



Are any among you ...  
cheerful?  
They should  
sing songs of praise.

JAMES 5:13, NRSV

## **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION**

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 – 9:00 AM**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ**

## WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**TODAY WE GATHER AND HEAR JESUS' INVITATION** into humble service which is how we draw near to God and God to us. [Sundays and Seasons]

**BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER!** We invite you to try one of our listening devices, allowing you to sit anywhere in the sanctuary. They are available from an usher.

**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. Please be sure this prayer request is approved by the person for whom we are praying.

**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 some in the pews for you. Please include your contact information or envelope number so we can thank you for your gift.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Pastor: Rev. Marc A. Stutzel  
Director of Music: Argine Safari  
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance  
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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 as you are able.]

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Blessed be God, who forgives all our sin, and whose mercy endures forever.*  
**Amen.**

*Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another. Holy God,*

**we confess that we have not paid attention. We have failed to notice You at work in the world. We have not seen You at work in our neighbors, in those who are different from us, or noticed how you are transforming us. Forgive us our selfish ways. Bring us back to You.**

*Know that the Spirit is always doing something new. We who are sinners who fail to notice the way God is changing us and the world, are still loved. Do the hard work of forgiveness. Do the hard work of repentance. And know that Christ is with you. It is by Christ's authority that I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of ✠ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

[Please remain standing as you are able.]

# GATHERING SONG – “Here I Am to Worship”

$\text{♩} = 75$

E B<sup>SUS</sup> F#m E B<sup>SUS</sup>

1. Light of the world, You stepped down in - to dark - ness, o - pened my eyes, let me  
 2. King of all days, oh so high - ly ex - alt - ed, glo - rious in heav - en a -

4 A<sup>2</sup>(no3) E B<sup>SUS</sup> F#m E B<sup>SUS</sup>

— see. — Beau - ty that made this — heart a - dore — You, hope of a life spent with —  
 -bove. — Hum - bly You came to the earth You cre - a - ted, all for love's sake be - came.

8 A<sup>2</sup>(no3) B<sup>7</sup>SUS E B/D#

— You. — So, here I am to wor - ship, here I am to bow down, here I am to  
 — poor. —

12 E/G# A E

say that You're my God. — And You're al - to - geth - er love - ly, al - to - geth - er

15 B/D# E/G# Last time to Coda ⊕ 1. A A<sup>2</sup>(no3)

wor - thy, al - to - geth - er won - der - ful to me. —

19 2. A B/D# E/G# A

— And I'll nev - er know — how much — it cost — to see —

[Song continues on the following page.]

22 **B/D#** **E/G#** **1. A**

my sin up - on that cross. And I'll nev -

24 **2. A** **B7sus** **D.S. al Coda**

that cross. So here I am to

26 **Coda** **A** **A2(no3)** **E**

'

## **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. O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**Amen.**

[The congregation may sit.]

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **THE FIRST READING – James 3:13—4:8a**

<sup>13</sup>Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. <sup>15</sup>Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. <sup>16</sup>For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness

of every kind. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. <sup>1</sup>Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? <sup>2</sup>You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. <sup>3</sup>You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. <sup>4</sup>Adulterers! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. <sup>5</sup>Or do you suppose that it is for nothing that the scripture says, "God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? <sup>6</sup>But he gives all the more grace; therefore it says, "God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble."

<sup>7</sup>Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

<sup>8</sup>Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

[Please stand as you are able.]

**THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Mark 9:30:37**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; <sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

[The congregation may sit.]

## **CONGREGATION ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

[Pink prayer cards with your joys or concerns may be placed on the altar rail.]

### **SERMON – The Company You Keep**

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

### **SONG – “10,000 Reasons”** [Words/Music by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman]

$\text{♩} = 73$        $\text{♩}$

F      C      G/B      Am      F      C

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; Wor-ship His ho - ly name.

4      G<sup>SUS</sup>      G      F      Am      F      G      Am      F      G

Sing like nev - er be-fore, O my soul; I'll wor-ship Your ho - ly name.

