Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

Romans 11:33

ROMANS: The Theology of the Gospel

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 2023 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM



Christ Lutheran Church 3509 SW Burlingame Rd. Topeka, KS 66611 785-266-6263 www.christlcms.org Rev. Ben Micheel, Pastor Amanda Adams, DCE



<u>As We Gather</u>

Please take time to fill out the fellowship pad located near the center aisle in your pew. If you have any prayer requests, feel free to use a prayer request card from the pew rack in front of you, and place it in the offering plate after the sermon. (For those joining us online, please contact the church office.) We will include these requests in our prayers during worship and share them with our prayer chain (if desired).

Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.



Welcome and Opening Prayer



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Stand



Divine Service Setting Four, page 203

+ Confession and Absolution +

Confession, to confess to God our sins and sinful nature. Absolution, "To absolve of sin and wrongdoing," more specifically, to affirm God's forgiveness to all who sincerely confess their sins to Him.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- \mathbb{P} In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

Exhortation

Psalm 124:8; Psalm 130:3-4; Luke 18:13 203

- **P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- **C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- ▶ Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

LSB 203

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23] LSB 203

- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.



Service of the Word

Introit

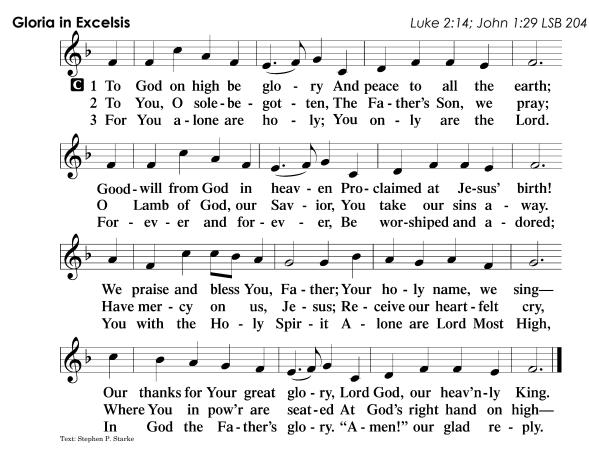
- **P** I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
- **C** and call on the name of the LORD.
- P What shall I render to the LORD
- **C** for all his benefits to me?
- **P** I will lift up the cup of salvation
- **C** and call on the name of the LORD.
- **P** Precious in the sight of the LORD
- **C** is the death of his saints.
- P O LORD, I am your servant;
- **C** I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- **P** I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
- **C** and call on the name of the LORD.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47 204

A Greek phrase meaning, "Lord, have mercy!" A brief prayer not only imploring God's mercy but rejoicing in it through Jesus Christ.





Salutation and Collect of the Day

"Salutation" is a word from Latin meaning, "to salute" or "to greet." "Collect" (KAH-lekt), a brief structured prayer, usually consisting of five parts: address to God, basis for the prayer, petition, desired benefit or result, and trinitarian conclusion. The Collect of the Day also "collects" the message of the day's Gospel reading.

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

A The Old Testament Reading is from Isaiah, chapter 55.

^{6"}Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 11

A The Epistle is from Romans, chapter 11.

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? ³"Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." ⁴But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." ⁵So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. ⁶But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

⁷What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, ⁸as it is written,

"God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day."

9And David says,

"Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; ¹⁰let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever."

¹¹So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. ¹²Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

¹³Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry ¹⁴in order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead? ¹⁶If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

¹⁷But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, ¹⁸do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." ²⁰That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. ²¹For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you. ²²Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off. ²³And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. ²⁴For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

²⁵Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

"The Deliverer will come from Zion,

he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";

 $^{\rm 27}\ensuremath{``}\xspace$ and this will be my coven ant with them

when I take away their sins."

²⁸As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now

receive mercy. $^{32}\mbox{For God}$ has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"
³⁵"Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"

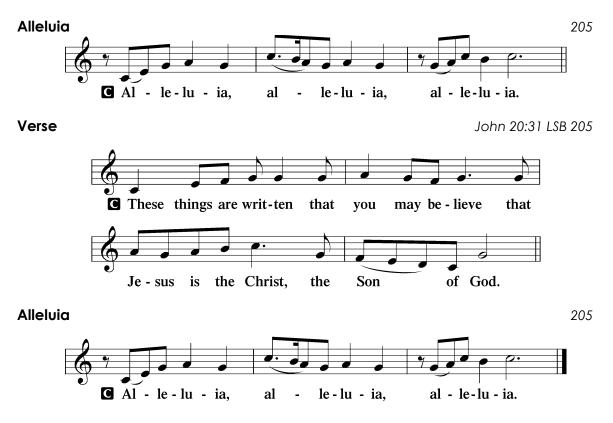
 $^{36}\mathrm{For}$ from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.



