



September 17, 2023 Worship at 9:30 a.m.

16th Sunday after Pentecost
Gathering

Welcome to worship, whether you are joining us in person, online or by heart. We're glad you're here!

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

Changes and additions to the prayer list are published every Sunday in the announcements. Please share your prayer concern with Pastor, or Cindy Carper, if you would like it included on the prayer list. Please take this weekly resource home with you!

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE: time for prayer and preparation.

Please stand in body or spirit at Pastor's invitation.

We gather in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice and love,
yet we do not always follow you.**

We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.

**We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.**

For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.

**For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.**

For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and,
for his sake forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

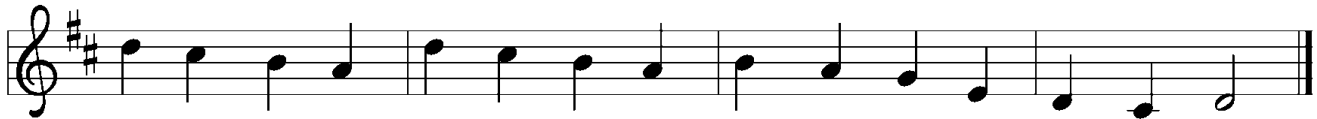
GATHERING HYMN ELW #864, Praise My Soul



1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib - ute bring.
2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis - tress.
3 Tend - er - ly he shields and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows.
4 An - gels help us to a - dore him, who be - hold him face to face.



Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing.
Praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
In his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
Sun and moon bow down be - fore him; all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

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.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *Silence. The Prayer of the Day is offered as we join in our hearts.*

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Word

THE FIRST LESSON is from Genesis, the 50th chapter (Gen. 50:15-21)

⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103 is read responsively.

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

²**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits—**

³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶**O LORD, you provide vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

⁷You made known your ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.

⁸**LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.

¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.

Amen.

THE SECOND READING is from Romans, the 14th chapter. (Romans 14:1-12)

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

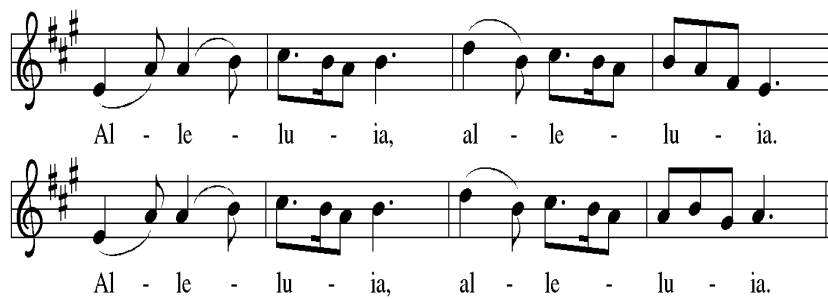
¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence, then, please stand, in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #174



THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Matthew, the 18th chapter. (Mth. 18:21-35)

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.” The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

+ *Alleluia repeats*+

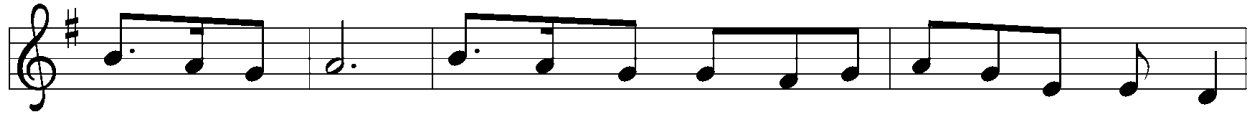
Please be seated.

TEACHING THE WORD (SERMON)

WE SING THE HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #608, SOFTLY AND TENDERLY (ON THE NEXT PAGE)



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Remembering the caring and generous mercy of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors, community and the world.

*A brief silence. We offer our prayers for the church, our community, neighbors and nation. Each petition concludes: 'Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**'. A time to offer our own petitions aloud or in silence follows the invitation '...for what else shall we pray'. The prayers conclude:*

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Meal

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

We have resumed our traditional sharing of Christ's peace. Please share the Peace as you feel comfortable – a handshake or hug, fist or elbow bump, a wave or hand placed over your heart. Please be mindful of your sister or brother in Christ's preferences and needs.

OFFERTORY, AS WE GATHER OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS / ANTHEM

We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies. In-House the offering is collected. If you are worshipping remotely, tithes and offerings may be gathered and given by mail, given online at christpipersville.org or using the QR code. The Table is prepared. Please stand in body or spirit at Pastor's invitation.



OFFERTORY RESPONSE ELW #186 (HILLERT)

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 to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you, coming from your loving hand.
We bring the offerings of our labor, brought in love, that all might be fed.
In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**
It is right and a joyful thing to give you thanks O God,
holy, almighty and merciful...

Pastor offers the Eucharistic prayer; we join in our hearts. The prayer concludes:

...taught us to pray:

**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.

AGNUS DEI (Tune – Land of Rest)



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

These are the gifts of God for the people of God - come to the Table,
for all is now ready. **We shall come with joy, alleluia, amen!**

Please be seated.

We share in the Lord's Body and Blood. All who believe that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that He is truly present in the forms of bread and wine are invited to commune.

