



November 15, 2020

24th Sunday of Pentecost

Joint Worship to be the church together

Voices from Augustana & First Lutheran

Worship broadcast via radio and YouTube. YouTube links found on:

www.augustanalutheran.org www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

Let Streams of Living Justice

HYMN #710, v.1,2



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance; pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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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.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

KYRIE

p. 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

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. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p. 149

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

John W. Peterson

READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

page 151

**GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents

also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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

SERMON

PASTOR GRETCHEN ENOCH

HYMN OF THE DAY

When Peace Like a River

HYMN #785, v.1,4



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

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

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

HYMN #674, v.3



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Refrain
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929
Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980
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COMMUNION

This is the Lord's Table, all are welcome here. In your home is an ordinary table now set apart and holy, Christ is present there. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper, wherever you may be.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, throughout the generations you have come to be present with us at our tables, turning ordinary meals into holy moments for us to experience your grace in tangible ways. In an upper room of a guest house 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.

The body of Christ given for you. *(all share in eating the bread)*

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.

The blood of Christ shed for you. *(all sharing in drinking of the cup)*

Together as the body of Christ, trusting that the distance that separates us is bridged by the Holy Spirit who makes us one, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION HYMN

Bread of Life from Heaven

HYMN #474, v.1,3



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing
2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your
3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -
4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your
5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be
hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the
self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is
home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly
bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.
liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.
food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.
One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.
ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD: Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas
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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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Thine the Amen

HYMN #826, v.1,4,5



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly thine the prom - ise let there be
3 Thine the tru - ly thine the yes thine the ta - ble we the guest
4 Thine the king - dom thine the prize thine the won - der full sur - prise
5 Thine the glo - ry in the night no more dy - ing on - ly light



thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
thine the vi - sion thine the tree all the earth on bend - ed knee
thine the mer - cy all from thee thine the glo - ry yet to be
thine the ban - quet then the praise then the jus - tice of thy ways
thine the riv - er thine the tree then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly



thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
gone the nail - ing gone the rail - ing gone the plead - ing gone the cry
then the ring - ing and the sing - ing then the end of all the war
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry then the wel - come to the least
then the ho - ly ho - ly ho - ly cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee



thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
gone the sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
thine the liv - ing thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
then the won - der all in - creas - ing at thy feast at thy feast.
thine the splen - dor thine the bright - ness on - ly thee on - ly thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: THINE, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



FIRST LUTHERAN ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2020

Church phone number 739-3348 and email office@flcff.org

The flowers on the altar are given by Gordon & Mary Ann Goese from Augustana in memory of loved ones.

The radio broadcast is sponsored by Fred, Mark & Paul Smith and Susan & Gary Clambey with gratitude at this time of Thanksgiving.

Zoom Fellowship today November 15th from 11:00 to 11:30 am. The purpose of this is to connect with people and to talk about a fun topic! Today's topic: Tips for Pastor Gretchen as she gets a puppy! Zoom link is: www.flcff.org/zoom-fellowship

In-Person Worship has started! Maximum number allowed at this time is 50, and pre-registration is required. If you are interested in attending worship, contact the office at 739-3348 Mon. – Thurs. 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, or after Thursday contact Pastor Gretchen at 218 321-0995. Worship continues to be with Augustana and will be broadcast on the radio and YouTube.

Coming up this week:

- Monday, November 16 – 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study *Narthex and Zoom*
- Wednesday, November 18 – after school FLY K-6 *Roosevelt Park*
- Wednesday, November 18 – 6:00 pm Hosanna Handbells (smaller group) *Sanctuary*
- Wednesday, November 18 – 6:30 pm Confirmation 7th & 8th Graders *Narthex*
- Thursday, November 19 – 1:00 pm Luther's Small Catechism Bible Study (extended 1 week) *Narthex*

Worship Volunteers needed to help with COVID-friendly singing for November 29th. Call Harriet (701) 426-4003 or the church.

Thankoffering 2020 –Lutheran women have given thanks to God and dollars to missions through Thankofferings for over 100 years. Funds collected will be used to address concerns of women and children in crisis and poverty, health/AIDS, and domestic violence. Please mark your donation "Thankoffering" and bring it or mail it to the church office before December 1.

