



Risen Christ Lutheran Church

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024 9:30am

**REMEMBER, YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER,
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, PRAY, AND READ THROUGH THIS
WORSHIP FOLDER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**

Create in me
a pure heart, O God,
 and renew a
steadfast
spirit within me.

- Psalm 51:10

Risen Christ Lutheran Church
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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 Grape Juice 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. Brochures can be found at each door. 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 – Ask people who are on their feet a lot for work, and they will tell you, “Good shoes are of utmost importance!” Nurses, teachers, mechanics, to name a few, all will likely say, “Never trust a cheap pair of shoes.” As we gather today, we stand to receive God’s grace in in His Word read, prayed, sung, and preached. Jesus comes, yet again, to clothe us in His righteousness and outfit us in the whole armor of God. The One who gives us peace with God through the forgiveness of sins puts His own footwear upon us. These are no cheap shoes! Purchased and won by the precious blood of Christ, the gospel of peace makes us ready to share boldly with others what we have first received.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation and Opening Sentences

Based on Ephesians 6:11, 15

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** We put on the full armor of God.
- C** **We take our stand against the devil’s schemes.**
- P** We stand on our feet.
- C** **We are ready to receive the gospel of peace.**

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***

CCLI Song # 7138219
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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

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Open the eyes of my heart Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

***To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy***

BRIDGE: Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9

¹And now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the rules that I am teaching you, and do them, that you may live, and go in and take possession of the land that the LORD, the God of your fathers, is giving you.

²You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you...

⁶Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will 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 the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?

⁸And what great nation is there, that has statutes and just decrees so righteous as all this law that I set before you today? ⁹Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children...

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 119:129–136

- L** Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.
- C** **The unfolding of Your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.**
- L** I open my mouth and pant, because I long for Your commandments.
- C** **Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is Your way with those who love Your name. Keep steady my steps according to Your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.**
- L** Redeem me from man’s oppression, that I may keep Your precepts.
- C** **Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes.**
- L** My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep Your Law.
- C** **Keep steady my steps according to Your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.**

Epistle

Ephesians 6:10–20

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

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

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus



1 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus, Ye sol - diers of the cross.
 2 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The trum - pet call o - bey;
 3 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; Stand in His strength a - lone.
 4 Stand up, stand up for Je - sus; The strife will not be long;



Lift high His roy - al ban - ner; It must not suf - fer loss.
 Stand forth in might - y con - flict In this His glo - rious day.
 The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
 This day the din of bat - tle, The next the vic - tor's song.

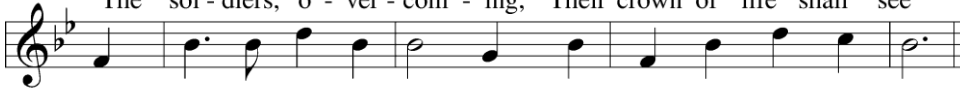
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From vic - t'ry un - to vic - t'ry His ar - my He shall lead
 Let all His faith - ful serve Him A - gainst un - num - bered foes;
 Put on the Gos - pel ar - mor; Each piece put on with prayer.
 The sol - diers, o - ver - com - ing, Their crown of life shall see



Till ev - 'ry foe is van - quished, And Christ is Lord in - deed.
 Let cour - age rise with dan - ger And strength to strength op - pose.
 Where du - ty calls or dan - ger, Be nev - er want - ing there.
 And with the King of Glo - ry Shall reign e - ter - nal - ly.

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.

Verse

Based on Matthew 5:8; 2 Corinthians 4:6

- P** Alleluia! Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God! Alleluia!
C Alleluia! We are blessed to see God in the face of Jesus Christ! Alleluia!

Holy Gospel

Mark 7:14–23

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter. **C** Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴And he called the people to him again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵There is nothing outside a person that by going into him can defile him, but the things that come out of a person are what defile him." ¹⁷And when he had entered the house and left the people, his disciples asked him about the parable. ¹⁸And he said to them, "Then are you also without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, ¹⁹since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) ²⁰And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. ²¹For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, ²²coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. ²³All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

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

Sermon "What Defiles the Heart and Its Remedy" based on Mark 7:14–23 **OUTLINE**

1. Defiled, what a yucky word! Something that's been made bad... vile...
2. Religious leaders were often put in their place by Jesus for hypocritical behaviour and believing and teaching wrong things... especially for believing and teaching that the way to heaven is to follow a list of rules. Yet, in theirs and society's eyes, they were holy and above reproach.

