

⁷For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The Second Reading: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

¹"Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the Lord your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, ²so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. ³Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you. ⁴"Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ⁵You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. ⁷Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ⁸Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, ⁹and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon: *Pastor Eric Hanson* (you may be seated)

Bible Blessing: 3yr Old Preschoolers, 3rd graders, and 7th graders

Sermon: *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Hymn of the Day: "There Is A Longing In My Heart"

Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you'd like to sign up for online giving please visit www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving. Children's coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world at the end of the Sunday School year.

**Refrain: There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love we only find in you, our God.**

**Vs 1: For justice, for freedom, for mercy: hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief: be near; hear our prayer, O God. [Refrain]**

**Vs 2: For wisdom, for courage, for comfort: hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear: be near; hear our prayer, O God. [Refrain]**

**Vs 3: For healing, for wholeness, for new life: hear our prayer.
In sickness, in death: be near; hear our prayer, O God. [Refrain]**

**Vs 4: Lord, save us, take pity, light in our deepest night.
We call you; we wait: be near; hear our prayer, O God. [Refrain]**

Offertory Response: "Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong".
Let the poor say, "I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us". Give thanks.

Offering Prayer: P: Let us pray.

C: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Apostles' Creed: (please stand as you are able)

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven & 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 into hell. 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.

The Prayers: (call and response)

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors. *A brief silence.* We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy especially; Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Judy Carpenter, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Marilyn O'Brien, Shawn Frederixon, Neil Stehr, and Dave Ryan. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace:

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The Great Thanksgiving:

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 Him thanks & praise.

The 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.

The Meal & Hymns: (you may be seated)

All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.

Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.

“Come To The Water Of Life”

Vs. 1: All who are thirsty for mercy, all who are thirsty for love;
all who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come: come to the Water of life.

Vs. 2: All who are thirsty for healing, all who are thirsty for touch;
all who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come: come to the Water of life.

Vs. 3: All who are thirsty for beauty, all who are thirsty for truth;
all who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come: come to the Water of life.

Vs. 4: All who are thirsty for justice, all who are thirsty for peace;
all who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come: come to the Water of life.

“Come And See” 3X

What are you looking for? Come, see, come and see. What are you looking for? Come and see.

“Jesus Name Above All Names”

Vs. 1: Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Vs. 2: Jesus, loving Shepherd, Vine of the branches, Son of God.
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

Vs. 3: Jesus, way of salvation King of Kings, Lord of Lords.
The Way, the truth, and the life Mighty Creator, My Savior and Friend.

Communion Prayer: *(stand as you are able)*

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise & serve your earth & its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: *“Go To The World” (tune For All The Saints)*

Vs 1: Go to the world! Go into all the earth. Go preach the cross where Christ renews life’s worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Vs 2: Go to the world! Go into ev’ry place. Go live the word of God’s redeeming grace.
Go seek God’s presence in each time and space. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Vs 3: Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray; the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ’s own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Vs 4: “Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry, Amen!” Alleluia. Alleluia.

Dismissal: P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

***Please stay after worship today for a congregational meeting regarding the sale of our church building.*

St. Luke Lutheran Church · 308 First Ave. PO Box 276 Goodhue, MN 55027

Sunday Worship: 9:30AM · Thursday Zion Worship 7:00PM

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Sunday School Coordinator: Nicole Wananda · Faith Formation Facilitator: OPEN POSITION

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
St. Luke Lutheran Church · Pastor Eric Hanson
9:30AM · September 17, 2023

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting: *(please stand as you are able)*

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

C: Come Holy Spirit, Come!

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: We confess our sins together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: God of all Mercy, come to our aid. When we hide brokenness and only show you wholeness, forgive us. When we cover shame and guilt with pride and pretense, forgive us. When we point out the speck in our neighbor’s eye but ignore the log in our own eye, forgive us. When we choose old, harmful ways of living over new, life-giving ways, forgive us. Transform us by the power of your Spirit, Lord God, and make us New.

P: Children of God, God loved us even when we were dead in sin, & makes us new through Jesus Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Live as people set free.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *“Gather Us In” #532*

Vs 1: Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

Vs 2: We are the young, our lives are a mystery, we are the old who yearn for your face;
we have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Vs 3: Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters; call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Vs 4: Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away—
here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray.

C: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.