Meals by Wheels November 23-27 (note: no delivery November 26) Since we cannot utilize our traditional means of sign up, please contact Jennifer by text or phone call (701-238-0276) or via email (77jennifer@msn.com) to let her know of your willingness to help/preferred routes/dates of availability. Please use your best judgement in volunteering. Thank you.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship in-person at Bethlehem Lutheran on Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 pm. Broadcast on KBRF 1250AM and live stream at www.facebook.com/bethlehemff. There will be a non-perishable food collection for the FF Food Shelf.

Luther Crest 17th Annual Christmas Bake Sale is open for orders! Place an order by calling 320-846-2431, by completing an on-line order form at www.luthercrest.org, or use a form on the Info Counter in the Narthex. Orders due December 4th.

Give to the Max Day to support nonprofits and schools is on November 19. You can donate to the NW Minnesota Synod of the ELCA by visiting GiveMN.org. Giving will benefit areas of the synod's core values of: *faithfulness, authenticity, and love.*

Christmas Food Baskets – If you or someone you know could benefit from a Christmas Food Basket, please contact the church before December 14th.

How Can I Help?

- **Giving Trees** – financial contributions for the Giving Trees can be sent to the church office, specifying it is for the Giving Tree. The funds will be used to shop for gifts for *A Place to Belong* and *Someplace Safe*.
- **Service Food Market Fergus Falls** will be matching up to \$2000 for the Fergus Falls Area Food Shelf! Just let the cashier know how much you would like to donate. Works with any type of payment and runs through Thanksgiving.
- **The Riverside Lions collect eyeglasses** for reuse. There is a collection box in the Narthex for your convenience.
- **Mitten Ministry** – we are collecting new mittens, hats & scarves (purchased or homemade) to help those in need of winter wear. Please leave your donation in the basket in the Narthex.

- **Change to Make a Change** – There is a large plastic bottle in the Narthex, and we invite you to put your spare change in the bottle. The money collected will go to help feed the hungry – 75% locally and 25% worldwide.
- **Salvation Army** has several opportunities to help in the upcoming weeks: 1) Donations needed for the Thanksgiving Day To Go Meals (call 739-9692 for details), 2) Bell Ringers needed (call 739-9692 for details), 3) Christmas Toy Shop (Angel Tree) collection boxes will be located at Fleet Farm & Walmart.

Advent Vesper Services will be on December 2, 9, and 16 at 6:30 pm. The services will be led by confirmands and broadcast via YouTube (no in-person worship). Confirmands need to be at church at 6:00 pm prior to each Advent Vesper Service.

Green Living is promoted by Lion Clubs International. There is a recycling program for clean plastic bags & wraps. Please place your communion baggies in the receptacle marked CLEAN BAGGIES, and your communion cups in the TRASH. Thank you for living green! Also, there is a receptacle in the narthex for you to place your surplus clean bags & wraps. Acceptable: clean shopping bags, bread bags, dry cleaning bags, produce bags, cereal bags. Acceptable wraps: clean meat wraps with the labels removed, deflated air pillows, wraps from packs of water bottles, paper towels, etc. NOT ACCEPTABLE: frozen veggie bags, chip bags, bags from ready to eat salads, waxy/coated bags, or containing food residue. Thank you from the Riverside Lions, Fergus Falls.

Financial Update: As of November 9, 2020, year-to-date revenue: \$402,938, year-to-date budget \$450,129, last year: \$394,451.

“For nothing is impossible with God.” -Luke 1:37

WHO: Everyone of all ages.

WHAT: To share the Christmas spirit and the mirade of Jesus’ birth with the community as a united church.

HOW: Participate by singing a Christmas song, playing an instrument, reading a passage from the Bible about the birth of Jesus, dressing up like a character from the nativity, sharing a message on a poster board, etc..

Videos and pictures will be submitted and will be put into a Christmas Talent Show video to share at worship on Sunday, December 27 at 9:30 a.m. and on YouTube.

WHEN: All pictures and videos must be submitted by Sunday, December 13th. If you need recording services, please contact Kristy. Video will premiere on Sunday, December 27th at 9:30 a.m.

Please submit videos and pictures, or ask for recording services to:

Kristy Wicklund,

Kristy@flcff.org (218) 531-9544

First Lutheran Church 402 S Court St, Fergus Falls

