



St. Luke's Lutheran Church



4801 Anderson Ave
Manhattan, KS 66503
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www.stlukesmanhattan.org

Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.

Sunday, September 10, 2023 – 11:00 AM

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music
Shelby Bruckerhoff, Director of Early Learning Center*

**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
(Series A)**

WELCOME

We are glad you are here to worship our Savior with us. Please remember to turn your cell phone to silence. Restrooms are on the west side of the sanctuary. Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office through email, office@stlukesmanhattan.org, or by calling 785-539-2604. On Communion Sundays, if you need non-gluten wafers at communion, or need to have communion brought to you, please notify the elder who is serving. We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

AS WE GATHER

One way that many people hear about the prophet Ezekiel is through words of an African American spiritual: “Ezekiel saw the wheel way up in the middle of the air.” This song from the Black musical tradition was brought to the wider attention of other American listeners by William L. Dawson of the Tuskegee Institute. The song has been recorded by many notable singers, including Louis Armstrong and Bing Crosby. Although Ezekiel’s visions make for memorable song lyrics, the prophet’s words make for challenging hearing. In today’s Old Testament Reading, we are challenged to hear words of warning from the prophet, who is mentoring God’s people in captivity. His message for them is an admonition to us that deserves our most careful attention.

IMAGE ON THE COVER

Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father’s bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide. *LSB 685:1*

PRELUDE

(Please use this time to prayerfully prepare your hearts to enter into the presence of Jesus.)

✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠

PRESERVICE SONG – “Our God”

- 1 Water You turned into wine
 Opened the eyes of the blind
 There’s no one like You
 None like You
- 2, 4 Into the darkness You shine
 Out of the ashes we rise
 There’s no one like You
 None like You
- 3, 5, 6, 8, 9 Our God is greater, our God is stronger
 God You are higher than any other
 Our God is Healer, awesome in power
 Our God, our God
- 7, 10 And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us
 And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?
 And if our God is for us, then who could ever stop us
 And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?
 What can stand against?

(Jesse Reeves, Jonas Myrin, Chris Tomlin, & Matt Redman ©2010 Provident Label Group LLC,
a unit of Sony Music Entertainment CCLI #288089)

Stand

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

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You guide us and prepare us to be Your witnesses in the world to share Your love for us in Jesus Christ.

C Grant us hearts made right by the working of the Holy Spirit within us that we may joyfully offer to You our service in whatever way You design for our lives. This we ask through Jesus, our Lord and our Redeemer.

C Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

P We confess our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' Creed,

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

OPENING SONG – “You are My Hiding Place” Psalm 32:7

1, 2, 3 You are my hiding place
 You always fill my heart with songs of deliverance
 Whenever I am afraid I will trust in You, I will trust in You
 Let the weak say, “I am strong in the strength of the Lord.”

4 I will trust in You, I will trust in You
 Let the weak say, “I am strong in the strength of the Lord.”
 I will trust in You

(Michael Ledner. Integrity’s Hosanna! Music CCLI #288089)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 33:7-9

(Ezekiel warns the wicked.)

⁷“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 32:1-7; antiphon: v. 1

L ¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

C **whose sin is covered.**

L ²Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,

C **and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

L ³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away

C **through my groaning all day long.**

L ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
C **my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

L ⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
C **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”**
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

L ⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
C **surely in the rush of great waters,**
they shall not reach him.

L ⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
C **you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

C **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

L ¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
C **whose sin is covered.**

EPISTLE

Romans 13:1-10

(Paul reflects on the source of all authority.)

¹Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.
²Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,

⁴for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Matthew 5:3

P Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1-20

(Dealing with responding to sin in our relationships.)

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" ²And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them ³and said, *"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

⁵*"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, ⁶but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*

⁷*"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! ⁸And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.*

¹⁰*"See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹¹For the Son of Man came to save the lost. ¹²What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.*

¹⁵*"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.*

¹⁷If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

LAMB'S MESSAGE

SERMON

VOTUM

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

OFFERING

There are several ways to give.

1. **A basket** is available in the narthex as you exit.
2. Please **send** your offerings to
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
4801 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66503
3. Give through our **website**:
<https://stlukesmanhattan.org/about-us/financial-support/>
4. **Electronic Funds Transfer**
Sign up through the church office.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: Matthew 18:4 – “Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” What does it mean to have childlike faith? Certainly Jesus does not want us to have a faith that is *childish* — we are not called to ignorance or silliness. Rather, we are called to trust the way a child trusts: with complete confidence in the Father. We show that confidence in our lives when we follow His directives for our life. Father knows best, so we’ll take His advice!

OFFERTORY - “Give Thanks” Colossians 3:15

- 1, 2, 4, 5 Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son
- 3, 6 And now let the weak say “I am strong!”
Let the poor say “I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us.”
And now let the blind say, “I can see!”
Let the bound say, “I am free
Because of what the Lord has done for us.”
- 7 Give thanks, give thanks
(Henry Smith, Integrity’s Hosanna! Music CCLI #288089)

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Blessed Lord, You have promised that where two or three are gathered in Your name, You are in the midst of them. Hear the prayers of Your people and grant our supplications. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, heavenly Father, You have sent us pastors as watchmen. Let them be ever faithful in calling sinners to repentance and joyfully announcing Your forgiveness to those who heed their warning. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Father, because You have made us our brother's keeper, fill us with care for the members of our earthly families and for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Forgive our sins and strengthen us to live so that we owe no one anything except to love each other. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Righteous God, You give leaders to every nation and people. Grant us good and wise public servants to bear the sword righteously, defending the innocent and punishing wrongdoers. Guard those who protect us, especially our armed forces, police, and firefighters. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, look with compassion upon those who are struggling with illness, grief, loneliness, or any malady [especially _____]. Reassure them of Your love, which is like that of the shepherd who seeks and saves the one lost sheep. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, because You desire that none of Your little ones should perish and because sin is constantly crouching at our door, we beg You to call us back to Yourself when we are tempted to stray. Deliver us from temptation and keep us in the faith. Make us humble like little children, seeing how Your Son humbled Himself for us and for our salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.

GREET ONE ANOTHER

We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "The Lord be with you," "Peace be with you," or "The peace of the Lord be with you".

CLOSING SONG – “Firm Foundation” Isaiah 33:6

1, 2 Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I know I can stand secure
4, 6 Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I put my hope in Your holy Word
7, 8 I put my hope in Your holy Word

3 I have a living hope (echo), I have a future (echo)
God has a plan for me (echo) of this I’m sure (echo)

5 Your Word is faithful (echo), mighty in power (echo)
God will deliver me (echo) of this I’m sure (echo)

9 I put my hope in Your holy Word

(Nancy Gordon & Jamie Harvill ©1994 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music & Integrity’s Praise! CCLI #288089)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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