worthy"

## COMMUNION LITURGY

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 to the Lord our God **C: It is right to give God thanks and praise**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name, and join the unending refrain of all creation.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

O God triune, how majestic is your name in all the earth. Over the eons your merciful might evolved our home, a fragile tree of life. Here by your wisdom are both life and death, growth and decay, sunshine and storm, gathering and sending, exile and return. Sustained by these wonders, we creatures of goodness and dust join in the ancient song:  
**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals lift our voices:  
**The earth is full of your glory.**

We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

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.

Gathered around this table, we your children unite in this refrain:  
**The earth is full of your glory.**

O God triune, you created the cosmos, you uphold the living, you embrace the dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future with hope that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we rise from our deaths to praise you again:

**The earth is full of your glory.**

Amen, and amen.

**Amen, and amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: 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**

P: Taste and see that God is good.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated. Time is given for the sharing of elements among households.*

### **BLESSING**

P: May this sign of God's presence, this shared bread between us, strengthen us and give us peace.

**C: Amen.**

### **PRAYER**

P: Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS (see last page)**

*The assembly is invited to stand for the end of the service.*

## BENEDICTION

P: The time for sending is here, for time apart, for dispersal. It will not last forever; to return is our promise and hope. We will be together again, and the question then will be: what did you do with your time when we were apart?

May the God who is the home of the exile, Jesus, who was and is an exile himself, and the Spirit, who goes with us as we love and serve, be with you until we meet again.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN - Bless Now, O God, the Journey, ELW #326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;  
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.  
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,  
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace; share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE - "The Ringing of the Bells" Lani Smith

## Announcements for the week of 10/03/21

1. Blessing of the Animals TODAY at 3pm, in the grassy area near Concord Dr.
2. Council meets tomorrow, 10/4 at 7pm via Zoom.
3. Pastor Melissa is on vacation 10/8-10/10. Pastoral care will be covered by Pastor Jill Seagle, cell: 570-713-7359. On Sunday, 10/10, we welcome The Rev. Dr. Teresa Mithen Danieleley, an Episcopal priest and the St. Louis Champions Organizer at Missouri Jobs with Justice (MOJWJ).
4. Pastor Melissa will also be out of the office 10/11-10/14 for synod-wide theological education. She will be available by phone in case of emergency.
5. LCLC will host a follow-up COVID vaccine clinic on 10/14 from 4-8pm. The event will be hosted in the lower level. This will primarily be for those receiving second Pfizer doses. TBA if booster shots are available.
6. With the October Communicator, you received a one-page insert with a prayer, a giving chart, and a pledge card. In the coming weeks, pray for the ministry of LCLC and your own investment and contribution to the mission we share. **We will gather our pledges on Reformation Sunday (10/31).** Together, we will celebrate God's gift of "a future with hope."

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## Worship Leadership

### October 3, 2021

**Preaching/Presiding:** Pastor Melissa  
**Assisting Minister:** Angela Bennett  
**Lector:** Terry Calderwood  
**Zoom and Slides:** Marilyn Wiley  
**Musician:** Greg Ott  
**Ushers:** Jim and Doris Stoehner  
**Greeter:** Jeanne Calderwood

### October 10, 2021

**Preaching/Presiding:** Rev. Dr. Teresa Mithen Danieleley  
**Assisting Minister:** Angela Bennett  
**Lector:** Kathy Carr  
**Zoom and Slides:** Rod Wallace  
**Musician:** David Eggers  
**Ushers:** Glen Albers and Bill Billeau  
**Greeter:** Kathy Endorf

### October 17, 2021

**Preaching/Presiding:** Pastor Melissa  
**Assisting Minister:** Elizabeth Carr  
**Lector:** Jeanne Calderwood  
**Zoom and Slides:** Laurie/Gary Brown  
**Musician:** Greg Ott  
**Ushers:** Cathie Lehr and Marilyn Wiley  
**Greeter:** Judy Holmes

### October 24, 2021

**Preaching/Presiding:** Pastor Christopher Yanker  
**Assisting Minister:** Randy Henning  
**Lector:** Laurie Brown  
**Zoom and Slides:** Erle Craig  
**Musician:** David Eggers  
**Ushers:** Ann Schultz and Cora Wallace  
**Greeter:** Jeanne Calderwood