

July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



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!

As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

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.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity,† one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

Restore us to dwell in your peace.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."
In the name of God,

Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
 your sins are forgiven.
 Rest in God's love.
Amen.

Gathering Song

God of Grace and God of Glory
ELW # 705

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

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
Verse 1

In Thee is Gladness
ELW # 867



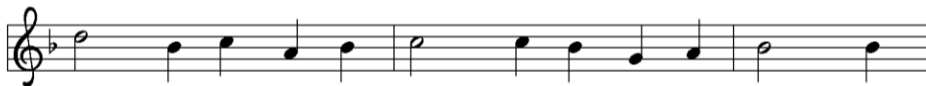
1 In thee is glad - ness a - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus, sun - shine of my
2 Je - sus is ours! . . We fear no pow - ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv - en the gifts of heav - en, thou the
death. He sees and bless - es in worst dis - tress - es; he can



true re - deem - er art. Our souls thou wak - est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where - fore the sto - ry tell of his



break - est. Who trusts thee sure - ly has built se - cure - ly
glo - ry with heart and voic - es; all heav'n re - joic - es



and stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
in him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing to see thy shin - ing, dy - ing or liv - ing,
glad - ness, tri - umph o'er sad - ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav - ing; naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

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

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from First Kings, chapter 3.

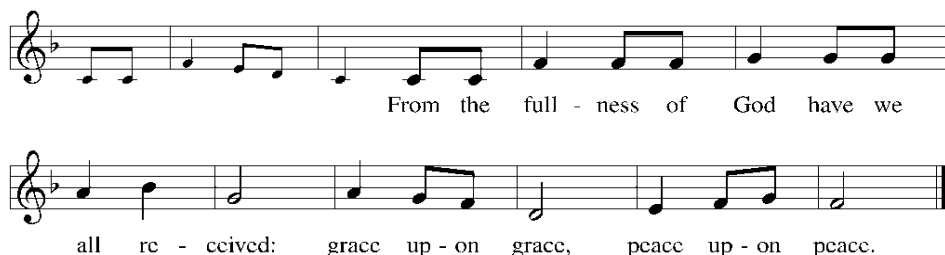
⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶ And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today." ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation will sing the following response:



¹²⁹ Your decrees are wonderful;

therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰ When your word is opened it gives light;

it gives understanding to the simple.

¹³¹ I open my mouth and pant

because I long for your commandments.

¹³² Turn to me and be gracious to me,

as you always do to those who love your name.

Response

¹³³ Order my footsteps in your word;

let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴ Rescue me from those who oppress me,

and I will keep your commandments.

¹³⁵ Let your face shine upon your servant

and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ My eyes shed streams of tears,

because people do not keep your teaching.

Response

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-39

A reading from Romans, chapter 8.

²⁶ The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those

whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Gospel Acclamation
(sing twice)

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah
ELW # 172

The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first two phrases: 'Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.' and 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal -'. The second staff continues with '- le - lu - jah.' and 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -'. The third staff concludes with 'lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.' The final note of the third staff is a whole note G, followed by a double bar line.

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. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵² And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

The Children's Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

A Moment of Prayer

Cradling Children in His Arm ELW # 444

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and gentle, with a mix of quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below each staff, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Cra-dling chil - dren in his arm, Je - sus gave his bless - ing.

To our babes a wel-come warm he is yet ad - dress - ing.

Take them, Lord, give life a - new in the liv - ing wa - ters!

Keep them al - ways near to you as your sons and daugh - ters!

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Johannes H. V. Knudsen, 1902–1982
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547
Text © 1976 Johannes H. V. Knudsen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

Please stand in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

This is My Father's World ELW # 824



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na-ture sings, and round me rings the mu-sic of the spheres.
morn-ing light, the lil-y white, de-clare their mak-er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul-er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won-ders wrought.
rus-tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav-en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

Apostles' Creed

Together let us confess our common faith in 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

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. We pray especially for Samira, Ziad, the Bach family and the Piantieri family. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our careers upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.
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	"This Little Light of Mine"	Spiritual
Family Chorus		

Please stand.

Offertory Hymn

Give Thanks
TFF # 292

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,

give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,

give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And

now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS. Henry Smith

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Offering Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Gracious God, you have been faithful to our ancestors, bringing us throughout time to this very day

Beyond our divisions, you remind us that we are all kindred in your eyes

We are better together.

You have given us all we need to trust in your abundance, to live generous lives, and recognize that your good work is done best in communion with you and one another

We are better together.

And so in service to our neighbor, in love for all creation, and in proclamation of your good news for all:

We are better together.

Bless these gifts we've gathered, help us to remember all you have done, give us vision for all we can do, honest commitment to the call you've placed before us, and sincere trust that we can rely on your grace and sufficiency Let us be your people, and serve the world in love as you first loved us. **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

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.



A - men, a - men, a - - men.



WOLFE and HUGH: Aug. 95

Prepared by: www.DigitalSongAndThemes.com

Today's Music: Our Sending Song was written by Charles Wesley in 1739 and for many years was the first hymn in every Methodist hymnal. In 1738, he was suffering from a bout of pleurisy and was beginning to have extreme doubts about his faith. He was given special care from a group of Christians and he was deeply affected by this. He quickly became at peace with God. He wrote about this in his journal and soon after wrote an 18-verse stanza poem. "Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise God with them all." Our first verse in our hymnal was Wesley's 7th and our final verse of the hymn was his 1st

The Sending Song

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing ELW # 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

Your Prayers Are Invited

We hope you will add the following people to your personal prayers. Those who are listed for 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.

Samira Awad (friend of Melody Maurer)

Ziad Awad (friend of Melody Maurer)

Bach Family

**The flowers on the altar today have been shared with
us from the garden of Bonnie Zieger!**

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
Piano Accompaniment	Betsy Selinger
Administrative Assistant	Lorraine Pfeiffer
Preschool Director	Sally Mead
Sexton	Pete Carr

Assisting Minister	Paul Zieger
Soundboard	Diane Polis, Jon Rasmussen, John Frantz
Livestream	Rick Daniels, John Melnick, Paul Zieger
Counter(s)	Lori Stevens
Closer	Sue Frantz
Assisting Minister next Sunday	Don Hallman

Upcoming Altar Flowers: August 2	Beth Nussbaum
Upcoming Altar Guild: August 2	Consy Finney

This Week at CLC!

Sunday	9:30 am	Worship at CLC and online
Monday	9:30 am	Monday Morning Men
	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	7:00 pm	Troop 1 (203/204)
Tuesday	9:00 am – 10:45 am	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	7:00 pm	Pub Theology (Tannery Run)
Wednesday	10:00 am	Bible Study (200)
Friday	8:00 pm	AA (200)



SUMMER

August events



23

SUN. AUG.

12 PM – 1 PM

Poppin' Playground Party (baby-K)



26

WED. AUG.

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Middle and High School Boardgames



30

SUN. AUG.

9:30 AM

Family Choir Sings in Worship

NEW TIME!

10:30 AM – 12 PM

Lower Elementary Craft Corner (K-3rd)

12:30 PM – 2 PM

All Elementary Youth Group (K-5th)

Questions? Contact Becca at:
director-spiritualform@christs-oreland.org

Reconciling in Christ

Summer Educational Series



June
Sunday the 28th
10:30 am

July
Sunday 19th
1 pm

August
Sunday the 23rd
10:30 am

LGBTQ+ History
with Kathryn Steen

LGBTQ+ Representation and the Bible
with Rev. Daniel Eisenberg

LGBTQ+ Awkward Questions with Becca Shelor