Stand

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vinevard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vinevard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' 7They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vinevard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vinevard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first, '9And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, '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.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **C** Praise to You, O Christ.



Apostles' Creed

Creed comes from the Latin "credo" which means "I believe." We confess our Christian faith in one of the three creeds (short statement of belief) agreed upon by the ancient church.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

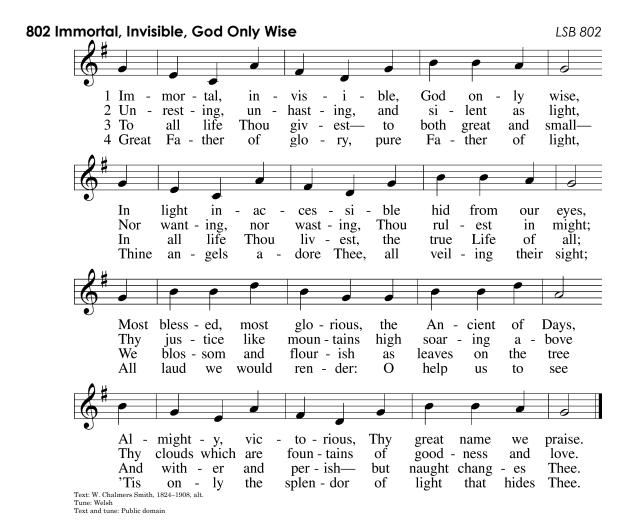
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints. the forgiveness of sins. the resurrection of the body. and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Children's Messaae

Matthew 19:14: Mark 13:13-15: Luke 18:16 Children are invited to join Amanda Adams, our Director of Christian Education, at the front of the sanctuary for the Children's Message.





Sermon



Offering

If you brought your gift, tithe, or offering with you today, you may place it in the offering plate as it passes. We also have multiple options for electronic giving. You can sign up for online giving through Vanco at **bit.ly/GivingChristLCMS** for a one-time or recurring gift. You may also download the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app and search for Christ Lutheran Church in Topeka, KS. Direct links and additional information are available on the church website **(christlcms.org/giving)**.



For those joining us remotely, you may use the electronic giving methods listed above, or you may mail your offering to the church office (3509 SW Burlingame Rd, Topeka, KS 66611).

Stand

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the pastor will say, "Lord, in Your mercy," to which the congregation will respond, **"Hear our prayer."**

■ ...through Jesus Christ, Your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136] LSB 208

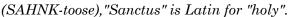
- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore

1 Timothy 2:1-4

with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 208





Prayer of Thanksgiving

 ■ Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a lifegiving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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 Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

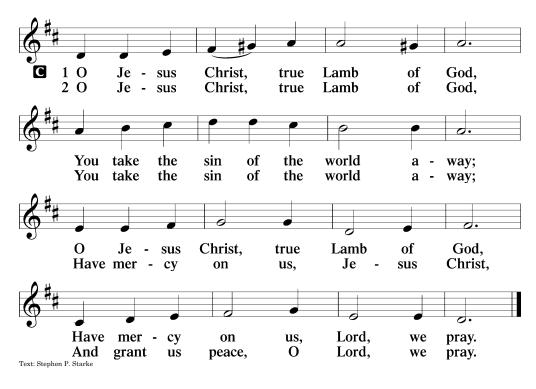
(PAKS DOH-mee-nee), Latin for "peace of the Lord" (John 20:19).

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** Amen.



Agnus Dei

(AHG-noose DAY-ee). Latin for "Lamb of God."

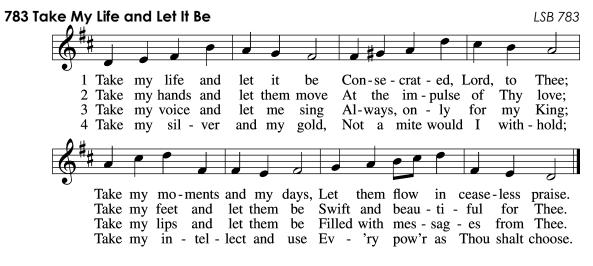


Sit

Distribution

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first. Then they will distribute it to those who cannot come up to the altar rail due to physical ailments. Following that the ushers will dismiss the people from their pews to go to the altar rail. The congregation will be ushered down the middle aisle to go up to the rail and when dismissed from there will use the side aisle to return to their seats. All are invited up to receive a blessing.