8      2nd time to Coda  $\text{⊕}$   
F/C      C      F/C      C      F      C      G      Am

1. The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn - ing,

12      F      C      G      Am      F      C      G

it's time to sing Your song a-gain. What- ev - er may pass, and what- ev - er lies be -

16      Am      F      C

-fore me, let me be sing - ing when the

18      G<sup>SUS</sup>      G      C      F/C      C      D.S. al Coda

eve - ning comes. Bless the



⊕ Coda

21 F/C C F C G Am F C



2. You're rich in love and You're slow to an - ger. Your name is great and Your

25 G Am F C G/B Am



heart is kind. — For all Your good-ness, I will keep on sing - ing; —

29 F C G<sup>sus</sup> G C F/C C



Ten thou-sand rea-sons for my heart to find. Bless the

33 F C G/B Am F C G<sup>sus</sup> G



Lord, O my soul, O — my soul; Wor-ship His ho - ly name. — Sing like

37 F Am F G Am F G C



nev - er be-fore, O my soul; I'll wor-ship Your ho - ly name. —

41 F C G/B Am F C G<sup>sus</sup> G F Am



46 F G Am F G C F C




3. And on that day, when my

[Song continues on the following page.]




50 G/B Am F C G Am F Am



strength is fail - ing, the end draws near, and my time has come; - Still, my soul will sing Your

54 F Am F C G<sup>SUS</sup> G



praise un - end - ing - ten thousand years, and then for - ev - er -

58 C F/C C F C G/B Am



-more! Bless the Lord, O my soul, O \_\_\_\_\_ my soul;

62 F C G<sup>SUS</sup> G F Am F G Am



Wor-ship His ho - ly name. \_\_\_\_\_ Sing like nev - er be-fore, O my soul; I'll

66 1. F G C 2. F G Am



wor-ship Your ho - ly name. \_\_\_\_\_ Bless the wor-ship Your ho - ly name, \_\_\_\_\_

81 F G Am F G C



wor-ship Your ho - ly name, \_\_\_\_\_ wor-ship Your ho - ly name. \_\_\_\_\_

**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.*

*Gracious God, you gather congregations together by the power of your word. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Tracie, and all rostered leaders who are shepherding congregations who are in transition. Bless leaders with the gifts of wisdom and discernment as they seek to make your church the community for which you long. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.***

*Sovereign God, you raise up governments to protect the widow and orphan. We pray for Donald, the President; and Nancy, Jacqueline, Angela, Corrado, Kristy, and Brian who serve on the city council of Woodcliff Lake. Bless citizens with wisdom and discernment as they choose leaders. Inspire leaders to always seek the common good. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.***

*Loving God, you desire health and wholeness. Reconcile the conflicts and disputes among us. Teach us to heal the trauma of racism and poverty. Break our hearts open to all those who suffer and mourn, especially . . .*

**Beverly Albert, Dolores Albert, Whitney Algieri, Karin Anderson,  
Susan Bachstetter, Bill Caver, John Bliefenrich, Tony Conboy, Kathy Cipoletti,  
Ken Eastlund, Kim Herrera, Mae Hulburt, Shiloh and Katherine Johnson,  
Henry Krumrei, Joyanna Peros, Lorraine and Jack Sadlon,  
Sharon Schumann, Nancy Sweet, Trudy Ungar, Camp Koinonia**

*Lord in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.***

*Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.*

**Amen.**

### **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.**

*Come, not because you are perfect but because, through Christ Jesus, you are invited.*

[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. Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

*Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*

**Amen.**

[Please remain standing.]



**SENDING SONG – “This Is Amazing Grace”** [Please remain standing.]

♩=100 **VERSE 1**  
D

G<sup>2</sup>(no3)



1. Who breaks the pow - er of sin and dark-ness, whose love is might - y —

4

Bm

A



and so much strong - er? — The King of glo - ry, the King a - bove all — kings. —

**VERSE 2**

D

7

G<sup>2</sup>(no3)



— 2. Who shakes the whole earth with ho - ly thun - der

11

G<sup>2</sup>(no3)

Bm



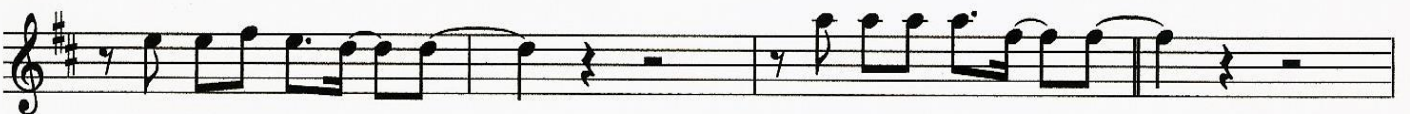
and leaves us breath - less in awe and won - der? — The King of glo - ry,

