

# *River of Life Lutheran Church*

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## **Welcome to Worship**



**Sunday, September 18, 2022 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

### Introduction

*As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. “Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.*

\*Please stand as you are able

## We Are Gathered for Worship

### Welcome

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

### Prelude

*“Amazing Grace”*

### Litany of Dedication

Pastor: Eternal God and Creator of all things, we give you the highest praise for the good work you do among us.

**All: Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O Lord.**

Asst: For our baptism in faith, for your forgiveness of our sins, for the founding of River of Life Church and for your sustaining this community of faith by your gracious hand:

**All: We offer our heartfelt thanks, O Lord.**

Asst: For the unity we share in the love and grace of Jesus our Lord,

**All: for sustaining us in the mission to love God and love people with all that we are. We offer our thanks, O Lord.**

Asst: For those you inspired with the vision of rebuilding, for those who helped bring it about with their knowledge and gifts and for those who contributed of their time, talents and resources,

**All: We offer our heartfelt thanks, O Lord.**

Asst: For the worship of God, for the sharing of the Good News of God’s love in Jesus, for the blessed Table of Jesus where all are welcome, for the nurturing of persons of all ages and for the furthering of the Kingdom,

**All: We dedicate this building.**

Asst: Inspire each of us by the vision for mission in this place that helped to establish this congregation.

**All: Empower us to reach out to the poor and needy, the sick and the dying, who so need the Good News of your love.**

Asst: Use us as living examples of Jesus in the world, bringing forth good fruits, that your Kingdom would come in this place.

**All: Holy God, Creator Lord, you bless us in so many ways with your gifts, in particular you bless us with the gift of this new house of prayer and study.**

Pastor: As we come and go from this new place of worship, may we know your presence always, and find consolation for our weary hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### \*Confession and Forgiveness

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)*

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is eager to forgive and who loves us beyond our days.

\*Please stand as you are able

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Dear friends, together let us acknowledge our failure to love this world as Jesus does.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Pastor: God of mercy and forgiveness,

**All: we confess that sin still has a hold on us. We have harmed your good creation. We have failed to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Turn us in a new direction. Show us the path that leads to life. Be our refuge and strength on the journey, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved of God: your sins are forgiven † and you are made whole. God points the way to new life in Christ, who meets us on the road. Journey now in God's abiding love through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

*"Here I Am, Lord"*

ELW 574

**"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"**

**Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**

**"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" *(Refrain)***

**"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" *(Refrain)***

**\*Prayer of the Day**

Asst: Let us pray. God among us,

**All: we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**\*Sharing of the Peace**

Asst: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

\*Please stand as you are able

## We Hear and Respond to God's Word

### First Reading: Exodus Amos 8:4-7

<sup>4</sup>Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, <sup>5</sup>saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances, <sup>6</sup>buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” <sup>7</sup>The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

### Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

<sup>1</sup>First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, <sup>2</sup>for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. <sup>3</sup>This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup>who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

<sup>6</sup>who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. <sup>7</sup>For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

### Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup>So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup>Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup>I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup>So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup>He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup>Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup>And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup>And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup>“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup>If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup>And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup>No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate

\*Please stand as you are able

the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

**Children’s Chat / Message**

**Pastor Bill Ottum**

**\*Hymn of the Day**

***“In the Sweet By and By”***

**There’s a land that is fairer than day, and by faith we can see it afar;  
for the Father waits over the way to prepare us a dwelling place there.**

***Refrain:* In the sweet (*echoed low:* in the sweet) by and by (by and by)  
we shall meet on that beautiful shore. (by and by) In the sweet (In the sweet)  
by and by, (by and by,) we shall meet on that beautiful shore.**

**We shall sing on that beautiful shore the melodious songs of the blest;  
And our spirits shall sorrow no more, not a sigh for the blessing of rest. (*Refrain*)**

**To our bountiful Father above we will offer our tribute of praise,  
for the glorious gift of his love and the blessings that hallow our days. (*Refrain*)**

**Apostle’s 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.**

\*Please stand as you are able

## Prayers of The People

Asst: As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

*(A brief silence.)*

Asst: God our Savior, you keep your church in faith and truth. Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share your good news with the world. God of grace, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: Divine teacher, you instruct your children to be responsible stewards of your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources, and guide those who work to develop sustainable practices. God of grace, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: Ruler of the nations, you direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders (*especially Dag Hammarskjöld*) and safeguard the dignity of each person. God of grace, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: Helper of the needy, you lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into economic and social systems that perpetuate poverty and hunger. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters. God of grace, **All: hear our prayer.**

Asst: Sustainer and giver of life, you bless this congregation with abundance. Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources, that we share generously. God of grace, **All: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Let us now share other concerns on our hearts and minds ... spoken, or in silence.

*(Time is taken for prayers to be offered...)*

Pastor: God of glory, you gather your saints around your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us (especially), and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. God of grace, **All: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**All: Amen.**

## Offering

*We join millions of Christians all over the world in joyfully responding to God's goodness through the giving of our financial resources. Offerings may be brought forward at the time of communion or may be mailed to: River of Life Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 670470, Chugiak, AK 99567.*

## Offering Prayer

Asst: Let us Pray. Gracious God, in your great love you richly provide for our needs. Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing, and make us ready to share with all in need; through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all.

**All: Amen.**

\*Please stand as you are able

## We Come to the Lord's Table

### \*The Great Thanksgiving / Holy Communion

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: *(the following is spoken...)*

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

### \*Words of Institution *(In the night in which he was betrayed...)*

Pastor: Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory, and we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pastor: Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

### \*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 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.**

Pastor: Christ invites you to this table. Come, taste and see.

\*Please stand as you are able

***Distribution:*** All who believe in Jesus as their risen Lord and Savior are invited to His Table. The clear liquid is grape juice, the red is wine. Take the bread and wine and consume them after leaving the table.

### **Communion Blessing and Prayer**

Pastor: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray. God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey. Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### **Announcements**

## **We Are Sent Out to Serve**

### **\*Benediction / Blessing**

Pastor: God, who gives life to all things and frees us from despair, bless you with truth and peace.

And may the holy Trinity, † one God, guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

**All: Amen.**

### **\*Sending Song**

*“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*

ELW 836

**Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.**

**All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!**

### **\*Our Purpose Statement**

**We are a community of faith, called to Glorify God... Grow in faith and love, and  
Go into the world with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.**

### **\*Dismissal**

Asst: Go in peace, with Christ beside you.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

*“His Eye Is on the Sparrow”*

\*Please stand as you are able