

**Faith Lutheran Church - Worship and Communion**

**September 8, 2024 at 9:30 AM**

## *The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

To join with video, go to our website and follow the video link

([www.faithlutheranreno.org](http://www.faithlutheranreno.org)) or find us on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/@faithlutheran-reno>



**Welcome!** We are a family of faith and so glad you are here! Our worship this month turns to **Setting Four** of the ELW Hymnal, beginning on pg 147.

**Children's Bulletins** are available in the narthex (entrance area), providing activities on today's scripture readings. Please enjoy.

God is present in **Holy Communion** and welcomes all who are hungry. You are welcome to the table. Non-communing children and adults may come forward for a blessing. Let an usher know if you would like communion at your seat.



*Flowers today are given by Dan Powell  
in Memory of his Father.*

**Serving Today:** Greeter, Linda Z / Acolyte, Welmerink Family / Reader, Pamela S / Asst Minister, Judi H / Cantor, Rich S / Ushers, Debbie H & Matthew R / Altar Guild, Betty T & Annette W / Tech Support, The FLC Tech Team / Counters, Linda Z, Davyann S & Mary W Coffee after Worship, Erica W

### **-GATHERING-**

**PRELUDE** "Wachet Auf" BWV 140, J.S. Bach     *Piano-Heinz D, Cello-Olivia K, Trumpet-Matthew R*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*moment of centering*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our brokenness and need and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips,  
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves.**

**We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.**

**In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.**

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,**

**and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

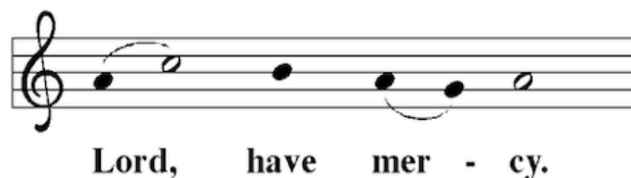
**GATHERING HYMN***O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come***ELW #610****GREETING**

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.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



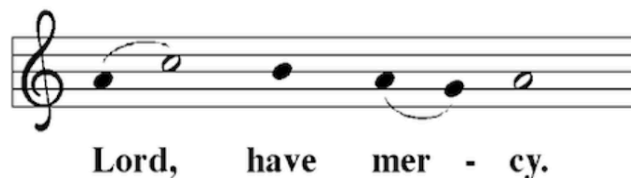
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain on next page*

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

-WORD-

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 146

Hal- | lelujah!

**Praise the LORD, | O my soul!**

I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;

**I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.**

Put not your | trust in rulers,

**in mortals in whom there | is no help.**

When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,

**and in that day | their thoughts perish.**

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,

**whose hope is in the | LORD their God;**

who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;

**who keeps promis- | es forever;**

who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.

**The LORD sets the | captive free.**

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

**the LORD | loves the righteous.**

The LORD cares | for the stranger; **the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but**

**frustrates the way | of the wicked.**

The LORD shall | reign forever,

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING: James 2:1-17**

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you? You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**      *(cantor solo first, then all)*

Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia.

**HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the seventh chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

**SERMON**

***God Gets Under the Table***

**Rev. Shaun O'Reilly**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus\****

**ELW #802**

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

**A:** Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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 INTERCESSION**

God of belonging, **hear our prayer.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**- MEAL -**

**OFFERING INVOCATION**

**ELW #879\*, vs 1**

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

**"What Is the World Like"**

*from All Creation Sings  
Faith Lutheran "Pop Up" Chancel Choir*

**PRESENTATION HYMN**

**ELW #879\*, vs 5**

*For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n  
for thy-self, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n:  
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

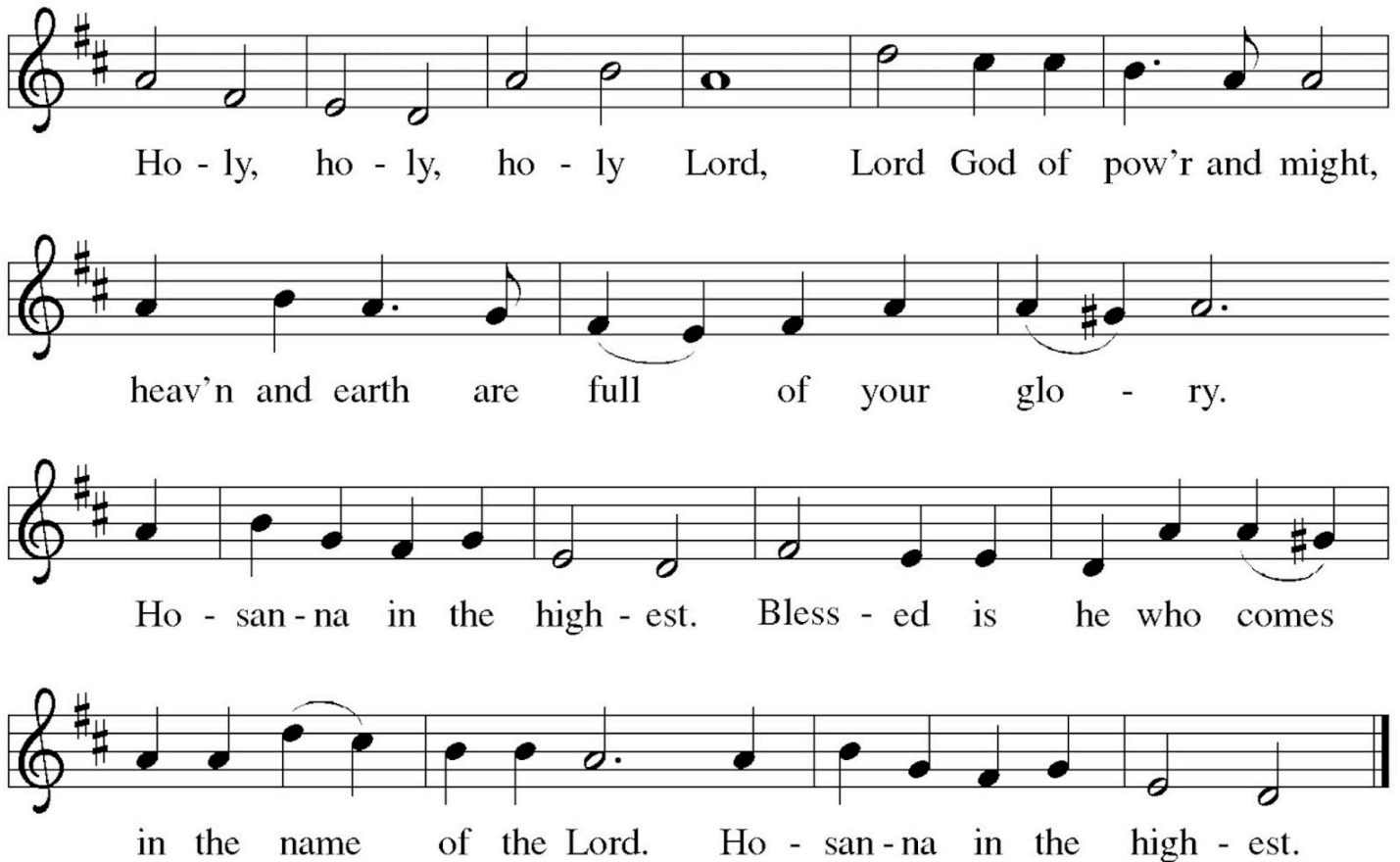
**We lift them to the Lord.**

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:





Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

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

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

## COMMUNION AND HYMNS

### AGNUS DEI (pg. 154)

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.*

**Come and Fill Our Hearts****ELW #528**

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al-le-lu - ia!*

**Surely God****by Ruth Svendsen**

*Surely God is in this place, holy ground.  
Surely God is in this place, holy ground.*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER****-SENDING-****BLESSING & PRAYER FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY YEAR**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
‡ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN***Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing***ELW #886****DISMISSAL****A:** Go in peace. Remember the poor.**Thanks be to God.**

*\* Indicates a favorite hymn of the congregation!*

**- Activities at Faith -**

- **Sunday Adult Forum** - Today @ 11am. We begin talking about C.S. Lewis' classic work *Mere Christianity*. Find yourself a copy and join us.
- **Kids' Place** - Resumes today @10:50am-11:50am. See the classroom makeover!
- **Cindy Burroughs Memorial** - Saturday, Sept. 14th @ 11am. Lunch to follow.
- **Saturday Faith Formation Classes** - Saturdays @ 1pm, Pr Stan Pesis and Elizabeth King lead through approaches to the New Testament, currently studying the *Book of Revelation!* Note: no class on Sep 14th and 21st
- Pr Shaun invites you to be praying for all the **students/teachers/workers headed back to school.**  
If you can support the ELCA's campus ministry to UNR or TMCC, see Pr Shaun or support and give and connect at [lovingkindnesscollective.org](http://lovingkindnesscollective.org)
- **CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!** - In the Narthex



**LOVINGKINDNESS  
COLLECTIVE**

### **-Shared Harvest in September-**

September donations are complete, thank you to all who donated!