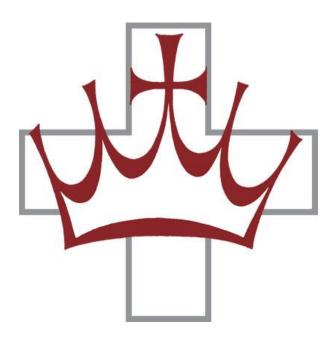




5 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

> Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79 Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870 Text and tune: Public domain

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.





Text: Martin E. Leckebusch, 1962

Tune: Henry V. Gerike, 1948

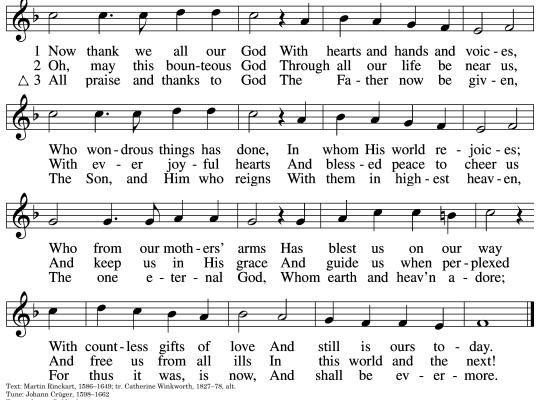
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une: © 1973 Henry V. Gerike. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110



895 Now Thank We All Our God

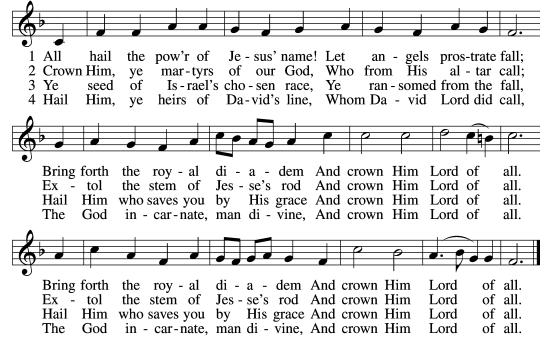








549 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name



- 5 Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget The wormwood and the gall,
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
 Go, spread your trophies at His feet And crown Him Lord of all.
- 6 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe, On this terrestrial ball
 To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.
 To Him all majesty ascribe And crown Him Lord of all.

7 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song And crown Him Lord of all

LSB 549

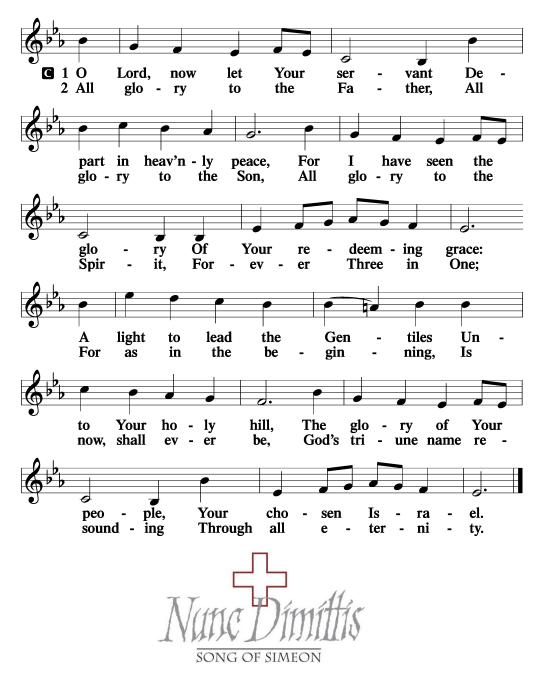
Text (sts. 1–5): Edward Perronet, 1726–92, alt.; (sts. 6–7): A Selection of Hymns, 1787, London, alt. Tune: Oliver Holden, 1765–1844 Text and tune: Public domain





Nunc Dimittis

(NUNK dih-MIH-tuss). Latin for "now [let your servant] depart," from the Song of Simeon.



Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benedicamus

icamus (beh-neh-dih-KAH-moose), Latin for "bless we [the Lord]." We give thanks to God for everything He has done for us in Jesus Christ.

- **P** Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

A final blessing from God this morning before we leave.

