

THE BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST OF
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
WELCOME YOU TO THE DIVINE SERVICE!

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 – 10:40 A.M.



HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES US IN GOD'S ABUNDANT LIFE IN CHRIST

Christ the King Lutheran Church

A member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

Declaring new life in Jesus Christ & encouraging all to take their next step of faith with Jesus!

205-988-5004 -- www.ctkbham.org

611 Riverchase Parkway West
Birmingham, Alabama 35244

Our vision: All people will ***know God*** personally through Jesus Christ.

Our mission: Inward ***searching***, outward ***seeking***, ***forward*** together with Jesus Christ.

Psalm 139:23--Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

Luke 19:10 – For the Son of Man came to ***seek*** and to save the lost.

Matthew 4:19 – “***Come, follow*** Me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.”

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

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Welcome! We're glad you're here...

OUR INVITATION: Our family of faith invites you to participate in our mission to share the Gospel (which means “good news”) of Jesus Christ, as we gather to hear the word of God and share the presence of Christ in Holy Communion and Christian fellowship. The Gospel is that Almighty God is for us and with us, and we know this with certainty through Jesus Christ. With your participation, our God-given mission to spread this good news to the world and the surrounding community can only be strengthened. Our pastor and members are here for you!

Sunday School Classes and Rooms (all classes meet at 9:20 a.m.):

“Jesus’s questions in John & then the whole Gospel of John” led by Pastor Chris in Fellowship 2.

Oasis with Martha Green & Maizie Nelson, in the Luther Room foyer.

Disciple 2 led by Anita Humphries in the Luther Room.

Children’s Sunday Education - NURSERY IS available for infants & children 3 years of age during each worship service, and education time. Following are where everyone will meet:

Nursery (infant - 3 years old) ~ Main blg Nursery

4th – 5th grade ~ Disciple Room

3K & K ~ John Room

Jr. High ~ Jr High Room

1st – 3rd grade ~ Matthew & Mark Room

Sr. High ~ Youth Room

TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS NOTES: *Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law while the essence of God’s law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us, “the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PASTOR: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your people...

Congregation: And kindle in us the fire of your love!

CALL TO WORSHIP & SEPTEMBER MEMORY VERSE:

“For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

BRIEF ORDER for CONFESSION of SIN and FORGIVENESS:

LEADER: Let’s quietly examine our hearts and our lives before the Lord...(quiet)...Let’s confess together.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your way to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

LEADER: Through God's grace and your faith in the person and work of God's Son, Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven so that Holy Spirit may lead us in abundant and everlasting life. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

"Down To the River To Pray"

Verse 1 As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
And who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way.

Chorus Oh sisters (brothers, fathers, mothers, sinners) let's go down,
Let's go down, come on down.
Oh sisters (brothers, fathers, mothers, sinners) let's go down,
Down in the river to pray.

Verse 2 As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way. (*Chorus*)

Verse 3 As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
And who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way. (*Chorus*)

Verse 4 As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way. (*Chorus*)

Verse 5 As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
And who shall wear the starry crown, good Lord, show me the way. (*Chorus*)

Ending As I went down in the river to pray, studyin' about that good ole way
And who shall wear the robe and crown, good Lord, show me the way.

THE GREETING: P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY: (*Spoken by all*) O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME: *The Holy Baptism of Nolan Parker Page*

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

AT THE CONCLUSION OF NOLAN'S BAPTISM:

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same heavenly Father, and workers with us in the kingdom of God.

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE:

Greetings celebrate God bringing us peace together with Himself through Christ.

♪ PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: "Wayfaring Stranger"

Verse 1 I am a poor wayfaring stranger, while traveling through this world of woe. But there's no sickness, toil nor danger in that bright land to which I go. I'm going there to see my father; I'm going there no more to roam. I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home

Verse 2 I know dark clouds will gather 'round me; I know my way is rough and steep. But beautiful fields lie just before me where God's redeemed their vigils keep. I'm going there to see my mother; she said she'd meet me when I come. I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home.

Verse 3 I'll soon be free of earthly trials, my body lay beneath the sod. I'll drop this cross of self-denial and I'll go singing home to God. I'm going there to meet my Savior, to dwell with Him to never roam. I'm only going over Jordan, I'm only going over home. I'm only going over home.

THE FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Introduction: *The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

The Reading:

"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ²You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

⁶"So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and

understanding people.' ⁷For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the Lord our God whenever we call on Him? ⁸Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?

⁹"Only give heed to yourself and keep your soul diligently, so that you do not forget the things which your eyes have seen and they do not depart from your heart all the days of your life; but make them known to your sons and your grandsons."

(Lector: "This is the word of the Lord!" then, all, "Thanks be to God!")

THE PSALM: Psalm 15

(Congregation has verses in bold)

The Introduction: *LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?*

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

**² Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;**

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD.**

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

(Lector: "This is the word of the Lord!" then, all, "Thanks be to God!")