Packing is Sunday, Sept 22, 1pm @ Our Savior, Sparks.

#### **From the Cloud of Witnesses, about our Gospel today:**

For his Jewish friends, Jesus had done spectacular things with bread/*artos*.

But, says Jesus, that kind of bread is not meant for gentiles like the woman and her tortured daughter. However, when she turns the tables on Jesus—pointing at the forgotten crumbs beneath the table—Jesus changes his mind.

Just how deeply has Jesus' mind been transformed?

Well, he doesn't waste any time healing a gentile man. And then he goes on to repeat his spectacular "bread trick" with a gentile crowd somewhere in the region of the Decapolis. I think that when Jesus whispers that amazing word—*Ephphatha!*

("Be opened!")—he is speaking also to himself.

*He is describing a profound personal revelation happening to him.*

This makes many Christians uncomfortable. We all too easily deputize ourselves as Jesus' and God's protectors. We cannot imagine Jesus sharing our prejudices or learning something from a gentile woman. We so want to safeguard Jesus' holiness that we erase his humanity; we wipe out his solidarity with us, his intentionally deep identification with our own deadly violence.

If we are willing to let the Scriptures surprise and destabilize us, we may learn something important. First of all, the Scriptures can show us how making distinctions can harm the human family. To pick up a theme from the previous week, our common life gets disrupted by the distinctions we make. And when we hurt others, we hurt ourselves.

The appointed readings for this day do make us squirm. The First Reading may make us feel uncomfortable because it looks like God may be vindictively prejudiced. The Second Reading may make us uncomfortable because God does exercise preferential options, but we seem to be cut out of them because of our wealth. And in the Gospel, Jesus makes us uncomfortable by sharing in human prejudice and then revealing himself to be both God-among-us and also someone capable of radical change.

The word he speaks to the deaf man he speaks to himself and also to us—*Ephphatha!*

And with it, he invites us into the adventure of his new creation. And new creation always means this: "We shall all be changed."

*Rev. Ron Roschke, retired ELCA pastor in Denver, Colorado Wordloom.52@gmail.com*

**FLC recent Giving and Tithes:**

Monthly church budget for 2024 is: \$15,530.00

Total monthly giving for July 2024 is: \$23,461.69\*

\*General Funds - \$11,651.00 \*Dedicated Funds - \$11,810.69

	<b>Sep 2024</b>				
<b>Task</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Becky S</b>	<b>Linda Z</b>	<b>Debbie H</b>	<b>Kathy W</b>	<b>Becky S</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>O'Reillys</b>	<b>Welmerinks</b>	<b>Storeys</b>	<b>Pesis'</b>	<b>O'Reillys</b>
<b>Reader</b>	<b>Bob T</b>	<b>Pam S</b>	<b>Linda Z</b>	<b>Dorothy B</b>	<b>Judi H</b>
<b>Asst. Minister</b>	<b>Sharon S</b>	<b>Judi H</b>	<b>Cindy T</b>	<b>Todd M</b>	
<b>Cantor</b>	<b>Sharon S</b>	<b>Rich S</b>	<b>Wes G</b>	<b>Todd M</b>	<b>Matthew R</b>
<b>Usher</b>	<b>Lukas B &amp; Dorothy B</b>	<b>Debbie H &amp; Matthew R</b>	<b>Zack W &amp; Tom L</b>	<b>Matthew R &amp; Annette W</b>	<b>Tom L &amp; Lukas B</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	<b>Kathy W &amp; Eileen W</b>	<b>Betty T &amp; Annette W</b>	<b>Sharon S &amp; Trish D</b>	<b>Betty T &amp; Annette W</b>	<b>Sharon S &amp; Trish D</b>
<b>Tech Support</b>	<b>The FLC Tech Team!</b>				
<b>Piano/Organ</b>	<b>Heinz Denoyo</b>				
<b>Accompanying Musician</b>	<b>Olivia Knock, Cellist</b>				
<b>Counters</b>	<b>Sigrun C &amp; Linda Z</b>	<b>Davyann S Linda Z &amp; Mary W</b>	<b>Sigrun C &amp; Davyann S</b>	<b>Sigrun C &amp; Mary W</b>	<b>Theresa W &amp; Linda Z</b>
<b>Coffee after Worship</b>	<b>Pat P &amp; Cheryl V</b>	<b>Erica W</b>	<b>Jim &amp; Cindy T</b>	<b>Eileen W</b>	<b>Kathy W</b>

***Thank you for your hearts of service!***

Come to Worship. Go to Serve. Embrace the Community.

**[www.faithlutheranreno.org](http://www.faithlutheranreno.org)**