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- **C** Amen.

Sit





Text: Latin, c. 4th cent.; German version Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900, alt. Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna Text and tune: Public domain

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SEPTEMBER IS MISSIONS MONTH!

Our mission is to share the love of Christ in all that we do. We are proud to support missions in our own congregation, throughout the city of Topeka and the state of Kansas, across the country and around the world. With numerous organizations and countless ways to serve, we are spotlighting just a few of the organizations that we are able to help.



As Harvesters prepares to move to Lawrence, it is a good time to take a look at Doorstep. This organization describes itself as "Neighbors helping neighbors — Topeka's home for hope." Doorstep provides Topekans with short-term assistance, designed to help those recovering from sudden loss of employment or health-related issues. These solutions are designed to help our neighbors get back on their feet rather than cope with long-term needs. Doorstep offers assistance with food, clothing, rent, prescriptions, transportation, rent, and utilities. They are committed to extending a helping hand to friends and neighbors in their time of need.

Please keep Doorstep and the Topekans they assist in your prayers.

To offer financial assistance to Doorstep, visit **doorsteptopeka.org** or **christlcms.org/giving** ("Local Missions")

-- Week at a Glance --

Sunday September 24	9:15 am 4:00 pm 5:15 pm	Worship Service w/ Communion Sunday School (children & adults) Jr. Youth (4 th -6 th grades) Youth Group (7 th -12 th grades) College/Young Adult Group (ages 18-25)
Monday September 25		
Tuesday September 26	9:00 am	LWML Work Day
Wednesday September 27	5:15 pm 5:55 pm 6:05 pm	Midweek Confirmation Midweek – Meal (Sloppy Joes) Midweek – Worship Midweek – Classes Midweek – Choir
Thursday September 28	2:00 pm	Chair Aerobics
Friday September 29		
Saturday September 30	10:00 am	Men's Zoom Bible Study
Sunday October 1		Worship Service w/ Communion Sunday School (children & adults)
		LWML Sunday

Celebrating

Birthdays: Camden C., Jana C., Tava K., Melissa L. (24th); Madison F. (26th); Daria H. (27th); Rylan M., Melissa W. (29th); Teresa H. (30th); Ashley A., Khloe W. (1st)
Baptism Birthdays: Jana C., Mara G., Kalyn S. (24th); Dan F., Jenni H., Christopher W. (27th); Judy C. (30th); Jon B., Kailey C., Randy H., Kimberly S. (1st)
Anniversaries: Earl & Elizabeth P. (1st)

-- Announcements --

Adult Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)

Romans (with Pastor Ben) – Schemm Family Life Center (Gym) God's Word for Today: 1, 2, & 3 John (Small Group) – Basement Meeting Room A Walk Through the Bible (Women's Group) – Meeting Room near Gym

Children/Youth Sunday School Hour (9:15 am)

Children (Pre-K through 6th grade) – Upstairs Education Wing Youth (7th-12th grades) – Basement Youth Room

Midweek at Christ (Wednesday)

4:00 pm - Confirmation (6th, 7th, 8th grades)
5:15 pm - Meal (Free!)
5:55 pm - Worship (Brief service including prayer and a Bible reading)
6:05 pm - Classes (Christian education for all ages)

7:00 pm – Choir

Saturday Bible Studies

9:30 am monthly – Women's Bible Study (contact LaJean Rinker or the church office) 10:00 am weekly – Men's Zoom Bible Study (contact Eric Turner or the church office)

Missions Month

September is Missions Month! Each week we will spotlight one of the many missions we support here at Christ.

Gary's Berries

We will be having our annual fellowship night at Gary's Berries on Friday, October 13th. Come and go at your own pace – Gary's Berries will be open from 5-10 PM that day. Advance tickets will be \$13 each and will include a campfire dinner (hot dogs, s'mores, and more) at our group's site. Please bring a chair if you can – seating at our site will be limited. (You may leave your chairs at our campfire site while you enjoy other activities.) Pay through Vanco on our website (select the "Gary's Berries Tickets" fund), or bring cash/check to the church office.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Our next Red Cross Blood Drive will be on Friday, October 20th. We will not be providing a meal this time, but will definitely have some homemade goodies and treats for our volunteers and donors! To make your life-saving appointment call 800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: TopekaCLC).

-- Announcements --

LWML Collection for Fall Zone Event

The ladies of LWML are collecting items for SOS (domestic violence victims) to bring to their Fall Zone Event in Vassar, KS. If you would like to donate any of the following items, please place them in the bin in the coffee lobby no later than Sunday, October 1st. Thank you.

