

THEY  
*celebrate*  
YOUR ABUNDANT  
GOODNESS  
AND  
*joyfully sing*  
OF YOUR  
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

PSALM 145:7, NIV

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2017 – 9:00 AM**

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**WOODCLIFF LAKE, NJ**

## WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Welcome to all** as we gather together to hear of God's mercy and learn how to freely share God's grace.

**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. 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 envelopes in the pews for you. Please include your contact information or envelope number. **We also accept checks online.** Visit our website ([www.clc4u.com](http://www.clc4u.com)) 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  
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 [@christwoodcliff](https://twitter.com/christwoodcliff)

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 – “Here I Am to Worship” Words and Music by Tim Hughes

♩=75



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 -



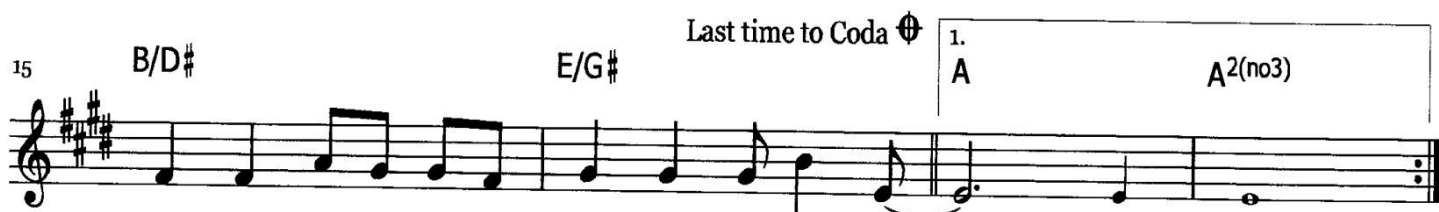
see. — Beau - ty that made this — heart a - dore — You, hope of a life spent with —  
-bove. — Hum - bly You came to the earth You cre - a - ted, all for love's sake be - came.



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



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



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



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

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

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

24 2. **A** **B<sup>7sus</sup>** **D.S. al Coda**

that cross. So here I am to

26 **Coda** **A** **A<sup>2(no3)</sup>** **E**

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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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**Amen.**

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

## **THE READING – Jonah 3:10—4:11**

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL according to St. Matthew 20:1-16**

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”*

*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 – “Eraser”**



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

♩=73



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 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 thou-sand 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. \_

**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.*

*Let us pray for the church and its ministry. We pray for Elizabeth and Tracie, our bishops, and our worldwide partners in the Lutheran World Federation. Unite us in one Spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

*God who stretched the spangled heavens, we thank and praise you for the gift of the sun, moon, stars, mountains, valleys, grasslands, and deserts. We pray for Puerto Rico, Mexico, and all places recovering from natural disasters. Comfort the sick, bring peace to those who mourn, and inspire us all to help rebuild their communities. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*God of great mercy and love, you show faithfulness and kindness to the world every day. We pray for all who govern, especially Donald, the President, and all leaders who gathered at the United Nations this week. Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

*We pray for those who are homeless, jobless, or hopeless. We pray for those who are forgotten, ignored, or isolated. We pray for all in any need, especially . . .*

**Beverly Albert, Dolores Albert, Tony Conboy, Jean Dale, Kylie Everhart,  
Peter Gluesing, Kim Herrera, Mae Hulburt, Millie and Roger Hildebrand,  
Shiloh and Katherine Johnson, Gary Meserole, Fred Messner,  
Holly Mullins, George Namendorf, Lorraine and Jack Sadlon,  
Ellie Soehren, Nancy Sweet, Trudy Ungar**

*Lord, in your mercy,*

**hear our prayer.**

**SPEAKER – Beth Gebhart, LSMNJ**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*Let us pray.*

*Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, 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, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** – *“Holy Is the Lord”* [Please remain standing.]



