



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
9th Sunday after Pentecost Worship
July 30, 2023 9:30am

**YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY.
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



**Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info**

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you "desire" a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – “All things work together for good,” today’s Epistle proclaims, “for those who love God” (Romans 8:28). That means us! But how does it happen that we love God? God predestined, called, justified, and glorified us, all because He loves us. He loved us so much that He “did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all” (Romans 8:32). By faith we are part of God’s people. By the grace of God, the Kingdom has been revealed to us like discovered treasure in a field or a pearl of great price, as Jesus teaches in two parables in the Gospel. Although as sinner-saints we may not perfectly endure tribulation, distress, and persecution, on the Last Day, by grace we shall be considered righteous because of all that God has done for us.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

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

Call to Worship – Graves Into Gardens

1. I searched the world but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
 Are never enough
 Then You came along
 and put me back together
 And every desire
is now satisfied here in Your love

***CHORUS: Oh there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord there's nothing
Nothing is better than You***

2. I'm not afraid to show You my weakness
 My failures and flaws
 Lord You've seen them all
 And You still call me friend
 'Cause the God of the mountain
 Is the God of the valley
 And there's not a place
 Your mercy and grace won't find me again

CHORUS

BRIDGE: You turn mourning to dancing
 You give beauty for ashes
 You turn shame into glory
 You're the only one who can

BRIDGE: You turn graves into gardens
 You turn bones into armies
 You turn seas into highways
 You're the only one who can

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O Worship the King

sts. 1-4



1 O wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
 2 O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
 3 This earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?



O grate - ful - ly sing His pow'r and His love;
 Whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
 Al - might - y, Thy pow'r hath found - ed of old,
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,



Our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 His char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,



Pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
 And round it hath cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 And sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.

Confession and Absolution

P God's ways are unsearchable; all things and we ourselves belong to Him.

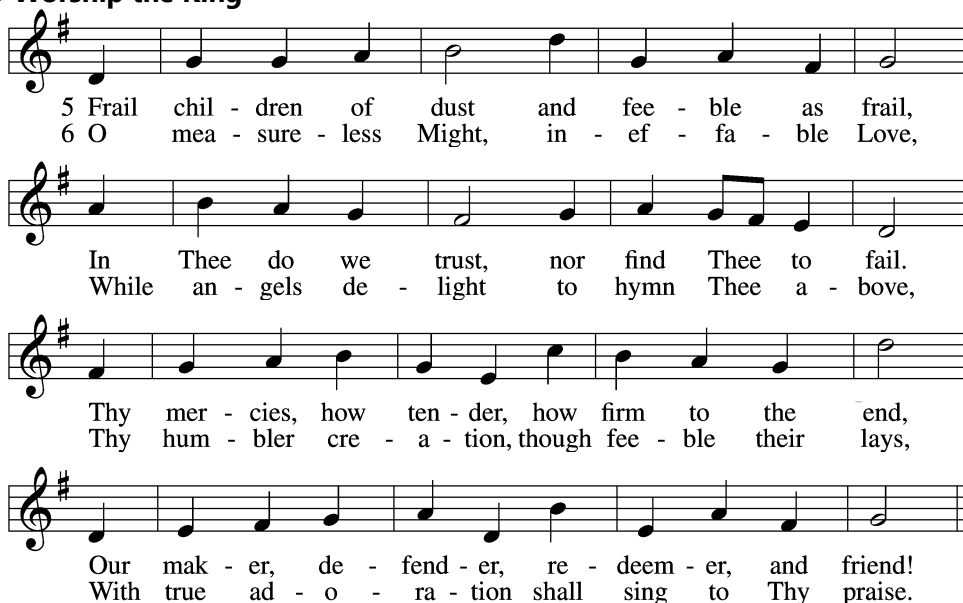
C But we are not righteous, for we have done the evil He forbids. We are not upright in heart, for we have thought to save ourselves. We are not at peace, for we have led others astray in our thoughtless words. We cannot save ourselves. Forgive us and lead us in paths pleasing to You, gracious God.

P Although you have sinned, God still surrounds you with His protection, like the mountains around Jerusalem. He never rests in His seeking to guide your hands to do good. He has sent His Word to turn your thoughts back to His grace and mercy. His peace is made sure for you in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. In His gracious love, God declares you to be His good and righteous children. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Thanks be to God!

O Worship the King

sts. 5-6



5 Frail chil - dren of dust and fee - ble as frail,
6 O mea - sure - less Might, in - ef - fa - ble Love,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
While an - gels de - light to hymn Thee a - bove,
Thy mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
Thy hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,
Our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend!
With true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to Thy praise.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

P Let us pray.
Almighty and everlasting God,

C give us an increase of faith, hope, and love,

P that, receiving what You have promised,

C we may love what You have commanded;

P 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

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

⁶“You are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 125

L Those who trust in the LORD

C **are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.**

L As the mountains surround Jerusalem,

C **so the LORD surrounds His people, from this time forth and forevermore.**

L For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous,

C **lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.**

L Do good, O LORD, to those who are good,

C **and to those who are upright in their hearts!**

L But those who turn aside to their crooked ways

C **the LORD will lead away with evildoers! Peace be upon Israel!**

Epistle

Romans 8:28–39

²⁸We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Beautiful Savior

1. Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2. Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3. Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

4. Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

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 \ddagger everlasting. Amen.

Gradual and Verse

Romans 11:33, 36; Matthew 13:35b

- P** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
C How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!
P For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
C To Him be glory forever. Amen.

P Alleluia. I will open my mouth in parables;

C I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter. **C** Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁴[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, ⁴⁶who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

Sermon – “The Kingdom of Heaven is... (not what most people think!)”

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at **www.RisenChrist.info** – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Who You Say I Am

1. Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

CHORUS 1: Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

2. Free at last
He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

CHORUS 2: Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

BRIDGE: I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am **CHORUS 2**

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Ben Fielding | Reuben Morgan
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Prayer of the Church

P God has chosen us to be His treasured possession and has given His Son to die for us. Let us go to Him with all our concerns.

MEN – For the Church around the world, that lay and clergy members alike seek to reveal the invisible treasure of God’s love in Christ; for all who seek value in themselves, that they discover God’s great love for them, and for all those who will face God’s judgment at the end of the age, that they realize the forgiveness He offers in Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **G** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – For the leaders of the world’s nations, that they seek to relieve conflict and ensure justice; for farmers and ranchers that they look for ways that feed us all while caring for God’s good earth; for all who go into harm’s way in our communities and across the globe; and for all who work to meet the needs of those who are sick and suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

G **Guide, strengthen, and protect them all, heavenly Father.**

P For those near and dear to us in their various crises of health and long-term ills, [*including...*]; the victims of flood, fire, or quake; and those who do not know where to turn, let us pray to the Lord.

G **Visit, sustain, and open doors of healing and peace according to Your gracious will, O God.**

ALL – For ourselves, parents and children, singles and couples, young and old, that we strengthen one another in faith and love, in strength and confidence amid the conflicts and turmoil of this world, that God’s love and grace be evident in how we care for one another, let us pray to the Lord.

C Hear our prayer, heavenly Father, for we call to You in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

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.

Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

CHORUS: Hallelujah
praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There’s salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I’m Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(REPEAT)
Jesus Yours is the victory whoa **CHORUS**

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Benediction and Dismissal

P 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.

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

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