

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
September 17, 2023 — 16th Sunday after Pentecost

SERMON QUESTIONS

- a. How are we to reflect Jesus in our lives?
- b. What is the deadly trio?

THIS WEEK

Monday
7pm Bible study (Facebook)

Wednesday
9am quilt tying
6pm meal
6:30 study "The Chosen"

Thursday
2pm card club
6pm MOPS
6:30 council meeting

Saturday
9am assemble playground (lunch provided)

Next Sunday Food Pantry Sunday
9am Sunday school
10:00 worship w/communion
Playground dedication with Victory Road E. Free Church (meal following)

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

Pastor Cindy Cone
Charlie Skoglund assisting
Marsha Burke, organist
Warren B. and Danita B., ushers
Brenda Beaudette, lector
Lonnie and Margaret Svitak, communion
Offerings: Nell and Louise

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

9/18 Richard & Cherlyn Hillrichs
9/18 Jared & Sau Man Weich

Thank you to all those who helped with my garage sale. It was a big job for Jeff and Sue, and they appreciated all the good help on Thursday, Friday and Saturday at my house and then moving the things that were left to the sale at the church. You are a wonderful church family. God bless you all.
Love, Marilyn

IN OUR PRAYERS

Ongoing prayer support
Nevin and Tara Peters
Health and healing
Molly Ann Heikes
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

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is here to meet us: glorify God's name.
God welcomes us: put your trust in God.

We are here to celebrate God's presence.

We honor God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

God reveals to us the idols that limit us;
God's governance is our help and our shield.

We give thanks for God's saving work.

We rejoice in authorities who seek our highest good.

Our Creator seeks to establish community among us.
God calls us to be a reconciling people.

**Where two or three gather in Christ's name,
God is present to strengthen and uphold.**

LBW 532 "How Great Thou Art"

INVOCATION

Your trumpets summon us, O God, to this time of remembering and renewal. We have sensed your presence through fire and storm, when we felt threatened and afraid. We have known you in and through other people. Now, in these moments, we seek to bring the wholeness of our being into deep relationship with you. Touch our spirits, fill us with your love, equip us for our life in the world. Amen

CALL TO CONFESSION

We who so often seek glory for ourselves rather than glorify God are invited to examine ourselves before the Eternal One. We who are far more likely to judge others than to look at our own shortcomings are summoned to honest self-appraisal. For in confronting our sin and seeking forgiveness, we can be freed from its deadly grasp.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Steadfast God, we have doubted your presence and involvement in our lives. We have focused on immediate concerns rather than eternal values. We worship the idols we have made, the things we have accumulated, the successes we have enjoyed, the activities that give us pleasure. We rebel against any authority that challenges our self-interest or bids us be neighbors to all. We find it hard to believe that your ways are better than our ways. Turn us around, God, for we do not want to be lifeless and unfeeling. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

God loves us, even when we do not return that love. God's forgiveness is always available to anyone who is truly sorry for all the wrong that has broken trust with God and fractured community with neighbors. God is our help and shield when we put our trust in God. Live as forgiven people, gathering in Christ's name, consecrated and committed to a new way of life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, whose forgiveness we have known, teach us to be forgiving people. Heal our relationships within the church, that we may become a reconciling force in the world. Gathering in Christ's name, we open our ears and minds to your word and ways. Instruct and equip us for service that we may be instruments for reshaping the earth as your realm. Amen

LESSONS 1 Chronicles 21:1

1 Peter 5:8-9

GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

MESSAGE Pastor Cindy Cone

LBW 99 "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

"AN APOSTLES' CREED FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM" (on-screen)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING/OFFERTORY PRAYER

We dedicate this money as one evidence of our stewardship, Loving God. Our silver and gold have no value except as they are invested according to your purposes. Our lives gain value as we give our time and talents in loving service. Use all that we have and give to build the community you intend, through Christ. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMISSION AND BLESSING

We are children of God and neighbors to one another; therefore, let us live as God's family.

**We are subject to God's authority;
therefore, we seek to be listeners and reconcilers.**

We are the church, the body of Christ;
therefore, we bind and loose in Christ's name.

**We are a people of prayer and action;
therefore, we dare to trust God to lead us.**

God will be our help and our shield;
God's steadfast love will sharpen our senses.

**We will listen and speak as God empowers;
our hands and feet are in God's employ.**

Amen

Amen

With One Voice 783 "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL