

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion October 22, 2017 – 9:00 AM

> Christ Lutheran Church Woodcliff Lake, NJ

# WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are glad you are worshipping here today to hear the Gospel message of allegiance to country and to God.

**Breaking the sound barrier!** We invite you to try one of our listening devices, which allows you to sit anywhere in the sanctuary. They are available by speaking to an usher, Tom Kearns or David Crouse.

**Pink Prayer Cards:** You may write names for prayer on a pink card found in the pew rack. Please place your card on the altar rail for inclusion in the prayers of the day. If you wish a name to be added to our printed prayer list (for four weeks) please write "Prayer List" on the card. <u>Please be sure this prayer request is approved by the person for whom we are praying</u>.

**Holy Communion:** All who are baptized are invited to the table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and wine. At the directions of our ushers, all who are able kneel at the rail to receive this gift. The individual cups contain wine and grape juice (grape juice is in the center of the tray). A common cup with wine is also available. Children who commune should hold out their hands to the server.

**Nursery Facilities:** There is a self-serve Nursery and Infant Room for young children accompanied by their parents. The Infant Room contains a bathroom with a changing table. These rooms are located along the hallway from the side door of the sanctuary.

**Need an offering envelope?** We have envelopes in the pews for you. Please include your contact information or envelope number. **We also accept checks online.** Visit our website (<u>www.clc4u.com</u>) and click on "Give" to learn how to set up an account with your bank information. Thank you for your gift!

### **Contact Information:**

Pastor: Rev. Marc A. Stutzel Director of Music: Argine Safari Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance Parish Administrator: Doris Crouse 32 Pascack Rd., Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677 201-391-4224 <u>clc4u2@verizon.net</u>

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Open on Sundays: 9:00 and 10:30 am

**For today's worship** all *portions in italics will be spoken by our worship leaders*. Congregational responses are in **bold-faced type**.

[Please stand.]

#### **GATHERING – CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

God – you are faithful. God – you are merciful. God – you are love. Hear our prayer as we confess our sins to you.

God, I confess that often I do not place you first in my life.
I confess that I have lived for myself and ignored the needs of others.
I confess I have doubted your love and care. Some of my sin I know but some only you know.
In the name of Jesus, forgive me.

God is faithful. God is merciful. God is love. In the name of ⊕ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Amen.

#### **GATHERING SONG** – "Blessed Be Your Name" [All verses]





[Words and Music by Matt Redman & Beth Redman]

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.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

**CHILDREN'S SERMON** [The congregation may sit.]

# THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 45:1-7

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: <sup>2</sup>I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, <sup>3</sup>I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. <sup>4</sup>For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. <sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, <sup>6</sup>so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. <sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things. The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

# THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Matthew 22:15-22 Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away. The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**CONGREGATION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS** [The congregation may sit.] [Pink prayer cards with your joys or concerns may be placed on the altar rail.]

SERMON – "Whose Head"

[The offering will be received during the singing of the following song.]





Je - sus. \_\_\_\_

### **APOSTLES' CREED** [Please stand.]

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 THE DAY** [Please remain standing.]

Loving God, you teach us to keep nothing from you. We bring to you all our prayers, large and small, those heavy on our hearts and those known only to you.

Trusting in God, we pray for the church. We pray for Elizabeth and Tracie, our bishops, every pastor currently looking for call and every congregation that is looking for a pastor. Fill all worshipers with your Holy Spirit. Grant them generous hearts to share God's splendor revealed to them in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

#### hear our prayer.

We pray for creation: for the power of sun, wind, and water, for the riches buried in rock and soil, for the magnificence of life in forms too many to number. We also pray for all people living through natural disasters. Be with all victims, families, and first responders in California, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. Bring support and help to all who lost everything. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.** 

We pray for the nations: for leaders of governments, for fair commerce between nations, for treasurers, boards of directors, and all who justly distribute monetary resources. We pray for Donald, the President, the Federal House of Representatives, and local city, council, and county leaders. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**  Trusting in God's healing power, we pray for this congregation: for the unemployed and overworked, for all who are burdened by debt, for the sick and those in particular need. We pray for all in any need especially ...

Beverly Albert, Dolores Albert, Bill Caver, Kathy Cipoletti, Tony Conboy, Kim Herrera, Gerald Hoenes, Mae Hulburt, Millie and Roger Hildebrand, Peter Gluesing, Bo Hoag, Shiloh and Katherine Johnson, Gary Meserole, Fred Messner, Holly Mullins, George Namendorf, Lorraine and Jack Sadlon, Kristin Sapnar, Ellie Soehren, Nancy Sorbo, Nancy Sweet, and the families of Clifford Kuchenmeister and Abbie Heeren

Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

TEMPLE TALK – Bill Daub

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, 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.

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.

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

### THE 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 congregation may sit.]

# HOLY COMMUNION

[All are invited to the Table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and drink. At the direction of our ushers, everyone who is able kneels at the rail. Bread will be distributed first (gluten free wafers are available), followed by wine and grape juice in individual cups. A chalice with wine is also available.
Children and all who have not received First Communion will receive a blessing. The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.]

[Please stand.]

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

### Amen.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, I Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

<u>SENDING SONG</u> – "This Is Amazing Grace"



[Song continues on the following page.]





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

### **<u>REFLECTION</u> – "Do you get stressed out?**

[Today's reflection is by John Carbaugh, our Youth Bible Study leader. The Youth Group meets tonight at 5:00 pm.]

It's a familiar feeling for many of us. We feel the stress from work, school, family and even friends. There are demands on our time and things we feel the need to get to, but just can't seem to find the time. Stuff happens that we didn't expect – death, illness, accidents and events and incidents at home and abroad that impact our lives in a variety of ways. Stress builds, anxiety rises and we just don't know how much more we can take . . .

When we turn to Christ, and trust that he will take us through the difficult times – that he knows the big picture and can see the road ahead when we cannot, that is Faith.

Jesus taught his disciples and followers through His words and actions, and by employing the use of parables, which He used very often in His teaching. His parables were intended to be simple, direct lessons that could easily be remembered, and whose truths would be unforgettable. Jesus taught in parables to reveal heavenly truths to just a select group of people whose hearts were open and receptive to these truths.

As part of our Youth Ministry this year, we will be conducting a monthly Bible Study called "CLC Unplugged". This will be a cross-generational program not only for our high-school youth and newest members of the body of Christ, but we are inviting all adult members to participate as well.

So what do we mean by "Unplugged"? Jesus' use of parables was not to simply tell interesting or amusing stories, or to entertain or confuse his disciples. He was preparing them for His Kingdom, and he was preparing them to lead his church. He was teaching them that sometimes a vineyard is not simply a vineyard. CLC Unplugged asks its participants to disconnect, set aside the cares, concerns and yes, the stress, of everyday life, and reconnect with Christ; with God's word; with God's plan.

In Ephesians, Chapter 3, Paul refers to "the unsearchable riches of Christ", and with the redeeming Spirit "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."