

Sunday - September 13, 2026
16th Sunday after Pentecost



OUR MISSION: God calls us to live and share the amazing love and grace of Jesus Christ with all people.

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. Christ Lutheran Church is a Reconciling in Christ congregation that welcomes all. May God bless us in Word and Sacrament, music and community in our worship today. The service is complete in this bulletin. The spoken responses are bolded text.

We acknowledge that our building of worship is built upon the territory of xučyun (Huichin), the unceded land stewarded by the Ohlone people who speak to their Creator and loved ones in the language of Chochenyo.

INTRODUCTION

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

In addition to being the season after Pentecost, the time from September 1 to October 4, which is the commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi, is set apart as the Season of Creation. This time is an opportunity to reflect on how God-in-Christ still takes care of all things and invites us to join in as caretakers of God's good creation. We will be celebrating the festival day Creation in Christ on October 4 alongside St. Francis day and the blessing of animals.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose compassion endures forever. **Amen.** Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *I Then Shall Live*

I then shall live as one who's been forgiven;
I'll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.
I know my name is clear before my Father;
I am His child, and I am not afraid.
So greatly pardoned, I'll forgive my brother,
The law of love I gladly will obey.

I then shall live as one who's learned compassion;
I've been so loved that I'll risk loving too.
I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;
I'll dare to see another's point of view.
And when relationships demand commitment,
Then I'll be there to care and follow through.

Your kingdom come around and through and in me;
Your power and glory, let them shine through me;
Your Hallowed name, O may I bear with honor,
And may You living Kingdom come in me.
The Bread of Life, O may I share with honor,
And may You feed a hungry world through me.
Amen.

KYRIE

The musical score for the Kyrie is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains three measures: the first measure is for the Cantor with the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.', the second measure is for All with the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.', and the third measure is for the Cantor with the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy.'. The second staff contains three measures: the first measure is for All with the lyrics 'Christ, have mer - cy.', the second measure is for the Cantor with the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.', and the third measure is for All with the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.', marked with 'poco rit.' and a fermata. The lyrics are written below the notes, and the vocal parts are indicated by the labels 'Cantor' and 'All' above the staves.

Cantor All Cantor

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

All Cantor All *poco rit.*

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORY TO GOD

4

§ REFRAIN

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on

to Verses

earth peace to peo - ple of good will.

VERSE 1

1. We praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you,

1. we glo - ri - fy you, we give you thanks for your great

1. glo - ry, Lord God, heav - en - ly

§ REFRAIN

1. King, O God, al - might - v Fa - ther.

VERSE 2

2. Lord Je - sus Christ, On - ly Be - got - ten Son,

2. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther,

2. you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on

2. us; you take a - way the

2. sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer,

2. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa -

2. ther, have mer - cy on us.

REFRAIN

VERSE 3

3. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

3. you a - lone are the Lord,

3. you a - lone are the Most High,

3. Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the

3. glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

REFRAIN

FIRST READING: Exodus 14:19-31

¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided.

²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the LORD, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. ²⁵ He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

²⁶ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

The Song of Moses and Miriam (Exodus 15)

The congregation joins on the refrain

Refrain



I will sing, I will sing to the God who sets me free! Phar-ah's



ar - my and his char - i - ots God cast in - to the sea!

1. The Lord is my strength, my protection and my shield;
Pharaoh's army and his chariots God cast into the sea.
Our God is a warrior whose name is "the Lord,"
God of might, God of victory!
2. The brave and the mighty, the pride of Pharaoh's army,
God plunged them to the bottom of the sea like a stone.
The hand of the Lord is magnificent in power;
the Lord has crushed our foes!
3. O God who redeems, who delivers us from slavery,
you set us on the mountain of your holy place.
Your throne and your temple shall endure for all time;
your reign shall never end!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹²So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1st time: Cantor after: All

Cantor *f*

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-

(All)

ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-

lu - ia.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O God.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero

HYMN OF THE DAY: ACS 1049 “Before the Waters Nourished Earth”



1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
 2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
 3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
 4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness



ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
 E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
 par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
 still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -



u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
 mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
 faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
 gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 there 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

Move your church throughout the world away from judging and despising others. Lead us to embody the forgiveness you have given us in Jesus. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The endless beauty of your creation reminds us of your mercy. Protect those who care for farms and ranches. Guide those who lead us to wonder at your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Raise up leaders like John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we remember today to hold all in authority accountable for any misuse of the power entrusted to them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Calm the fears of all in need with your promises. Compassionately free the lives of any who feel bound by their failures. Remember your children in need especially pray for Karen, Fred, George G., Maryann H., Evie D., Diane, Carla, Laurie & John P., Scott F., and Pr. Sharon. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. Inspire each of us to welcome others for your honor and glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

What else do the people of God pray for?

