Welcome and thank you for coming to worship!
We welcome all visitors this morning to our service of Word and Sacrament. ALL are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Please know that at CELC this common meal is for all who feel moved to receive. This sacrament is God’s gift to all, and is not tied to membership, doctrine or creed.

15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 2023
9:00am

Service of Word and Sacrament-
The Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of the Peace
1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the

2 Come! Open your heart! Show your... mercy to all those in

3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be

Lord! We are called to be light for the kingdom, to

fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless so

one! God will reign, and we’ll walk with each other as

live in the freedom of the city of God.

hated and blindness... will be... no more.

sisters and brothers... united in love.

Refrain

We are called to act with justice, we are called to

love tenderly; we are called to serve one another,

other, to walk humbly with God.
THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete. Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world’s violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God’s justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God’s compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In Christ, you are already and always forgiven. Amen.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Word

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God’s warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

7 So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8 If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. 9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

10 Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” 11 Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

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

PSALM 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.
34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.
35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.
Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.

Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.

Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION  ELW 168
GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20
Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15 “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: REV. JEFF GALLEN

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH WORSHIP ORDER NO. 1
With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
We believe in God — the Creator of all things — the source of all goodness and love. He is our God and we are His people.

We believe in Jesus Christ — the Son of God — true God yet true man. He was crucified, died, and was buried for our sin — that we might be free and know the joy of life. He was raised on the third day and ascended to heaven. He will come again in power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit — the power of God at work inside of us.

We believe in the church of God — His people of faith throughout the world.

We believe that our sin is forgiven and that we will live together with God for now and throughout eternity. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

Hold us accountable, O God. Show your church where repentance is needed and lead us in paths of intentional compassion and listening. Help us extend hands of reconciliation and care, especially in relationships with other Christians and people of other faiths. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Reveal your miracles to us, O God. Move us to cherish you as we behold the wonders of creation. Renew the seas and the soil, the forests and the creatures that live in them. Turn us to ways of living that seek Earth’s thriving. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Inspire us to lead with honor, O God. Guide judges and legislators, police, and government officials to create and uphold just laws. Move us to treat all people with dignity and guide our conversations with one another. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Help us comfort those who suffer, O God. Reassure any who are harmed by the wicked acts of others. Bring peace to all who are vulnerable, frightened, despairing, or sick (especially). Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.
Awaken us, O God. Challenge and encourage your people to value the vocation to which each is called. We pray for all discerning new possibilities or changing employment. In all our diverse callings, teach us to love our neighbor above all else. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

P: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Meal

OFFERTORY / OFFERTORY MUSIC

"WE CAN SHARE HIS LOVE"
BY NANCY PRICE AND DON BESIG

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A

Let us pray.

God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

[THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE] (NUMBER 4)

P

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.

It is indeed right and good that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you... And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(setting 4 of ELW)
In the night in which he was betrayed…

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks…

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Christ has died.
Christ has risen.
Christ will come again.

Remembering therefore … may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER
INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Jesus invites you to this table.
Come, eat and live.

LAMB OF GOD
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
**have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
**Have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
**Grant us peace, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION SONG: “BIND US TOGETHER” VS. 1 & 3

Chorus: Bind us together Lord
Bind us together with cords
That cannot be broken
Bind us together Lord
Bind us together Lord
Bind us together with love

1. There is only one God
There is only one King
There is only one body
That is why we can sing

3. You are the fam’ly of God
You are the promise divine
You are God’s chosen desire
You are the glorious new wine
“ALTHOUGH I SPEAK WITH ANGEL’S TONGUE”

1 Although I speak with angel’s tongue, my faith, my knowledge all surpass, but have no love, my gifts are vain with boasting pride; love bears all things, all things end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now one are all baptized. Beloved, share one heart, one

2 For love is patient, love is kind, and never

3 For now we peer at darkened glass; our visions

4 The gifts are many, the Body one, and into

PASTORAL BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.

Blessed be your name, O God,

for we have feasted on your Word,

Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

Strengthened by this food,

send us to gather the world to your banquet,

where none are left out and all are satisfied.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
BENEDICTION:

The God of glory, 
Jesus Christ, name above all names, 
and the Spirit who lives in you, 
bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING SONG: "LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH"

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father
Fam'ly all are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow

To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Go in peace. God is at work in you. Thanks be to God.