$\text{♩} = 84$  **VERSE**

E

A<sup>2</sup>

B<sup>SUS</sup>

E/G<sup>#</sup>

A<sup>2</sup>



4

B<sup>SUS</sup>

E

A<sup>2</sup>

B<sup>SUS</sup>



**PRE-CHORUS**

F<sup>#7</sup>

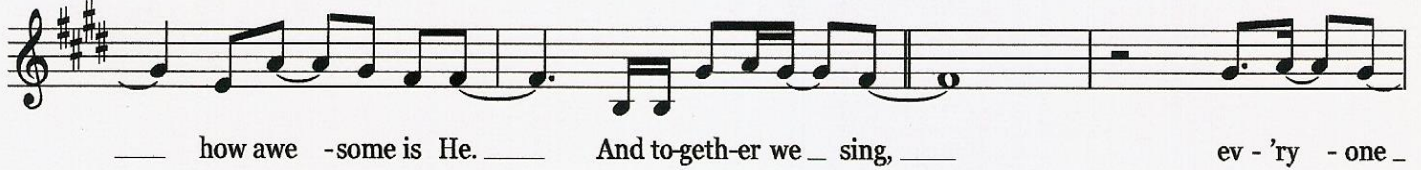
A<sup>2</sup>

7

E/G<sup>#</sup>

A<sup>2</sup>

B<sup>SUS</sup>



**CHORUS**

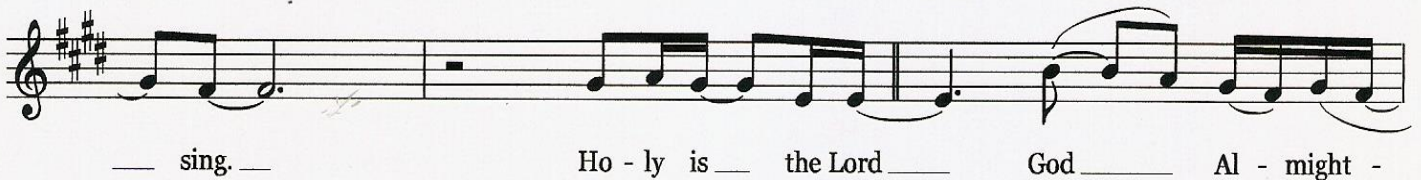
E/G<sup>#</sup>

A<sup>2</sup>

11

F<sup>#7</sup>

A<sup>2</sup>



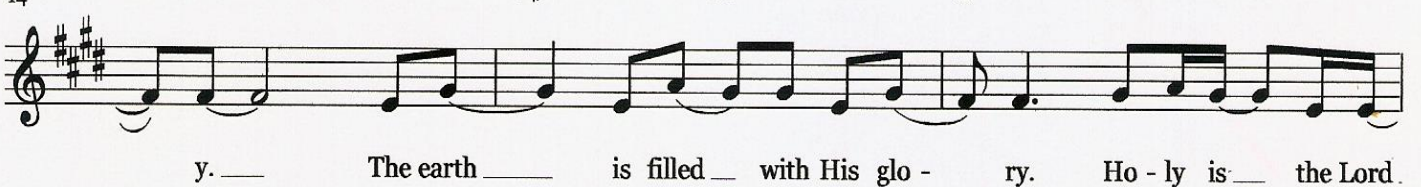
14

B<sup>SUS</sup>

C<sup>#</sup>m<sup>7</sup>

A<sup>2</sup>

B



17

E/G<sup>#</sup>

A<sup>2</sup>

B<sup>SUS</sup>

C<sup>#</sup>m<sup>7</sup>

A<sup>2</sup>



20  $B^{sus}$   $C\#m^7$   $A^2$   $B^{sus}$  1. B

- ry. The earth is filled with His glo - ry.

24 2. B BRIDGE E  $B/D\#$

It is ris - ing up all a-round. It's the an -

27  $D^2$  1. A

- them of the Lord's re - nown. It's ris -

29 2. A D.S. al Coda

re - nown. And to - geth - er we sing,

31  $\Phi$  Coda  $B^{sus}$   $C\#m^7$   $A^2$   $B^{sus}$

- ry. The earth is filled with His glo - ry.

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## DISMISSAL

*Go in peace. Remember the poor.*

**Thanks be to God.**



*What does "the kingdom of heaven" bring up? Do you see a vision of clouds, deep blue sky, and angels flying around with wings? Does "the kingdom of heaven" inspire questions about the afterlife or does it cause you to think about life right now? Those first four words are the key to our interpretation of today's reading from the gospel of Matthew. If the kingdom of heaven is only about heaven, today's parable is a parable only about faith and belief. But if the kingdom of heaven is about the world right now, today's parable is about living a faith-filled life.*

*Matthew is the only gospel that uses the phrase "the kingdom of heaven." Mark, Luke, and John instead use the "kingdom of God." We can read these two phrases, I think, interchangeably. "The kingdom of heaven" shows us how God is more than just our personal experience of the world. "The kingdom of God" reminds us how God interacts and cares about the world we live in. God's kingdom includes the entire world. God's kingdom has something to say to every kingdom, nation, and every home we create. God's vision for our life is a vision that stretches from heaven to the earth and back again.*

*I like Richard Lischer's description of why parables matter. "The implication of the parables is clear: if one cannot meet the kingdom of God amid the pots and pans of daily life, of what earthly use is the kingdom?"<sup>1</sup> There are parts of today's parable that are hard. Why does the landowner get to choose who works and who doesn't? In the world this story takes place in, what happens to those who are willing to work but are not hired? Do we want God to really be like this choosy landowner? And why does God's vision of justice seem to punish, or at least be unfair, to those who worked the whole day? But the heart of this story is also a vision of radical equality and grace. And this vision matters right now. The workers' worth isn't defined by what they do. They are valued because God says they are. And this vision of justice isn't something we are asked to wait to experience in the world to come. This justice is something God wants in the world today.*

<sup>[1]</sup> Richard Lischer, *Reading the Parables*, 2014. Page 11]