With you is found the joy and promise of eternal life. Keep us in that joy as we remember all those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING: "Just Like Moses Said" - Words & Music by Randy Mayer

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

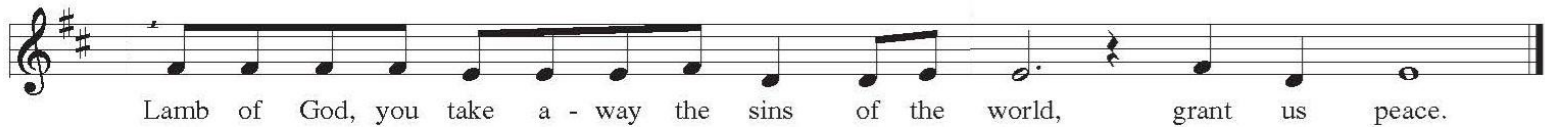
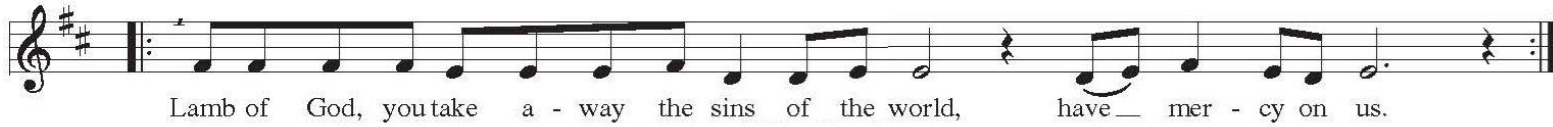
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

HOLY, HOLY

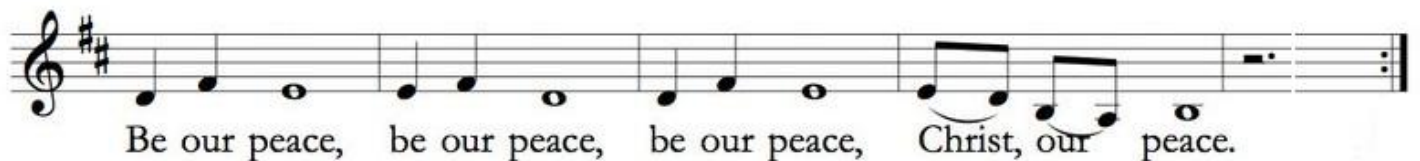
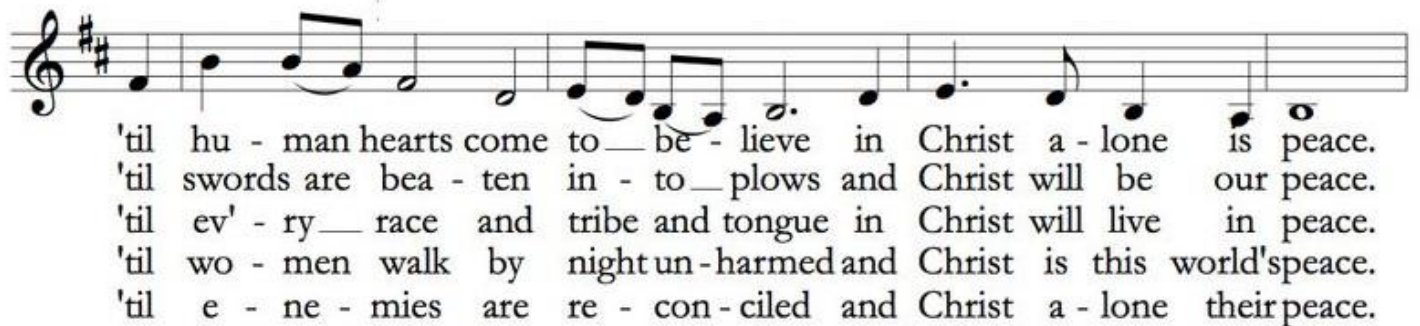
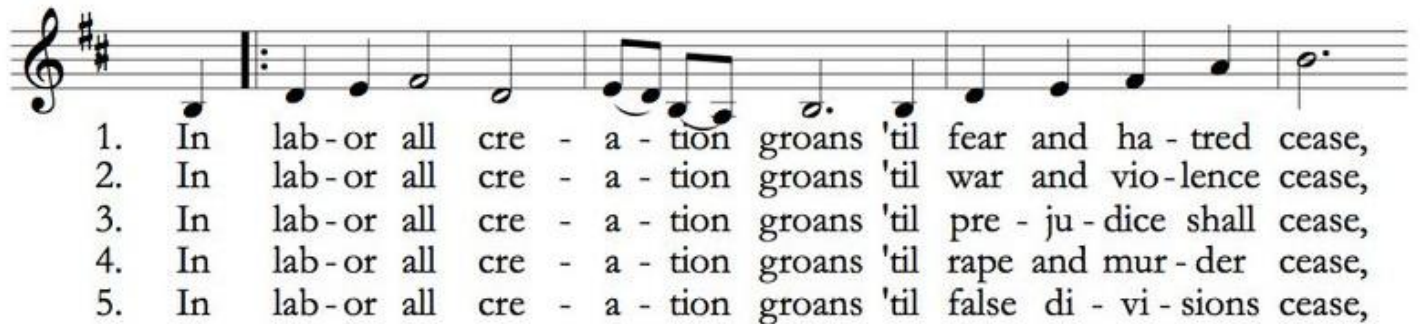
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God, Lord God, Lord God of
hosts. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN: In Labor All Creation Groans