♪ **THE GOSPEL VERSE:** You have saved us, You have won. Sin is broken, death is gone. Freedom's found us, breakthrough's near. In Your presence, no more fear. Our Savior's here, our Savior's here.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

The Introduction: *Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from God's Word in scripture and a faithful heart.*

The Gospel:

The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, ²and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed. ³(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders; ⁴and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.) ⁵The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?" ⁶And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people

honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me. ⁷'But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' ⁸Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

¹⁴ After He called the crowd to Him again, He began saying to them, "Listen to Me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside the man which can defile him if it goes into him; but the things which proceed out of the man are what defile the man.

²¹ "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, ²² deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. ²³ All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

(Lector: This is the word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God!)

THE PRAYER AND SERMON:

*Pentecost Theme: "Holy Spirit Will Guide Us"
Today - "God's commands testify to the greatness of God's heart"*

"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)"

Verse 1 You call me out upon the waters, the great unknown where feet may fail.
And there I find You in the mystery, in oceans deep, my faith will stand.

Chorus And I will call upon Your name and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace,
For I am Yours and You are mine.

Verse 2 Your grace abounds in deepest waters, Your sov'reign hand will be my guide.
Where feet may fail and fear surrounds me,
You've never failed and You won't start now.

Chorus 2 And I will call upon Your name and keep my eyes above the waves.
When oceans rise, my soul will rest in Your embrace
For I am Yours and You are mine. Oh, and You are mine, oh.

Bridge (2x) Spirit lead me where my trust is without borders,
Let me walk upon the waters, wherever You would call me.
Take me deeper than my feet could ever wander,
And my faith will be made stronger in the presence of my Saviour.
Repeat Chorus 2

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

After each petition, the leader says, "Lord, in your mercy" and all respond, "Hear our prayer."

MINUTE for MISSION:

& GIVING THANKS to God with His tithes (*first 10% income*) & our offerings (*beyond 10%*).

Our Mercy Ministry basket today supports Special Equestrians

Prayer requests can be written on prayer cards and turned in here and/or sent to office@ctkbham.org.

Offerings are appreciated: plates are at the back of the sanctuary or give at www.ctkbham.org, or mail a check to:

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 611 Riverchase Parkway West, Birmingham, AL 35244.

♪ PRAISE TEAM OFFERTORY: "Glorious Day"

Living, He loved me, dying He saved me. Buried, He carried my sins far away. Rising,
He justified freely forever. One day He's coming, O glorious day, O glorious day. Glorious day,
O glorious day

THE OFFERING OF PRAYER: P: Let us pray. Merciful Father,
C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CELEBRATING & SHARING
CHRIST'S PROMISED PRESENCE IN HOLY COMMUNION:**

THE 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.

HOLY COMMUNION:

THE BLESSING, PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

“Mighty to Save”

Verse 1 Ev'ryone needs compassion, love that's never failing. Let mercy fall on me.
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness, the kindness of a Saviour. The hope of nations.

Chorus Saviour, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save. Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

Verse 2 So, take me as You find me, all my fears and failures. Fill my life again.
I give my life to follow, ev'rything I believe in. Now I surrender.

Chorus Saviour, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save. Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

Bridge Shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.
Jesus, shine your light, and let the whole world see.
We're singing for the glory of the risen King.

Chorus Saviour, He can move the mountains.
My God is mighty to save. He is mighty to save. Forever, Author of salvation.
He rose and conquered the grave. Jesus conquered the grave.

THE DISMISSAL: P: In the strength of Christ, let's go in peace; and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

PRAISE TEAM POSTLUDE: “Mighty to Save - Reprise”

The altar flowers & eternal candle are available for sponsors.

If you'd like to sponsor altar flowers or the eternal candle, please sign up outside the library door or contact the church office.

THE SCRIPTURE TO CONSIDER FOR NEXT SUNDAY'S (9/8) WORSHIP:

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; Mark 7:24-37

THE SCRIPTURE TO CONSIDER FOR THIS WEDNESDAY'S WORSHIP:

James 2:1-17

My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. ² For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, ³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brethren: did not God choose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you and personally drag you into court? ⁷ Do they not blaspheme the fair name by which you have been called?

⁸ If, however, you are fulfilling the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor

as yourself," you are doing well. ⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰ For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all. ¹¹ For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not commit murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but do commit murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹² So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.

¹³ For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.

God's Path for Growth as a Disciple/Follower of Jesus:

Save the Lost – Luke 19:10

Pastor the Saved – Acts 2:41-47

Equip the Pastored – Ephesians 4:11-16

a. prayer b. evangelism c. discipleship d. team

Send the Equipped – Matthew 28:18-20

Disclemaker's Prayer

from Deut. 6:1-9; Mark 3:13-14; 12:30-31; Matt. 28:18-20; John 17:20; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 4:16-17

Heavenly Father, Thank you for giving me a disciplmaking way of life in Christ Jesus. **As I go through every part of this day, help me to love you and love the people who cross my path -- starting with my family.** Don't let me miss the adventures you are sending my way to live or the exciting opportunities to speak the Good News about Jesus today. Draw my heart to you and to specific people you want me to pull close for Jesus-like disciplmaking friendships. By your Word and Spirit, transform me into a follower of Jesus who loves you, loves people, and makes disciples who make more disciples, ad infinitum. In Jesus' name, Amen.