You are welcome - this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please commune at any time after the invitation. The recipient may respond "Amen". The musicians and worship assistants commune. The congregation communes by coming forward by the center aisle, organ side then pulpit side receiving the Body (bread) from pastor then moving towards the side aisle to receive the Blood (wine). The elements are offered with the words: 'The Body of Christ given for you' and 'The Blood of Christ shed for you'. The recipient may respond 'Amen'.

The hymn during communion is #471, Let Us Break Bread

**1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.**

Refrain

**When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.**

**2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
let us drink wine together on our knees. Refrain**

**3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
let us praise God together on our knees. Refrain**

Text: African American spiritual

When all have communed, the Table is cleared. Please stand at Pastor's invitation.

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

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. *a brief silence*

Blessed be your name, O God,

for we have feasted on your Word and

Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet,

where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Please be seated for Mission & Ministry Announcements.

Sending

Please stand in body or spirit at Pastor's invitation.

THE BENEDICTION

The Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN, ELW #536, GOD BE WITH YOU



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

353 E. Dark Hollow Rd
Pipersville PA 18947
215. 766. 8730 office
267. 362. 8129 parsonage

The Rev. Marie L. Caron, pastor
the people of Christ Church, ministers
Mrs. Cindy Carper, Secretary
Mrs. Kimberly Campbell, Council President

WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP can be seen on Facebook Live and Zoom. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to our website (www.christpipersville.org).

THE SEPTEMBER WEB SITE is sponsored by Charles and Bev Maddux in memory of loved ones. **TODAY'S BULLETINS** are sponsored by Paul and Ruth Gruver in honor of their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

LECTOR: Kim Campbell

FELLOWSHIP HOST: Kelly Szymanowski

WE WELCOME Rich Spotts as our organist today and thank him for his musical leadership.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS –The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember Gerry Trauger (H,R), Lynn R (H,R), Sandy Brown (H,R), Baby Leo (H,R), Matt (H,R) and Phil L (St,H). Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to mow the church lawn. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Equipment is provided or you may bring your own.

FELLOWSHIP PERIOD hosts are needed. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

BULLETIN/WEB SITE SPONSORS: You may sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. There are sponsorship envelopes and a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board for your convenience.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES will begin in October and teachers are needed. Please see the sign-up sheet on the Sunday School bulletin board to volunteer to teach one or more Sundays.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Sonja Hadland has a new room number at Neshaminy Manor – Room A125 (window), 1660 S Easton Road, Warrington, PA 18976.

USED SHOE DRIVE: Look for the collection box for Soles4Souls under the coat rack. Please bring any shoes, any condition, even singles!!! Shoes will be collected until October 31st. Soles4Souls turns shoes into opportunities for education and employment for those in need around the world.

FALL RUMMAGE/BAKE/SOUP SALE will be held in conjunction with the Pipersville Library Book Sale on October 20 & 21 and 27 & 28 (Fridays 10-6 & Saturdays 9-1). Donations of rummage items (no clothes, shoes or TV's, please), baked goods and soup will be needed. Volunteers will also be needed to staff the kitchen and rummage tables. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board next month.

DID YOU KNOW...Many Thrivent policy holders are eligible to designate "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to a charity of their choice. Christ Lutheran Church is one of those options. We received \$1,407.00 through this program so far in 2023.

GIANT GIFT CARDS can be purchased after worship (see Cindy Carper or Kim Szymanowski) or during the week from the church office. Gift cards are available in \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 & \$100 denominations. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. (*Gift cards may not be used to purchase other gift cards.*) Giant gives 5% back to the church for every card purchased. We raised \$1,600 in 2022 and \$1,500 to date in 2023.

THE LORD'S PANTRY has a continuing need for donations. During the month of September we are collecting pasta and sauces, but all types of canned/dry goods are welcome (tuna, peanut butter, cereal, condiments, etc.). Donations may be placed in the pantry cabinet by the parking lot doors or contact the church office to make drop off arrangements. You may also purchase Giant gift cards to be provided to The Lord's Pantry.

TABOR HOME SUPPORT – We have an ongoing collection of diapers (any size, except newborn) for Tabor Home. Diapers may be placed under the coat rack and will be delivered periodically to Tabor Home.

SIMPLY GIVING is a program that enables you to financially support our ministry easily, securely and faithfully. You choose the amount and the schedule: weekly, bimonthly, or monthly. You can easily change the amount or timing. You can be a blessing! Contact the church office with any questions.

The Week of September 17th at a Glance

Sun. 9/17 The 16th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Fellowship Period

Mon. 9/18 Happy Birthday, Bill Hanisak!

Wed. 9/20 7:00PM Ensemble
Happy Birthday, Melanie Haskell!
Happy Birthday, Nancy Thaler!
Happy Anniversary, TJ & Corie Ziegler!

Thur. 9/21 8:30AM Morning Prayer, 9:00AM Bible Study
Happy Birthday, Don Lindquist!

Fri. 9/22 Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off

Sat. 9/23 Happy Birthday, Dillon Fretz!
Happy Birthday, Stacey Swope!

Sun. 9/24 The 17th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship
10:30AM Fellowship Period
Happy Anniversary, John & Sharon Jankowitsch!