

September 14, 2025

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



**HOLY
CROSS
DAY**

Christ's Lutheran Church
700 East Pennsylvania Avenue
Oreland, Pennsylvania

*Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
connects individuals to God, each other, and the community.*

Welcome to Worship at Christ's Lutheran Church!

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,

we are your stiff-necked people.

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found. Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.

In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

Amen.

Gathering Song

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW # 807



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb-en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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.

Hymn of Praise

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Verse 1

ELW # 834



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - mighty - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Numbers 21:4b-9

A reading from Numbers, chapter 21.

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out, ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation will sing the following response:

Dm G Dm B♭ C F A

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name. —

Dm G Dm B♭ C Dm

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.
- ² O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the
nations. **Response**
- ³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of
Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁴ Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. **Response**

A reading from First Corinthians, chapter 1.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

**Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
ELW # 172**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
 - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
 lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: ¹³“No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Children’s Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

A Moment of Prayer

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

ELW # 752



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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The Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

Please stand in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW # 588



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our common faith using the words of the 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.

Please kneel or sit as you are able for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Sustaining God, guide your church on the way. Give us patience in our journey, and protect us from division and doubt. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Creator God, renew the earth. Heal our planet from the venom of greed and exploitation, and direct us to respect all life as a gift from you. May we look to the cross and live. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of wisdom, grant discernment to those in authority. Thwart the plans of the proud, bring low the mighty, and uphold those who work for peace. May they seek the way of the cross and live. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of grace, alleviate suffering. Comfort the sick and the grieving. We pray especially for Rachael, Vincent, Bob, Eleanor, Davis, Diane, Pam, Roseann, the Mundrick family and the Polis family. Come to the aid of those who are hungry or needing shelter. May they find hope in the cross and live. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Good Shepherd, guide your flock. Protect us from the world's lies and lead us in the way of truth. Strengthen us in our faith and inspire us to serve others. May we follow you to the cross and live. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Merciful God, you receive into your loving embrace those who have died. Giving thanks for them, may we find comfort in the cross and live in the hope of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

Passing of the Peace

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

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you
and to greet those who are worshipping online.*

Please be seated.

Musical Offering "Oh, How Good It Is" Getty, Holmes, Townend

*"Oh, how good it is when the family of God
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love,
are the fruit of His presence here among us."*

Please stand.

Offertory Hymn

Create in Me a Clean Heart WOV # 732

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it."

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

The Sending Song

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

ELW # 789



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.
2 We are yours; in love be-friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
3 You have prom-ised to re-ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;
4 Ear-ly let us seek your fa-vor, ear-ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
keep your flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray.
you have mer-cy to re-lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav-ior, with your love our spir-its fill.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil-dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear-ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil-dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear-ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
Thanks be to God.

Your Prayers Are Invited

We hope you will add the following people to your personal prayers. Those who are listed longer than 6 weeks can be found on the long term prayer list through the link in the weekly e-news or the monthly Link newsletters. To add a name to the prayer list or provide an update, please contact the office.

Bob Harkins (Bill Harkins' brother)
Vincent Kerper (friend of the Fittipaldi Family)
Roseann Nieri (friend of the Hallman Family)
Davis Phelps (Marda Craig's brother)
Diane Polis
Rachael Rinders (friend of the Kaegler Family)
Eleanor Rothenheber
Pam Schilling (friend of the Kelly Family)

We remember in prayer the family and friends of Marian Schmickle (former long-time member of CLC and our choir) who died on September 10. May her loved ones be comforted by the promise and hope of the resurrection.

*The flowers on the altar today have been sponsored by
Lynn & Bill Harkins in celebration of their granddaughter
Samantha Fidler's birthday
and
by The Polis Family in celebration of
Gail Polis' and Shawn Riley's birthdays!*

Online Giving

To make an offering to support the work of Christ's Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, you may use this QR code to access our site for secure online giving.



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Ministers	The People of Christ's Lutheran Church
Senior Pastor	Reverend Axel Kaegler
Director of Spiritual Formation	Becca Shelor
Director of Music	Ken Selinger
Administrative Assistant	Lorraine Pfeiffer
Preschool Director	Sally Mead
Sexton	Pete Carr

Assisting Minister	Jenna Balaicuis
Soundboard	Diane Polis
Livestream	Rick Daniels, Don Hallman, John Melnick, Paul Zieger
Counter(s)	Tim and Deb Hilbert
Closer	Diana Nydick
Assisting Minister next Sunday	Adele Kelly

Upcoming Altar Guild: September 21 Bonnie Zieger, Marge Holmes

This Week at CLC!

Sunday	9:00 am	Family Tables (chapel)
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 am	Worship at CLC and online
	11:30 am	Coffee Hour (lobby)
Monday	9:30 am	Monday Morning Men
	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	7:30 pm	BS Troop 1 (PH)
Tuesday	9:00 am – 10:45 am	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	6:00 pm	Wolf Cubs (203/204)
	6:00 pm	Troop 1 Unit Meeting (PH)
	6:00 pm	Bears II (200)
Wednesday	10:00 am	Bible Study (200)
	6:00 pm	Bear Cubs (203/204)
	6:30 pm	Wonderful Wednesday (Hallman Home)
	7:00 pm	AA (PH)
Friday	8:00 pm	AA (200)
Saturday		Men's Retreat (off-site)