

**August 14, 2022**

# **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

4515 Dobie Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517-349-0620

## **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .  
..we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,  
study and fellowship  
..we **Equip** the people of God with a faith  
that works in real life  
..we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf  
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough  
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams  
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love  
Youth & Education Director .....Pam Williams  
Pastor's email:.....[prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Church email:.....[faith@faithlutheranokemos.org](mailto:faith@faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Website:.....[www.faithlutheranokemos.org](http://www.faithlutheranokemos.org)  
Facebook Page:.....[facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos](https://facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos)

### **Introduction to the day**

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."



## PRELUDE

“How Can I Keep from Singing?”

arr. Lani Smith

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Merciful God,

**we confess that we have not followed your path  
but have chosen our own way.**

**Instead of putting others before ourselves,  
we long to take the best seats at the table.**

**When met by those in need,  
we have too often passed by on the other side.**

**Set us again on the path of life.**

**Save us from ourselves  
and free us to love our neighbors.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God does not deal with us according to our sins  
but delights in granting pardon and mercy.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

You are free to love as God loves.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## Let Justice Roll like a River

*Refrain*



Let jus - tice roll like a riv - er, and wash all op -



pres-sion a - way. Come, O God, and take us,



move and shake us; come now, and make us a - new,



that we might live just - ly like you.



1 "Take from me your ho - ly feasts, all your



of - f'rings and your mu - sic. Let jus - tice



flow like wa - ters, and in - teg - ri - ty like an



*Refrain*  
ev - er-flow - ing stream."

*Stanzas 2-5*

2 How long shall we wait, O God, for the day of your  
 3 Hear this, all of you who use the poor in your thirst of  
 4 "E - ven now, re - turn to me, let your hearts be  
 5 You have been told the way of life, the way of

mer - cy to dawn, the day we beat our  
 pow - er and rich - es: the Lord will turn your  
 bro - ken and hum - ble, for I am gra - cious,  
 jus - tice and peace: to act just - ly, to

*Refrain*

swords in - to plows, when your peace reigns o - ver the earth?  
 laugh - ter to tears, on the won - drous Day of our God.  
 gen - 'rous and kind." Come and seek the mer - cies of God.  
 love gent - ly, to walk hum - bly with God.

Text: Marty Haugen  
 Music: LET JUSTICE ROLL. Marty Haugen

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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.**

# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Refrain*

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>23</sup>Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup>Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup>I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup>How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup>They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for

Baal. <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup>Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 82**

*Psalm is read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>God stands to charge the divine council assembled,  
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

<sup>2</sup>**“How long will you judge unjustly,  
and show favor to the wicked?**

<sup>3</sup>Save the weak and the orphan;  
defend the humble and needy;

<sup>4</sup>**rescue the weak and the poor;  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in  
darkness;

all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>6</sup>**Now I say to you, ‘You are gods,  
and all of you children of the Most High;**

<sup>7</sup>nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,  
and fall like any prince.’”

<sup>8</sup>**Arise, O God, and rule the earth,  
for you shall take all nations for your own.**



## SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>29</sup>By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup>By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup>By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup>And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—<sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup>Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—<sup>38</sup>of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup>Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let

us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S SERMON & NOISY OFFERING

*The Pantry Ministry & the Parish House Ministry are an important and vital part of our community. Today we will be taking an offering for the Pantry Ministry.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup>"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! <sup>50</sup>I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup>Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup>From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two

against three; <sup>53</sup>they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup>He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain’; and so it happens. <sup>55</sup>And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat’; and it happens. <sup>56</sup>You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

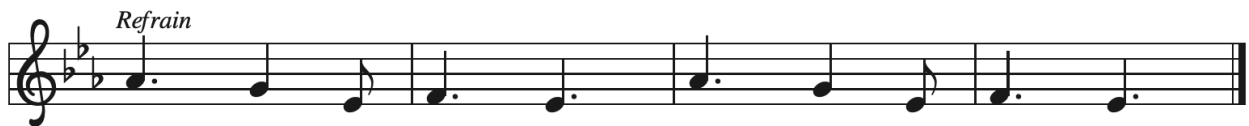
### God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me *O Christ, Surround Me*



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,  
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967  
Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan  
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## Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith together.

