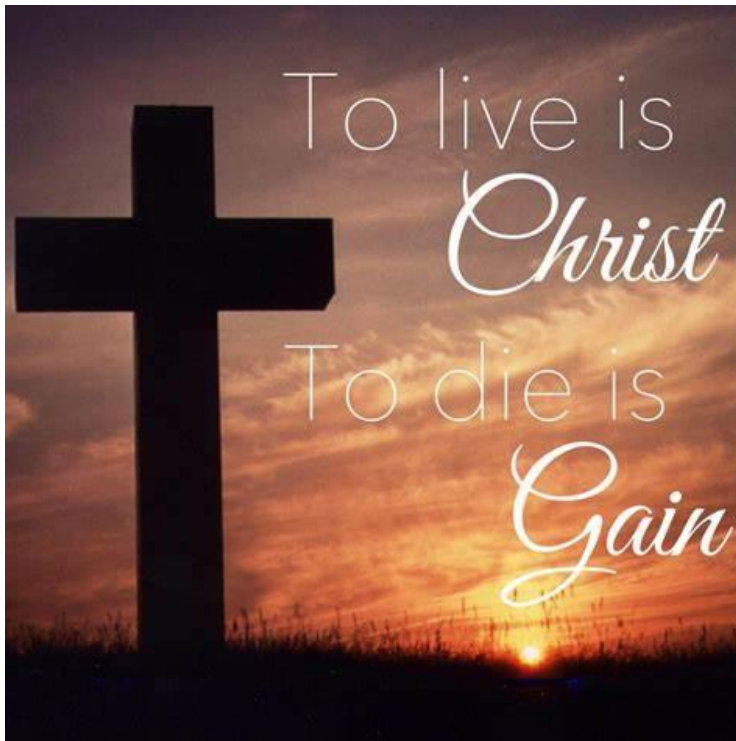




Risen Christ Lutheran Church
17th Sunday after Pentecost Worship
September 24, 2023 9:30am

**YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER,
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.

Preservice and Postlude Music *by Jennifer Kirk*

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Psalm 67:1–5, 7

- P** May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us,
- G** **that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.**

- P** Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!
- G** **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**

- P** Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!
- G** **God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!**

Lift High the Cross

Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Cap - tain trod,
2 Led on their way by this tri - um - phant sign,
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,



Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.
As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.

- 5 Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain
- 6 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Confession and Absolution

- P** It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins and hear the words of absolution that assure us of God's forgiveness. The section on "Confession" in the Small Catechism written by Dr. Martin Luther instructs and directs us with these words:
- C** **Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.**
- P** Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
- C** **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, as Christ Himself says to you, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your lives reflect His forgiveness. Be at peace!

C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.

What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.

Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.

O LORD, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

**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.**

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding presence and care that confidently we may live according to Your Word, learning of You at all times and ever growing in Your grace and mercy; 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

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 27:1–9; antiphon: v. 4a

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**²When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

**⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.**

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.

**⁶And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸You have said, “Seek my face.” My heart says to you, “Your face, LORD, do I seek.”

⁹Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

Epistle (*Sermon text for today.*)

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,
¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my
imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my
imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my
deliverance. ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full
courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live
is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall
choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ,

for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

Gradual and Verse

Psalm 34:9, 19 alt.; Ephesians 2:8

P Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing!

C **Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

P Alleluia. By grace you have been saved through faith.

C **And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Alleluia.**

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

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

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

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

The Potter's Hand

Beautiful Lord, Wonderful Saviour,
 I know for sure, all of my days are held in Your hand,
 Crafted into Your perfect plan.
 You gently call me into Your presence,
 Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit.
 Teach me dear Lord to live all of my life through Your eyes.
 I'm captured by Your holy calling,
 Set me apart, I know You're drawing me to Yourself
 Lead me Lord I pray.

***CHORUS: Take me, mold me, use me, fill me,
 I give my life to the Potter's hand.
 Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me
 I give my life to the Potter's hand.***

You gently call me into Your presence,
 Guiding me by Your Holy Spirit,
 Teach me dear Lord to live all of my life through Your eyes.
 I'm captured by Your holy calling,
 Set me apart, I know You're drawing me to Yourself
 Lead me, Lord I pray. ***CHORUS***

Sermon – “To Live is Christ. To Die is Gain.”

Prayer of the Church

- P** Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

MEN – May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil’s kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend *[name(s)]* and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

ALL – Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

ALL – Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C** **hear our prayer.**

P We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** **Amen.**

Offering and Offertory – 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.

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God
and renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, O God
and renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
and renew a right spirit within me

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. Confident of His compassion for us, faithfully and continually learning of Him, and rejoicing in the company of the saints on earth and those above, we laud and magnify Your holy name.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have showed Your gracious power to us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You reveal Your sacred presence among us. Grant that we may receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood as we gather at His command.

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Communion

I Am Not Alone

When I walk through deep waters
I know that You will be with me
When I'm standing in the fire
I will not be overcome
Through the valley of the shadow
I will not fear

***CHORUS: I am not alone
I am not alone
You will go before me
You will never leave me***

In the midst of deep sorrow
I see Your light is breaking through
The dark of night will not overtake me
I am pressing into You
Lord You fight my ev'ry battle
And I will not fear

***BRIDGE: You amaze me redeem me
You call me as Your own
You amaze me redeem me
You call me as Your own***

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You're my strength You're my defender
You're my refuge in the storm
Through these trials You've always been faithful
You bring healing to my soul

Give Me Jesus

1. In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise
Give me Jesus

***CHORUS: Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
(But give me Jesus)***

2. And when I am alone
Oh and when I am alone
And when I am alone
Give me Jesus **CHORUS**

3. And when I come to die
Oh and when I come to die
And when I come to die
Give me Jesus **CHORUS**

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.
Holy Father, we ask You now, by this blessed food and drink, to deliver Your Church from every evil, to teach it to love You perfectly, and to make it truly one, even as this bread was made from many grains of wheat to become the carrier of the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

I Will Follow

Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow

(Oh oh oh)

1. All Your ways are good
All Your ways are sure
I will trust in You alone
Higher than my sight
High above my life
I will trust in You alone

***CHORUS: Where You go I'll go
Where You stay I'll stay
When You move I'll move
I will follow You
Whom You love I'll love
How You serve I'll serve
If this life I lose
I will follow (You)***

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Yeah I will follow You yeah

2. Light into the world
Light into my life
I will live for You alone
You're the One I seek
Knowing I will find
All I need in You alone
In You alone

BRIDGE In You there's life everlasting
In You there's freedom for my soul
In You there's joy unending joy
And I will follow ***CHORUS***

Benediction

- 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.
- G** Amen.

Reminder – Special Congregational Voter’s Meeting next Sunday right after service.
A letter explaining the details of our driveway, parking lot, and walkway repair needs will sent to you this week. (Some unsafe concrete walkways have already been repaired! Take a look.)

Prayer for Our Picnic, Car Show and Food!

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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