Items for SOS: Body Wash, Body Lotion, Feminine Products, Toothpaste, Wash Cloths, Towels, Deodorant, Hand Soap, Razors, Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothbrushes, Combs, Hair Brushes

Load the Truck

LWML will be loading a truck (here at Christ) with quilts, kits, and clothing donations for Orphan Grain Train on Friday, October 13th from 9 AM to noon. Volunteers welcome!

Magazines Wanted

SLI is looking for old/used magazines for their residents to use for art projects. If you have any that you would like to donate instead of throwing them in the recycling bin, please leave them in the box in the coffee lobby. Thank you!



DRIVE-THRU TRUNK OR TREAT OCTOBER 31ST

6:00-8:00 PM

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH 3509 SW BURLINGAME RD. (TOPEKA, KS)

-- Announcements --

Sanctuary Renovations Fund

We are still raising funds for our sanctuary renovation. These updates will provide easier access to the altar rail for communion (without steps), as well as provide a designated area for our musicians.

Construction will not begin until all funds have been collected. We have currently raised around \$35,000 of our \$50,000 goal. Thank you to all who have already donated! For those prayerfully considering a gift, you may designate "Renovations" on your check or offering envelope, or choose the "Building Construction & Renovation" fund when giving online through Vanco (christlcms.org/giving).

Remembered in our Prayers

Charlie P., Luke H., Don L., Jerry M., Jean (Pauline C.'s sister), Judy (Colleen B.'s neighbor), Noel (Colleen B.'s brother), Melanie (Sharon L.'s daughter), Vikki N., Matt N., Virginia C., Evelyn (mother of Sandy S.), Ted M., Garry N., Mark (Carol J.'s friend), Wayne B., David (Sondra K.'s son), Kim (friend of the Micheels), Dick H., Betty H., Dorothy (Wayne K.'s sister-in-law), Nick (Hannah M.'s cousin), Sharon H., Lila N., Darleen C., Brandon B., Dennis L., Marsha S., James (father-in-law of Norlinda C.), Craig R., Craig R. II, Natalie O., Doris T., Donna B., Lee M., Julie J., Colleen B., Greg (friend of the Tolberts), Rick (Colleen B.'s son-in-law), Carlie G., and others named in your heart. Pray for Chelsea Irwin and missionaries around the world. We pray especially for those around the world being persecuted for their faith in the one, true God and the suffering they endure. Please continue to pray for Pastor Ben, DCE Amanda, our staff and their families as they do our Lord's work here at Christ Lutheran. We also pray for those who serve in the armed forces, first responders, and for our country and government. Prayers of thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior and the new life we have in Him.



Christ Lutheran at Gary's Berries Friday. October 13th Tickets: \$13 each (includes campfire meal) "You MUST have an advance ticket for the \$13 price." Join us at Campfire 11 for hot dogs. s'mores. and more. Then explore the farm at your own pace!

Please bring a chair if you can -- seating at our campfire site will be limited. You may leave your chairs at our campfire site while you enjoy other activities. Please note that Gary's Berries is now cashless -- any additional purchases made on site will require credit/debit card or mobile payment.







Join us on Wednesdays for Midweek at Christ!

> 4:00 pm - Confirmation 5:15 pm - Meal 5:55 pm - Worship 6:05 pm - Classes 7:00 pm - Choir

High School Youth! Contact DCE Amanda if interested.



Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Those who are sent as *"laborers for his vineyard"* (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear *"the burden of the day and the scorching heat"* on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that *"he may be found"* (Is. 55:6), *"have compassion"* and *"abundantly pardon"* (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, *"whether by life or by death"* (Phil. 1:20), by *"fruitful labor"* (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are *"worthy of the gospel"* (Phil. 1:27).

<u>Worship Attendance – Sunday, September 17th</u>
8:00 AM - 86
$10:30 \mathrm{AM} - 53$

Stewardship Corner

Budgeted Weekly Needs: Offerings Received – Week of 9/17	\$ \$	8,945 3,616
Budgeted Needs (Jan-Aug 2023) Offerings Received (Jan-Aug 2023)		313,075 278,355
Building Fund Offerings Received – Week of 9/17	\$	1,027

Matthew 20:9 – "And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius." Behold the generosity of God! He gives out of His grace, not what we deserve to receive. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God — and surely one of the foundations of God's being is His generosity.