3. What matters and defiles a person and makes you filthy and impure is what you think, say and do. Those things are what comes out of your heart and in God's eyes makes you defiled. The issue is not what's going in, but what's coming out!
4. The false idea of the innate goodness in a human heart is highlighted by Jesus in verses 20-23.
 - a. Most, if not all of these sins we DO deal with in our own lives.
 - b. We easily recognize these sins and defilement in others and forget about or miss it in us.
 - c. We even comfort and console ourselves as we either forget, or we compare the gravity of our sins compared to other people's sins... as if the lesser gravity of our sins makes us more righteous. That's the same issue the religious leaders had, and it shows just how bad we really are.
 - d. Sometimes people will choose to put on display and be proud of what defiles them. Others try to defend and justify what defiles them... maybe saying they are making themselves "real and relevant" to others... maybe doing comparisons with others' issues saying at least they're not as bad them... and shaming others for judging them... even saying God made them that way, when all along it serves sinful, self-centered desires.
 - e. One use of God's perfect and Holy Law is to be able to examine ourselves:
 - in its light you can see how defiled we really are...
 - instead of justifying ourselves saying at least we are not as bad as so and so who does this and that, we hopefully are able to humbly, and in brokenness see what a chief of sinners we each are.
5. Civil Righteousness = outwardly keeping the rules (the religious leaders did this). But in God's eyes they were defiled. If Jesus told these squeaky-clean people that they had no hope, would you have any chance and hope at all apart from Christ?
6. No matter how righteous you seem to others and yourself, there is nothing you can say or do that can earn you forgiveness and salvation. Forgiveness, life, and salvation is only found in the righteousness of Jesus... received as a free gift from God to those who repent and trust in Jesus.
7. The words of Jesus on the cross, "It is finished," applies to you! In your baptism you were baptized into Jesus' redeeming death and resurrection. By God's grace and mercy, forgiveness, righteousness, and salvation is yours. Your hope is based on the fact that Jesus rose from the dead... He can't lie. There's nothing to add and improve on what Jesus has done for you. Jesus' victory is yours (imputed to you). God has declared you undefiled, holy, and innocent.
8. Although you live, fail and sin, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."
9. Anything that we do now is a get-to-do, not a got-to-do, because it is not about us and our pious wishes and good deeds. It's all a response to and about Jesus and what He has done.

Sermon Response “Graves Into Gardens” (Turn to lyrics on page 3)

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God
And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, oh Lord
And take not Thy holy spirit from me
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

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Confession and Absolution

Lamentations 3:23–24

P The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases! His mercies never come to an end!

C **They are new every morning! Great is His faithfulness!**

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Merciful God, Your commands give true wisdom and understanding, but we have not kept in step with them. We have sinned against You in our thinking, our speaking, and our doing. Our hands and feet have done what You forbid, and they have not done what You desire. By the mercy You show us in the cross of Jesus, cleanse and renew us today. Forgive our sins and strengthen our trust in You, that we may be on our feet to do Your will. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His great mercy has given His Son to die for you and for Jesus' sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** **Amen.**

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.

Prayer of the Church

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

For the advancement of Christ's kingdom, that we may be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, equip us with the gospel of peace.**

P For all those who are clothed in Christ by Holy Baptism, that outfitted with the whole armor of God we may stand against the devil's schemes, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, equip us with the gospel of peace.**

P For all pastors, teachers, missionaries, and other servants of the Church, that taking up the sword of the Spirit they may withstand the powers of this present darkness, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, equip us with the gospel of peace.**

- P** For our congregation, that supported with the belt of truth and protected by the helmet of salvation we may hold forth the word of life to the community around us, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, equip us with the gospel of peace.**
- P** For all who serve in positions of leadership in our government, along with those who wear the uniform of our country, that God would defend them from all danger and place upon them the breastplate of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, equip us with the gospel of peace.**
- P** For all who are broken in heart, mind, and body, that guarded by the shield of faith they would find refuge and healing in their Maker, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, equip us with the gospel of peace.**
- P** For these and all other concerns we have, that coming before the throne of grace we may find mercy to help us in our time of need, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, equip us with the gospel of peace that we may boldly share with others what we have first received from You. 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

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

***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***

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