

SERMON QUESTIONS

Identify how these symbols represent life:

- a. Dome - government
- b. Diplomas - education
- c. Plate, knife, fork
- d. Family
- e. Dollar sign
- f. Ball
- g. Factory
- h. Church building

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

Pastor Cindy Cone
Charlie Skoglund assisting
Marsha Burke, organist
Rick & Kay Jaeger, greeters
Katelyn & Michelle A., ushers
Brenda Beaudette, lector
Duane & Shirley T., communion
Jared Weich, coffee
Offerings: Doug & Pat Witte
Eucharistic ministry: Margaret and Lonnie Svitak
Altar Guild: Linda Sheppard
Susie Lutz, communion bread
Member Care: Doris Hoffart

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9/13 Doris Hoffart
9/14 Al Boelman
9/14 Donna Reich
9/15 Wendell Hahne

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Steve & Nancy Buss **today**
9/15 Duane & Shirley Theil

THIS WEEK

Today

9:00 Sunday school
10:00 worship w/communion
Blessing of the Backpacks
Potluck
Confirmation parents meeting

Monday

7:00 Bible study (Facebook)

Wednesday

no Bible study (Pastor gone)

Thursday

2:00 Bible study

Thursday—Saturday

Crafting Together Simultaneously

Next Sunday

9:00 Sunday school
10:00 worship w/communion

IN OUR PRAYERS

Ongoing prayer support

Nevin and Tara Peters

Health and healing

Connie Atkinson
Gary Benson
Megan Bewernitz
Craig Doescher
Joe Grosserode
Dwight Oberle
Dennis Reich
Richard and Sandy Thorin
Mia Volquardsen

Skilled care

Cherlyn Hillrichs
Mona Jean Roberts
Roger Young

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church September 10, 2023 — 15th Sunday after Pentecost

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of God!
Obey God's voice, and keep covenant with God.

Day by day, we are lifted up on eagles' wings.

Today we have been led to this place of worship.

I appeal to you, sisters and brothers:
remember the mercies of God, and seek God's will.

**We bring ourselves as living sacrifices,
that we may be transformed, and our minds renewed.**

Seek here what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Recognize once more the gifts God has given you.

We are here to recognize ourselves as one body.

In Christ, we are empowered to be the church.

LBW 474 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

INVOCATION

In this sanctuary set aside for your worship, we pause to contemplate your greatness, O God. Out of the thick clouds that limit our vision, we hear you whisper our names and call us into community. The mountains and the seas tremble before you; all living things announce your presence. You claim us as your own and equip us to be a holy people. Help us to accept that role without misusing it, that your name may be honored in all we do, and your way be lifted up among all people. Amen

CALL TO CONFESSION

In what do we take pride? To whose standards do we conform? Is our faith all that God intends? Are we functioning effectively as members of one body? Are we using the gifts God has given for the benefit of all of God's creation? As we examine ourselves before the wonder of God, let us confess all that falls short of God's plan for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We tremble before you, O God, when we consider our broken and damaged relationships. You have made us for community, but we act as isolates. You seek our transformation and renewal, but we tend rather to conform to the world's agenda. You call us to love that is genuine, and to affectionate devotion, but we have put self-interest first. You have called us to be zealous for the good, but we have become complacent about evil. You have given us gifts to use for the common good, but we have hoarded them for our advantage. Save us from our self-destructive ways. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Of what advantage will it be to gain the whole world and forfeit our lives? God has entrusted us with the gift of life and challenged us to spend it as followers of Jesus. In Christ, we find our true identity and experience the forgiveness and wholeness God intends for us. God claims us, grants us gifts, and equips us for our service in the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of power and glory, whose ways are not our ways, recall us again to selfless devotion to your will, to what is good and acceptable and perfect. Grant us the courage to follow the way of love in the face of all that would deny it. Speak to us, that we may hear and do what you intend. May we take up the cross, not as a burden, but as a sign of hope. May our cheerful zeal provide a contagious witness for the cause of Christ. Amen

LESSONS Job 1:6-9, 2:1-3

Mark 1:12-15

GOSPEL Matthew 4:5-7

MESSAGE Pastor Cindy Cone

LBW 91 "Savior, When in Dust to You"

APOSTLES' CREED

THE PRAYERS/THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We give our best, Gracious God, lest in gaining the whole world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to do our part to witness to your will and way. As we give, help us to perceive more clearly what you would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our management. As we contribute to the needs of the saints, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Direct us according to your will. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Address the world in genuine love and affection.
Hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

**All that God has spoken, we will do;
we will keep covenant with our Creator.**

Walk with Christ in self-giving service;
live in genuine affection as one body in Christ.

**We will use our differing gifts faithfully;
we will give our best for the sake of all.**

Christ has promised to come to us again.
In Christ, death itself is emptied of its power.

We enter a new week aglow with the Spirit.

We pray that God's will may be done through us.

Amen

Amen

LBW 99 "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL