

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 17th, 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: "Here's One" by Mark Hayes

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 - We Are an Offering, ELW #692

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

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord use our voices, Lord use our hands,
Lord use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are,
All that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.

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 use your greatness as goodness for all of the earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire your will. Join us to your work of reconciliation, mending, and wholeness. May our lives be a reflection of the grace and love we have received from you. All this we pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.

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 91:9-16

L: Because you have made the Lord your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

**C: no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

L: For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.

**C: Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

L: You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

**C: I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

L: They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

**C: With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

SECOND READING - Romans 12:1-8

After explaining what God has done for us, Paul describes how to live as a follower of Jesus. The Spirit is at work in communities of faith, where all our gifts are needed in order to function as one body in Christ.

I appeal to you therefore, siblings in Christ, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands for the reading of the gospel.

GOSPEL READING - Mark 10:35-45

On the way to Jerusalem the disciples ask Jesus to grant them seats of honor. Jesus responds by announcing that he and his followers will “rule” through self-giving service. This is a direct challenge to the values of the dominant culture, where wielding power over others is what makes you great. God’s way is about community, relationship, and service.

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”³⁶ And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?”³⁷ And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”³⁸ But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”³⁹ They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;⁴⁰ but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them.⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant,⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Following the reading the assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

SERMON - Pastor Melissa Woeppel

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION - In Sacred Manner, ACS #1071

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

- 1 In sacred manner may we walk upon the fair and loving earth,
in beauty move, in beauty love the living round that brought us birth.
We stand on holy ground. We stand on holy ground.
- 2 In sacred manner may we see the luminous and loving stars,
with wonder and with awe behold their ever-new creative powers.
The heavens show us God. The heavens show us God.
- 3 In sacred manner may we touch the suspirant and loving green,
give honor and give gratitude for shade, for bloom, for gift unseen.
The trees shall shout for joy. The trees shall shout for joy.
- 4 In sacred manner may we hear the pounding waves, the searing fire,
the rushing wind, the singing night, the forest hymn, the loving choir.
The morning stars shall sing. The morning stars shall sing.
- 5 In sacred manner may we live among the wise and loving ones,
sit humbly, as at sages' feet, by four-legged, finned, and feathered ones.
The animals will teach. The animals will teach.
- 6 In sacred manner may we walk upon the fair and loving earth,
in beauty move, in beauty love the living round that brought us birth.
We stand on holy ground. We stand on holy ground.

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, for the gift of the church handed down through the ages and for all who carry on the servant ministry of Jesus, we praise you. Send your Holy Spirit upon all who are discerning calls to ministry in its many forms and equip them with your gifts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating One, for the lush and abundant habitat you provide for all your creatures, we praise you. Provide healing for the earth so that all living things flourish as you intend. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Suffering One, for all who work toward peace and who lead nations with a servant's heart, we praise you. Bring justice for all who suffer violence, persecution, discrimination, hunger, poverty, and homelessness, and create places of refuge for all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful One, for all who do the work of healing in mind, body, and spirit, we praise you. Surround and comfort all who struggle with depression, anxiety, and illness (*especially*), that all may be healed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustaining One, for all who volunteer for the vitality of this congregation, we praise you. Strengthen and encourage leaders and all who serve with generous hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Risen One, we thank you for those who have shaped your church and shared your gospel. Through the witness of your saints, continue to inspire us with hope until we all are gathered at your eternal feast. 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.

C: Amen.

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 - Here I Am, Lord, ELW #574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
 3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace; share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Rejoice, the Lord is King" by Lloyd Larson

Announcements for the week of 10/17/21

1. Our next Live Christ program follows worship today. We will explore service as we collect boxed and canned goods, prepare bread mixes to take home and bake, and learn about hunger in our community.
2. The worship committee meets tomorrow at 7pm via Zoom to plan for Reformation, All Saints, and the Advent and Christmas seasons.
3. Trunk-or-Treat is taking place on Saturday, Oct. 30th, 5-7pm. We will again be partnering with Wedgewood HOA for this even for families in the neighborhood and congregation. Talk to Irene or Erle if you would like to be involved.
4. Pastor Melissa is part of the leadership team for the synod creation care retreat on 10/23. She will be out of office for the weekend. Pastor Christopher Yanker will join us for worship on 10/24. Janis Hutchinson with God's Helping Hand will also be with us after worship for a presentation.
5. Please 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."

Worship Leadership

October 17, 2021

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Melissa
Assisting Minister: Elizabeth Carr
Lector: Dave Endorf
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

November 7, 2021 *All Saints*

Preaching/Presiding: Pastor Melissa
Assisting Minister: Elizabeth Carr
Lector: Sharon Perko Davis
Zoom and Slides: Bryan Miles
Musician: David Eggers
Ushers: Dave Endorf and Randy Henning
Greeter: Judy Holmes