

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

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 6, 2024 – 8:00 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.ctkham.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."

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 6, 2024 - 8:00 a.m.

***All music used by permission, copyright info on file in Church Office.*

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.):

“Gospel of John” led by Ralph Hyatt & Pastor Chris in the Library.

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

3K & K ~ John Room

1st – 3rd grade ~ Matthew & Mark Room

4th – 5th grade ~ Disciple Room

Jr. High ~ Jr High Room

Sr. High ~ Youth Room

TODAY'S BIBLE READINGS NOTES: *Today’s gospel combines a saying that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we find comforting. Jesus’s saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God’s law. Jesus’s rebuke of the disciples who are fending off the children should challenge us as well. What does it mean to receive the kingdom of God as a child does?*

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 & OCTOBER MEMORY VERSE:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

BRIEF ORDER for CONFESSION of SIN and FORGIVENESS:

We confess our sinful nature and our actual sins and speak to one another the forgiveness in Jesus’s name that the Lord would have us all speak to any who are sorry for their sin.

The invocation and call to confession of sin, then SILENCE FOR SELF-EXAMINATION.

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God our Father 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.

Pastor: 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 announce to you the good news that all your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

♪ THE HYMN OF JOY: "God Himself Is Present" (LBW #249)

1. God Himself is present; let us now adore Him and with awe appear before Him! God is in His temple; all within keep silence, prostrate lie with deepest rev'rence. Him alone God we own, Him, our God and Savior; praise His name forever!

2. God Himself is present; hear the harps resounding; see the hosts the throne surrounding! "Holy, holy, holy!" Hear the hymn ascending, songs of saints and angels blending. Bow Your ear to us here: hear, O Christ, the praises that Your church now raises.

3. Light of light eternal, all things penetrating, for Your rays our soul is waiting. As the tender flowers, willingly unfolding, to the sun their faces holding: even so would we do, light from You obtaining, strength to serve You gaining.

4. Come, celestial Being, make our hearts Your dwelling, every carnal thought dispelling. By Your Holy Spirit sanctify us truly, teaching us to love You only. Where we go here below, let us bow before You and in truth adore You.

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)* **Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME: Trust and follow Jesus. He gives you power, love, and self-control.

♪ SPECIAL MUSIC: "Trust God" Adult Choir by James J Chepponis

Congregation is invited to sing the chorus after each verse.

CHORUS: Trust God to be with you and to be your faithful guide. Trust God to take care of you and to be there at your side.

For only in God can I be at peace; I am safe when I truly trust. For God is my rock and my saving help; I never will fear. CHORUS

Trusting in God, I will find true rest, for God's love is my source of hope. God alone is my security, the strength of my life. CHORUS

Oh, place your trust in God, my friends, you will always be heard when you call. Let God know your most secret thoughts, and pour out your heart. CHORUS

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 2:18-24

The Introduction: *Genesis 2 stresses that people are not meant to live in isolation but in relationship. Out of love for humanity, God creates them male and female, to provide companionship for each other and to become with each other "one flesh." The Hebrew words used here are ish (man) and ishshah (woman).*

The Reading:

¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." ¹⁹ Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him. ²¹ So the LORD

God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²² The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³ The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man." ²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

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

♪ THE PSALM: Psalm 8

(Congregation has verses in bold)

The Introduction: *You crown us with glory and honor.*

O ' LORD our Lord,*

how majestic is your name in ' all the earth! -

**2 you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- ' fants
and children;***

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe ' and avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens, the work ' of your fingers,*

the moon and the stars you have set ' in their courses,

4 what are mere mortals that you should be mind- ' ful of them,*

human beings that you should ' care for them?

⁵ Yet you have made them little less ' than divine;*

with glory and hon- ' or you crown them.

6 You have made them rule over the works ' of your hands;*

you have put all things un- ' der their feet:

⁷ all ' flocks and cattle,*

even the wild beasts ' of the field,

8 the birds of the air, the fish ' of the sea,*

and whatever passes along the paths ' of the sea.

⁹ O ' LORD our Lord,*

how majestic is your name in ' all the earth!

♪ **THE ALLELUIA REFRAIN FOR PENTECOST:**

Come, Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit, renew the face of the earth.

Come, Lord Jesus, send us your Spirit, renew the face of the earth. (REPEAT)

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:2-16

The Introduction: *Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 10th chapter.

(sung) **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel:

²Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife. ³And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away." ⁵But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

¹⁰In the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again. ¹¹And He

said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery."

¹³And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. ¹⁵Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it at all." ¹⁶And He took them in His arms and began blessing them, laying His hands on them.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

(sung)

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

THE PRAYER AND SERMON:

Pentecost Theme: "Holy Spirit Will Guide Us"

Today - "God's stand on divorce reflects God's stand for all people"

♪ **HYMN of the DAY: "Just As I Am"**

(LBW #296)

1. Just as I am, without one plea, But that thy blood was shed for me, And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am, and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot, To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3. Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt, Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6. Just as I am; thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down; Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

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

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.

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

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

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

SHARING CHRIST'S PEACE:

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

MINUTE for MISSION:

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

Our Mercy Ministry basket today supports Doers of the Word

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.

♪ **THE OFFERTORY VERSE:** Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

♪ **COMMUNION HYMN:**
 Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT: *All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present as he promised are invited to Commune. Pastor will speak a blessing in Christ for children who have not received First Communion instruction and all others who ARE NOT baptized.*

♪ **At Distribution: Congregation sings both 1) #403 &
 2) #401 in LBW, green book**

THE BLESSING, PRAYER, AND BENEDICTION

♪ **HYMN to the WORLD: "My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less"** (LBW #293)

1. My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; No merit of my own I claim, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand, All other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.

[Refrain]

3. His oath, his covenant, his blood Sustain me in the raging flood; When all supports are washed away, He then is all my hope and stay. *[Refrain]*

4. When he shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in him be found, Clothed in his righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before the throne! *[Refrain]*

THE DISMISSAL: P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

♪ **POSTLUDE CHORUS: "In the Garden"**
 And He walks with me, and He talks with me, and He tells me I am His own;
 And the joy we share as we tarry there none other has ever known.

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 (10/13) WORSHIP:

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90:12-17; Mark 10:17-31

THE SCRIPTURE TO CONSIDER FOR THIS WEDNESDAY'S WORSHIP:

Hebrews 4:12-16

¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great high priest who

has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

Disciplemaker'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.