

⁹⁻¹¹ When down-and-outers get a break, cheer! And when the arrogant rich are brought down to size, cheer! Prosperity is as short-lived as a wildflower, so don’t ever count on it. You know that as soon as the sun rises, pouring down its scorching heat, the flower withers. Its petals wilt and, before you know it, that beautiful face is a barren stem. Well, that’s a picture of the “prosperous life.” At the very moment everyone is looking on in admiration, it fades away to nothing. ¹² Anyone who meets a testing challenge head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life. ¹⁶⁻¹⁸ So, my very dear friends, don’t get thrown off course. Every desirable and beneficial gift comes out of heaven. The gifts are rivers of light cascading down from the Father of Light. There is nothing deceitful in God, nothing two-faced, nothing fickle. He brought us to life using the true Word, showing us off as the crown of all his creatures.

P: This is the Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God.**

The Third Hymn: *Congregation Chooses*

The Third Reading: James 1:19-27

¹⁹⁻²¹ Post this at all the intersections, dear friends: Lead with your ears, follow up with your tongue, and let anger straggle along in the rear. God’s righteousness doesn’t grow from human anger. So throw all spoiled virtue and cancerous evil in the garbage. In simple humility, let our gardener, God, landscape you with the Word, making a salvation-garden of your life. ²²⁻²⁴ Don’t fool yourself into thinking that you are a listener when you are anything but, letting the Word go in one ear and out the other. Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don’t act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are, what they look like. ²⁵ But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God – the free life! – even out of the corner of his eye, and sticks with it, is no distracted scatterbrain but a man or woman of action. That person will find delight and affirmation in the action. ²⁶⁻²⁷ Anyone who sets himself up as “religious” by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world.

P: This is the Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God.**

The Fourth Hymn: *Congregation Chooses*

The Gospel: Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23 *(Please stand as you are able)*

¹⁻³ At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the shoreline, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories. ³⁻⁸ “What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As he scattered the seed, some of it fell on the road, and birds ate it. Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered just as quickly. Some fell in the weeds; as it came up, it was strangled by the weeds. Some fell on good earth, and produced a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.” ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ “Study this story of the farmer planting seed. When anyone hears news of the kingdom and doesn’t take it in, it just remains on the surface, and so the Evil One comes along and plucks it right out of that person’s heart. This is the seed the farmer scatters on the road. ²⁰⁻²¹ “The seed cast in the gravel – this is the person who hears and instantly responds with enthusiasm. But there is no soil of character, and so when the emotions wear off and some difficulty arrives, there is nothing to show for it. ²² “The seed cast in the weeds is the person who hears the kingdom news, but weeds of worry and illusions about getting more and wanting everything under the sun strangle what was heard, and nothing comes of it. ²³ “The seed cast on good earth is the person who hears and takes in the News, and then produces a harvest beyond his wildest dreams.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord, **C: Thanks be to God.**

The Fifth Hymn & Offering: *Congregation Chooses* *(you may be seated)*

Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit <https://secure.myoanco.com/L-ZHX5> Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.

Hymn of Thanksgiving: “Lamb Of God” W&P #83 *(Ushers may bring offering forward)*

Vs 1: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy on me.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, have mercy on me.

Vs 2: Lamb of God, I’m asking you to take away my sin.
I confess that I’ve done wrong, I need your help again.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy on me.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, have mercy on me.

Vs 3: The precious blood of Jesus Christ cleanses me from sin.
The precious blood of Jesus Christ cleanses me from sin.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy on me.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy on me.

Statement of Faith: “In Christ Alone” CCLI Licensed *(Please stand as you are able)*

V1: In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song; This cornerstone, this solid ground.
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm; What heights of love, what depths of peace; When fears are stilled, when strivings cease. My comforter, my all in all; Here in the love of Christ I stand.

V2: In Christ alone, who took on flesh; Fullness of God in helpless babe; This gift of love and righteousness.
Scorned by the ones He came to save; ‘Til on that cross as Jesus died; The wrath of God was satisfied.
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

V3: There in the ground, His body lay; Light of the world, by darkness slain; Then bursting forth in glorious day.
Up from the grave, He rose again; And as He stands in victory; Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am His and He is mine; Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

V4: No guilt in life, no fear in death; This is the power of Christ in me; From life’s first cry to final breath.
Jesus commands my destiny; No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man; Can ever pluck me from His hand.
‘Til He returns or calls me home; Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand; No power of hell, no scheme of man;
Can ever pluck me from His hand. ‘Til He returns or calls me home; Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.

The Prayers: *(call and response)*

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.* Guide your church, O God. Anoint us for service and make us messengers of your peace. Emboldened by the witness of (your apostles Peter and Paul and) Christians throughout history, send us to proclaim your reign come near. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Protect this world, O God. Watch over fields and fruit trees, foxes and birds, the pleasant land beneath us and the sun and moon above. Keep us mindful of the rich inheritance you have given us in the natural world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Counsel our leaders, O God. Make them steadfast in seeking justice and unable to be shaken as they pursue peace. Lead them by your Spirit to listen and respond to the people they govern. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold all who suffer, O God. Give refuge to those of us who know rejection, and shelter to those of us who have nowhere to lay our heads. Bring any who are sick into your healing presence especially Keith Brown, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Shawn Fredixon, Marc Bode, Harlan Reese, Gage Miller, Perry Fitzgerald, Tanya Bakken, Nicole Anderson, Henry Strauss, Diane Krenke, Steve Pabst, Bob Eppen, Tara Vieths, Chase Hanson, Scott Bignell, & Faith Mendoca. Give all your fullness of joy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Set free this assembly, O God. Grow your Spirit’s fruits within us and within our congregation’s ministries. Set our faces always on you, that we might live in the freedom to which you have called us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Embrace all your saints, O God. We thank you for the faithful departed. Let us rejoice that you do not abandon us to the grave but lead us on the path of life. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace: P: The peace of Christ be with you always, **C: And also with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving: P: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give Him thanks & praise.**

The Words of Institution

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.

Meal and Hymns: *(you may be seated)*

All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.

Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune.

Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.

“Here Is Bread” ELW #483

Vs 1: Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, He is with us.
Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.

Refrain: In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

Vs 2: Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Jesus here. [Refrain]

Vs 3: Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.
We'll proclaim till he comes Jesus crucified. [Refrain]

“Taste and See” ELW #493

Refrain: Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Vs 1: I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord; for God has been so good to me. (Refrain)

Vs 2: Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord, who answered me; from all my troubles I was set free. (Refrain)

Vs 3: Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good; in God we need put all our trust. (Refrain)

“Nothing But The Blood” CCLI Licensed

Vs 1: What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Chorus: Oh! precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Vs 2: For my pardon, this I see, Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my cleansing this my plea, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Chorus]

Vs 3: Nothing can for sin atone, Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
Naught of good that I have done, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Chorus]

Vs 4: This is all my hope and peace, Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
This is all my righteousness, Nothing but the blood of Jesus. [Chorus]

Hymn of Thanksgiving for the Holy Supper: “How Great Thou Art” ELW #856

Vs 1: O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder Consider all the works Thy hands have made
I see the stars I hear the mighty thunder Thy pow'r thru'out The universe displayed

Chorus: Then sings my soul My Savior God to Thee How great Thou art How great Thou art
Then sings my soul My Savior God to Thee How great Thou art How great Thou art

Vs 2: When through the woods & forest glades I wander I hear the birds Sing sweetly in the trees When
I look down From lofty mountain grandeur And hear the brook And feel the gentle breeze [chorus]

Vs 3: But when I think That God His Son not sparing Sent Him to die I scarce can take it in
That on the cross My burden gladly bearing He bled and died To take away my sin [chorus]

Vs 4: When Christ shall come With shout of acclamation And take me home What joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow In humble adoration And there proclaim My God how great Thou art [chorus]

The Blessing: P: May the love of God abound in you. May the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts. And may the life of the Spirit bless you and give you peace. C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: Congregation Chooses (you may be seated)

Dismissal: P: Go in peace to love the Lord and serve your neighbor. C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude



St. Luke Lutheran Church

Pastor Eric Hanson

9:30AM • June 29, 2025

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude: Debbi St. John

Welcome & Announcements

Greeting: (please stand as you are able)

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. C: Come Holy Spirit, Come!

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Baptized into Christ, we confess our sin in search of healing, (Silence is kept for reflection.)

P: Merciful God,

C: You free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit toward joy and peace, but we often prioritize a love for wealth and power instead. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Break the bonds of sin and heal us. Amen.

P: You belong to Christ, not to sin. In the cross of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Be the New Creation Christ has made you. Amen.

The First Hymn: Congregation Chooses (you may be seated)

The First Reading: Ephesians 4-16

⁴⁻⁶ You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness. ⁷⁻¹³ But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. The text for this is, "He climbed the high mountain, He captured the enemy and seized the plunder, He handed it all out in gifts to the people." Is it not true that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ. ¹⁴⁻¹⁶ No prolonged infancies among us, please. We'll not tolerate babes in the woods, small children who are easy prey for predators. God wants us to grow up, to know the whole truth and tell it in love—like Christ in everything. We take our lead from Christ, who is the source of everything we do. He keeps us in step with each other. His very breath and blood flow through us, nourishing us so that we will grow up healthy in God, robust in love.

P: This is the Word of the Lord, C: Thanks be to God.

The Second Hymn: Congregation Chooses

The Second Reading: James 1:2-12, 16-18

²⁻⁴ Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way. ⁵⁻⁸ If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it. Ask boldly, believingly, without a second thought. People who "worry their prayers" are like wind-whipped waves. Don't think you're going to get anything from the Master that way, adrift at sea, keeping all your options open.