**We believe that God creates all things, renews all things, and celebrates all good life-giving things. We believe Earth is a sanctuary, a sacred space and a planet filled with God's presence, a home for us to share with our kin.**

**We believe that God became flesh and blood, became a piece of Earth, a human being called Jesus Christ, who lived and breathed and spoke**

among us, suffered, and died on a cross, for all human beings and for all creation. We believe that the risen Jesus is the Christ at the core of creation reconciling all things to God, renewing all creation, and filling the cosmos.

We believe the Spirit renews life in creation, groans in empathy with a suffering creation, and waits with us for the rebirth of creation.

We believe that with Christ we will rise and with Christ we will celebrate a new creation. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Holy One in prayer.

*Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds: Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.***

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:*

Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy Wisdom.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

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

## OFFERING

"Shall We Gather At the River" (arr. Anne Krentz Organ)  
Deb Borton-McDonough, Elaine Harrison, Annie Mayer and Addie  
Thompson, handbells

*Please stand if you are able.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

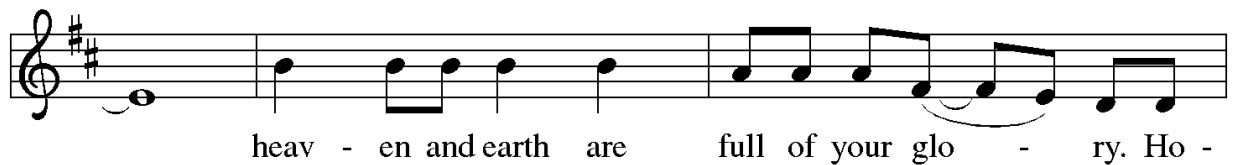
## DIALOGUE

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.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
Amen.

## COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Strengthen for Service”

arr. Aaron D. Miller

*Please stand if you are able.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you  
in his grace. **Amen**



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen**

## SENDING SONG

### My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end-less song; a-bove earth's lam-en-ta-tion,
- 2 Through all the tu-mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring-ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv-eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev-er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre-a-tion.  
It finds an ech-o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark-ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv-eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Trumpet Voluntary in D”

John Stanley

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Altar Care: Cecelia Kramer

Reader: Jon Harrison

Lay Assistant: Harold Sollenberger

Ushers: Holste

Coffee Hour: Connie Nelson & Ledith Ambs

### Year to Date

### January 1- June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Income	\$139,525.00
Expenses	<u>\$164,936.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(25,411.00)

### 7/31/22

Loose Cash	\$ 71.00
Loose Checks	\$ 20.00
General Fund	\$ 2,895.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 300.00
World Hunger	\$ 8.00
Youth	<u>\$ 40.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3,334.00
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 707.50
Parish House	\$ 25.25
Pantry Fund	<u>\$ 75.25</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,142.00</b>

### 8/7/22

Loose Cash	\$ 65.00
General Fund	\$ 1,145.00
LWR School Kits	\$ 50.00
Break Bags	\$ 120.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 226.00
VBS	<u>\$ 95.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 1,701.00
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 3,485.00
Building	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,211.00</b>

# **ROOF FUNDRAISING EVENT**

**HELP US RAISE MONEY FOR THE NEW  
ROOF**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20**

**PICNIC BEGINS AT 4:30 PM**

**GREAT FOOD, GAMES, BID ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS**

**MUSIC EVENT BEGINS AT 7:00 PM**

**JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE FOR MUSIC  
FUNDRAISER**

*Silent Auction items will be on display beginning August 7. If you  
have an item you would like to donate for the Auction, please  
speak to Pastor Ellen or Katie.*