

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 2023

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts

GATHERING

**Call to Worship and Confession*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Each of us has foundational beliefs, deep held convictions that guide our lives. Perhaps we write them on post-it notes to ourselves or in letters to our loved ones. The author of 2 Peter has written a letter to the young, first-century churches, a letter for us as well. “Support your faith,” he says, “with goodness, knowledge, self-control, endurance, godliness, mutual affection, and love” (2 Peter 1:5-7). “Beware of those who lead you astray and be attentive to the light of Christ” (2 Peter 2:1, 1:19). “Come to repentance... remember Christ’s command to love... there is no day but today” (2 Peter 3:9, 2, 10). We begin our worship in these convictions. Let us find support for our faith in the grace of God. Let us tend to the light of Christ. Let us not miss the moment, but come to repentance, for there is no day but today.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess the ways that we have been led astray. We have lusted for things and have been slaves to many masters. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Your confession has been heard and you have been set free. Live in the new life and love of our Savior.

C: Amen.

P: Living in this new life and love, we share the peace of Christ with one another. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Song – “I Want to Walk as A Child of the Light” ELW 815 (organ)

- 1 **I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

- 2 **I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. Refrain**
- 3 **I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain**

Children's Sermon

Hymn of Praise – “To God Be the Glory”

(piano)

- 1 **To God be the glory, great things he has done;
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life gate that all may go in.**

Refrain

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he has done.*

- 2 **Oh, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. Refrain**

3 **Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. Refrain**

WORD

Reading: 2 Peter 3:1-18

Reader: Carol VanderKloot

¹This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you; in them I am trying to arouse your sincere intention by reminding you ²that you should remember the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets, and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken through your apostles. ³First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts ⁴and saying, ‘Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!’ ⁵They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, ⁶through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. ⁷But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgement and destruction of the godless.

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given to him, ¹⁶speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures.

¹⁷You therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, beware that you are not carried away with the error of the lawless and lose your own stability. ¹⁸But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

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

**Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:42-44*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.

⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Song: "We Are Waiting for Jesus" (*ACS 905*)

(*organ*)

- 1 **We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Sun of justice, shine upon us;
we are trusting in your promise.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.**

- 2 **We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us;
stir our hearts, and gently guide us.
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.**

Sermon: "Treasure Hunting with Peter - No Day But Today"

Song of the Day – “Ready the Way”

(piano)

Refrain: Ready the way, ready the way, ready the way of the Lord.

Ready the way, ready the way, ready the way of the Lord.

Final: Ready the way of the Lord.

**1. Make straight the road, raise the valleys, and mountains make low.
Turning from sin, let the broken be whole, and ready the way of the Lord.**

Refrain

**2. As we wait for you, give us the strength to walk in your truth,
So we may love more like you and ready the way for you, Lord.** *Refrain*

**3. Let us see your face; in our hearts, we prepare a place.
Come bring this world your mercy and grace, as we ready the way for you, Lord.**

Refrain

**The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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*

Stewardship Time

“God, I Look to You,” arr. Johnson/McIntosh

Melissa Street & Jean Welch

Drew Snodgrass, guitar

—Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew—

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

P: The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are gifts of God's grace to claim and sustain us in our lives as disciples of Jesus. Baptism proclaims our identity, that we are beloved children of God, called to love God and our neighbors. Holy Communion reconnects us to the Body of Christ and nurtures our lives of faith with forgiveness and life.

C: We give thanks to God as we receive this gift of grace anew today.

**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 our thanks and praise.

**Words of Institution*

P: 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.

**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.

Communion Songs

“All My Days”

(piano)

**1 All my days I will sing this song of gladness,
give my praise to the Fountain of delights;
For in my helplessness You heard my cry,
and waves of mercy poured down on my life.**

**2 I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer, I will sing of the blood that never fails;
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed, of death defeated and life without end.**

*Refrain: Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor, clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life, Star of the Morning, glorious holiness,
You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion, and You reign, You reign over all!*

**2 I long to be where the praise is never ending,
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades;
Where countless worshippers will share one song,
And cries of 'worthy' will honor the Lamb! *Refrain***

"Surely It Is God Who Saves Me"

(organ)

**Surely it is God who saves me; I shall trust and have no fear.
For the Lord defends and shields me and his saving help is near.
So rejoice as you draw water from salvation's healing spring;
In the day of your deliv'rance thank the Lord, his mercies sing.**

**Make God's deeds known to the peoples; tell out his exalted name.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works God's might proclaim.
Zion, lift your voice in singing; for with you has come to dwell,
In your very midst, the great and Holy One of Israel.**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

**P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you, may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Sending Song – “Soon and Very Soon”*

(piano)

1. **Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we’re going to see the King.**
2. **No more crying there we are going to see the King.
No more crying there we are going to see the King.
No more crying there we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we’re going to see the King.**
3. **No more dying there we are going to see the King.
No more dying there we are going to see the King.
No more dying there we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we’re going to see the King.**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Ken Devlin
Greeter: Malinda Carlson
Reader: Carol VanderKloot
Usher: Karen Sibert
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Pianist: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Drummer: John Demien
Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Kelly Hartz
Chancel Committee: Martha Krohe
Coffee Hosts: Donna Chenoweth & Laura Sweatman



Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Rigby Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Carol VanderKloot
Louis Dichsen	Kelly Hartz	Kris Roth	
Marilyn Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Melissa Street	

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Mike Oldenettel	Kelly Street
Marilyn Dichsen			

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, August 27, 9:30am: Worship
10:30am: 75th Anniversary Celebration Steering Committee

Wednesday, August 30, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

Saturday, September 2, 8am: Cooking for
9am: Men's Breakfast

Sunday, September 3, 9:30am: Outdoor Worship + Picnic

Wednesday, September 6, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group
5:15pm: Worship Team Meeting

News Updates

Coming Up September 11-15: Doorbell Dinners

Help us deliver meals in the community. For more information and to sign up, visit the signup counter by the Fair-Trade coffee sales.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Join this exciting new ministry team! Sharon Zuiderveld and her sister, Mary Ellen Peterson, are looking for crocheters and knitters (or those who want to learn) to help make prayer shawls. The shawls will then be given to friends as reminders that they are covered by our prayers and the love and grace of God. Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting for the Prayer Shawl ministry may contact Sharon Zuiderveld. Beginners (and lefties) are welcome. Please let her know what day and time are best for you.

Her email is: sharonzuiderveld@hotmail.com and her cell is: 217-883-1258

Soup Luncheon - Carry-Out Style

Our Carry-Out Soup Luncheon was a success last year, and we will be offering that style again! Carry-out soups and desserts will be available on **Sunday, October 8, from 10:30am - 1:00pm.** We could use your help! On Sunday, September 3, we will have signup sheets available for a variety of ways you can volunteer from providing soups/desserts to helping in the building. We will also begin handing out tickets for you to purchase or sell to your family and friends. Let's work together to serve our community and share some delicious Lutheran Love! (Please bring in any cardboard trays or small boxes for us to use.)

Outdoor Worship and Picnic

Join us on **September 3** for our final outdoor service of the season. To assure all can participate, there will be seating and communion stations on the grass, on the parking lot, and indoors (with worship visible through windows), as well as being live streamed. Following the service, we are having a cookout picnic and time for games and activities for all. **If you can provide something for the meal**, see the sign-up sheets on the counter by the Mission & Ministry Center/coat closet. Our hope is that this will not only be a time of vibrant worship and blessing to our Faith Family, but also to others, so please invite a friend and join us for these wonderful times together!

Picnic Ministry – Sign Up to help with Outdoor Picnics

Our Picnic Ministry Team is looking for some volunteers to help with preparing for the 1st Sunday of the month outdoor picnics this summer. **You can help by signing up on the sheets** by the Coffee Sales next to the Mission & Ministry Center/coat closet:

- **Dates:** Sunday, September 3
- **Setup** (6 volunteers each Sunday for tables and chairs at 8:30 am)
- **Side Dishes** (8 volunteers each Sunday – see the sign-up sheet for specifics)
- **Desserts** (3 volunteers each Sunday)
- **Clean Up** (6 volunteers each Sunday to put away tables and chairs and clean in the kitchen)

For more information, talk with Kevin and Martha Krohe on our Picnic Ministry Team.

Choir Rehearsals to Begin!!!

As we look back over 75 years of our church's history, we can see the importance that music has played in this church in many forms. We have seen changes in the style of music we sing and the instruments we use all to the glory of God. I would encourage all of you to consider the musical talents you have and join us as we continue to celebrate the Word of God through music.

Chancel Choir will begin rehearsals on Thursday, September 7th. We will begin at 5:30pm for 45 minutes in the sanctuary. Anyone interested in singing, we need you! We sing once or twice a month during church.

Exaltation Ringers will have rehearsals the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month after service at 10:45am in the sanctuary. These will begin Sunday, September 10th. We ring one Sunday each month. If you are interested in ringing, please let me know.

Jean Welch, *Music Director*

Installation of our New Bishop

You are invited to attend the installation for the Rev. Greg Busboom's installation as Bishop of the Central/Southern Illinois Synod of the ELCA. The worship service will be held Saturday, September 23, at 11:00am at St. Agnes Catholic Church, 245 N. Amos Ave., Springfield. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preside at the service. A reception will follow the service at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2477 W. Washington St., Springfield. Rostered ministers are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red. In order to help the planning team prepare communion elements, bulletins, and seating arrangements, you are requested to RSVP at CSIS-ELCA.org/rsvp by **September 1**.

Sign-Up Sheets

are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Western IL FCA – 2023 Fall Fundraising Banquet in Jacksonville

Over the past seven years, God has done exciting things through Western Illinois FCA...impacting the lives of coaches, athletes, and others in our community. We are continually looking for opportunities to expand Fellowship of Christian Athletes and take the love of Christ to more of our local schools!

Date – **Sunday, November 11, 2023** @ Hamiltons

Format – Our event will begin at 4:30pm with remarks from local athletes and coaches, words of encouragement from St. Louis Cardinal, Tommy Edman, and a wonderful dinner. Guests must make reservations through a table host or through www.WesternILFCA.org. There is no cost to attend, but we will receive an offering to support the ministry of Western IL FCA. Seating is limited.

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange (on the counter outside of the coat closet). Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display. Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Contribution Envelopes for 2023

are available in the office. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please mention this to Barb Davenport, Pam Devlin, or Kris Roth. We will happily provide you with a box. If you would like to register for our easy, **automatic online giving service**, contact the church office.