§ **CHORUS**  
D

14

A

G<sup>2</sup>(no3)

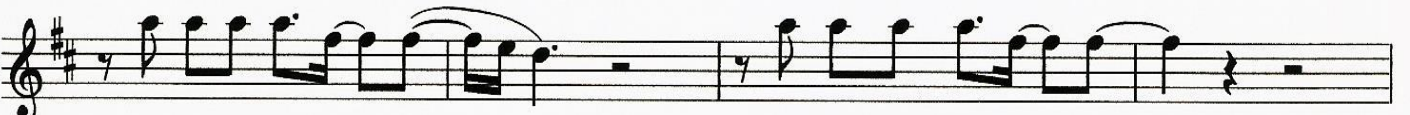


the King a - bove all — kings. — This is a - maz - ing — grace, —

18

G

Bm



this is un - fail - ing — love, — that You would take my — place, —

22



that You would bear my \_ cross. \_ You \_ laid down Your \_ life \_

26



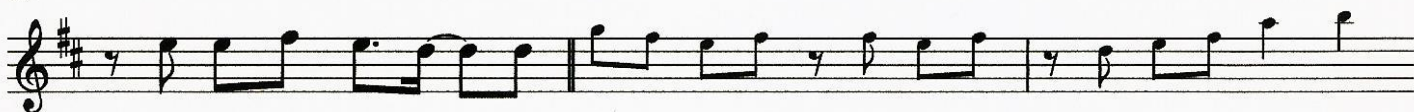
that I would be \_ set free. \_ Oh, \_ Je-sus, I sing \_ for

**INSTRUMENTAL**

30

A N.C.

D



all that You've done for \_ me.

**VERSE 3**

33

G<sup>2</sup>(no3)

D



3. Who brings our cha - os

36

G<sup>2</sup>(no3)



back in - to ord - er, who makes the or -phan \_ a son and daugh - ter? \_

**VERSE 4**

39

Bm

A

D



The King of glo - ry, the King of glo - ry. 4. Who rules the na - tions

42

G<sup>2</sup>(no3)




with truth and jus - tice, \_ shines like the sun in \_ all of its bril-liance? \_

[Song continues on the following page.]



45 Bm A




The King of glo - ry, the King a - bove all \_\_\_ kings. \_\_\_

47 G<sup>2</sup>(no3) D.S. al Coda



\_\_\_ Yeah, \_\_\_ this is a - maz - ing \_\_\_ grace,

⊕ Coda  
49 A D



all that You've done \_ for me. \_\_\_

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## DISMISSAL

*Go in peace. Serve the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

Pastor Marc Stutzel

*The last verse in our James reading today ("Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you") doesn't sound very Lutheran. This verse seems to imply God works through transactions. If you do something for God, then God will do something for you. If you say the right prayer, donate to the right cause, or act like you are really sorry, then God will respond by showering you with grace and love. In this kind of faith scheme, God is an accountant, waiting for our move before God gives out the goods. But God isn't into transactions and there's nothing we can do for God to love us more. So what should we do with a verse like 4:8?*

*We need to remember James 1:17-18 when we read any passage in James: "every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures." We are, through the gift of faith, born anew. It's through the Spirit when we finally learn to trust God. Our faith needs to come from God or else we'll create a personal faith that always wonders what we'll get out of it. Faith is a gift from God that awakens this truth: we truly are God's beloved children.*

*Since we are beloved, God invites us to live as if we are truly loved. That isn't always easy. The Bible isn't a guidebook with detailed instructions on how we are supposed to act in every possible situation. Instead, God trusts us to see the gifts God gives us and respond accordingly. James in this passage, I think, doesn't see God as an accountant waiting to give us gifts after we do the right thing. Instead, God is always there even when we fail to love like God does. Drawing near to God is an invitation to embrace our need for repentance. We need to, over and over again, admit our failures and our sin. We need to remember there is a God, and we are not it. We, through worship, prayer, study and confession, return to God as a way to embrace who we already are. We are loved. We are God's. We are with Jesus. And so we make the conscious choice to re-engage with God knowing that God has never disengaged from us.*