



Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion
10970 185th Street West, Lakeville, MN 55044 ~ (952) 435-5757
Web Site: www.familyofchrist.com E mail: office@familyofchrist.com
Mission Partners with Usokami Parish, Iringa, Tanzania
Pastor Brent Erler

September 3rd, 2023
9:30 AM Worship



PRELUDE

Mary Wescott

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING HYMN

“Gather Us In”

ELW #532

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: God of new life,

C: You have created and redeemed all things through the gift of your son. Yet we often live as though it makes no difference for us. We choose to remain stuck in old patterns, cling to the familiar and safe, and refuse opportunities to step out in courage and faith. Forgive our cowardice, stubbornness, and willful disobedience. Amen.

L: The Lord is alive, and his presence brings a new day, a new chance to make new choices, and renewal between people, creation, and creator. Rejoice that you have been forgiven and called sisters and brothers of our savior and Lord! Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Lord, I Lift Your Name On High”

ELW #857

*Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life.
I'm so glad you came to save us.*

*You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high.*

© 1989 Universal Music

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God, **You make your disciples bold to proclaim your name. Show us how to preach the truth in our words and in our lives, for the sake of Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

Epistle: Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: *Thanks be to God*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28

²¹ From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: *Thanks be to God*

SERMON

Pastor Brent Erler

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Praise and Thanksgiving"

ELW #689

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come 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.

PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOISY OFFERING

Lutheran Social Services

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord, in Your Mercy

C: Hear our prayer

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BLESSING

PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending,
by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good
courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love
supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

ELW #543

SENDING

POSTLUDE

Donate Here



Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning the way you feel comfortable. This includes the invitation to join us for Holy Communion.

All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!
Everybody Is Somebody Here

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FAMILY OF CHRIST?

Information is available from the ushers and in the literature stand outside the church office at the West entrance. If you are looking for a faith community, please fill out the insert or visit our website at www.familyofchrist.com.

KID ACTIVITY BAGS filled with coloring materials and other resources are available in the back of the worship space for those that would like them.

WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshipping with your children and want you to feel welcome. There is a **"Pray Ground"** for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs "a break" or "louder play", there is an **"Active Worship"** room on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.



FALL WORSHIP SERIES

We seem to be always beginning. Or at least we have a tendency to speak about how we start our journey of faith. To some, that seems redundant. "We began long ago," they might think. And that could be true. Yet, each day is a new beginning, a reaffirmation of the desire to be a disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. So, once again, the journey begins.

Even though there are those of us who are more seasoned travelers on the journey of faith, we are constantly met with new opportunities that seem like roadblocks. Rather than being slowed down by these, what if they could rejuvenate us? "The journey begins" then is a time of celebration and of hopefulness. We are looking forward to becoming the community that we long to be and are described as being by the very one we follow. So, here in the beginning of fall, when some things are winding down and other things are starting up, it is time for us to remember who we are and to whom we pledge our ultimate trust. Let's go back to our first love and embrace our God with passion and with joy.



"Everybody is Someone Here"

Worship

9:30am Sundays

Sunday School

10:45am Sundays

Confirmation and Youth Group

6:20pm Wednesday Nights

*Worship Online at www.familyofchrist.com