

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 10th, 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 *“GOD HIMSELF IS PRESENT”* BY Michael Burkhardt

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 - Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ, ELW #674

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

- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *Refrain*

- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! *Refrain*

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: Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and be transformed by life with you. All this we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING - Jeremiah 29:10-11

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. ¹¹ 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. ¹² Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. ¹³ When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴ 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 90:12-17

L: So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

**C: Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry?
Be gracious to your servants.**

L: Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

**C: Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us
and as many years as we suffered adversity.**

L: Show your servants your works,
and your splendor to their children.

**C: May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

SECOND READING - Acts 4:32-37

Jesus' followers chose to live in a close community and share everything. Barnabas is shown as a good example of that sharing. In what ways might the daily life of the early church community be a model for us?

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. ³⁶ There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). ³⁷ He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands for the reading of the gospel.

GOSPEL READING - Mark 10:17-31

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.' " ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the

kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you."

²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age – houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Following the reading the assembly is seated.

SERMON - Rev. Dr. Teresa Mithen Danieleley

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION - We Give Thee but Thine Own, ELW #686

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

- 1 We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
- 2 May we thy bounties thus as stewards true receive,
and gladly, as thou blessest us, to thee our firstfruits give.
- 3 The captive to release, to God the lost to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace – it is a Christlike thing.
- 4 And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it unto thee.

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.*

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healing God, we pray for the forgotten, the poor, the sick, and the hurting. Especially we pray for.....Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died (*especially*). Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. 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.

BELLS VIDEO "A SHEPHERD'S LOVE" arranged by Karen Lakey Buckwalter.

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 - Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing, ELW #545



- 1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
- 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
- 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug-gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum-mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav-'ling through this wil-der-ness.
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace; share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "O HOW JOYFULLY" by Benton Price

Announcements for the week of 10/10/21

1. We thank The Rev. Dr. Teresa Mithen Danieleley for her worship leadership today! Stick around after worship to hear about Missouri Jobs with Justice.
2. Our next Live Christ program will be on 10/17 as we explore service. Bring boxed and canned goods to support the work of feeding ministries like TEAM and God's Helping Hand. We will prepare bread mixes to take home and bake and will learn about hunger in our community.
3. Pastor Melissa will be out of the office 10/11-10/14 for synod-wide theological education. She will be available by phone in case of emergency. Tuesday Bible study will not meet this week.
4. Living Christ 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. Booster shots WILL BE available.
5. In the coming weeks, continue to 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), celebrating God's gift of "a future with hope."
6. LADIES LUNCH BUNCH: The lunch group will meet at 11:30, Thursday, October 14, at Pasta House, [11202 W. Florissant](#). Make reservations with Judy Holmes at 314-355-1125 or mickey.holmes@att.net.

Worship Leadership

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

October 31, 2021 *Reformation*

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Melissa
Assisting Minister: Angela Bennett
Lector: Gary Brown
Zoom and Slides: Elizabeth Carr
Musician: Greg Ott
Ushers: Glenn and Jann Mueller
Greeter: Kathy Endorf