CELEBRATION OF VOCATION AND BLESSING OF HANDS FOR MINISTRY

We are called to proclaim the good news: **God is at work!**

This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away: **God is at work in the world still today!**

In us and through us, God is glorified in our work. When we offer a helping hand, God is praised. When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world. **God is at work in us!**

In our service today and in our daily lives, let us live out what God has called us to in baptism. **God is at work through our hands!** God bless your hands and your work, that through you God's love may be known. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: God Has Work For Us To Do

1. Till all the jails are emp - ty and all the bel - lies
Till age and race and gen - der, no long - er se - pa -

2. In te - ne - ment and mansion, in fac - t'ry, farm, and
In class - room, church, and of - fice, in shops, or on the

3. By sit - ting at a bed - side to hold pale, trem - bling
By pray - ing through our do - ing, and sing - ing though we

filled, 1. Till no - one hurts or steals or lies, and
-rate, Till pul - pit, press, and po - li - tics are
mill, **2. in board room and in bil - liard hall, in**
street, **in e - v'ry place where peo - ple thrive, or**
hands, 3. by speak - ing for the po - wer - less a -
fear, by trust - ing that the seed we sow will

no more blood is spilled
free of greed and hate
wards where time stands still.
stave, or hide, or meet.
- gainst un - just de - mands.
bring God's har - vest near:

God, has work for us to do, God has

work for us to do Till God's will is done and all things are made new,

God has work for us, work for us to do.

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sept 13- God's Work Our Hands

October 4- Pet Blessings

October 17- Garage Sale

PARTICIPATING IN WORSHIP

PRESIDING/PREACHING

Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero
(510) 480-1476

kyle@christlutheranelcerrito.org

MINISTER OF MUSIC & LITURGY

Daniel Alley

GITARS: George Fosselius & Randy Mayer

DRUMS: Dominic Moisant

LECTOR: Scott E.

WORSHIP ASSISTANT: Christine H.L.

COFFEE HOUR: Scott E.

This Week at CLC

Today

9 AM Choir Rehearsal
10 AM CLC Worship
Gods Work Our Hands
1:30 PM Greater Love Worship

Monday

9 AM- 3:00 PM Senior Center
7 PM- 8:30 PM The Scouts

Tuesday

10 AM-3:00PM- WCCAE Respite Care
7 PM Lady AA Meeting

Wednesday

9 AM-2 PM - El Cerrito High Group
4:30-6:30 PM CCCT

Thursday

9 AM-2 PM - El Cerrito High Group
4:30-6:30 PM CCCT
7 PM Handbell Rehearsal

Friday

4:30-6:30 PM CCCT

Saturday

9 AM-12PM AAUW
6 PM Millennium AA Meeting

Next Sunday

9AM Choir Rehearsal
10 AM CLC Worship
1:30 PM Greater Love Worship

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

Diane L.
Lysle P.
Mike S.
The Vale Community
Robin & Wendy
George F.
Jimmy D.
Vince

Laurie P.
Carolina S.
Karen H.
Fred W.
Chad B.
TJ B.
Carla L.
Mark

Chris
Phil C.
Scott F.
Christine H.L.
Thelma & Mike G.
John Z.
Pr. Sharon

DON'T FORGET YOUR OFFERING

Thank you for your continued financial support of Christ Lutheran. It is very much appreciated. Options for giving include bringing offerings in person, mailing checks, or giving electronically with Tithely. For the latter, simply click the "Giving" tab on the church website. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amy Tieku at 510-290-2125

WORSHIP FROM HOME Livestream: Facebook.com/clec.org. Bulletins can be found at christlutheranelcerrito.org/bulletins

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