

WE are Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (elca)

918 South Litchfield Road, Goodyear, AZ

Office: 623-932-2394

Website: www.christevangelical.org

Pastor Jeff Hackler (314)378-1330

WE WELCOME ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY.

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.

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2026

9:00

Service of Word and Sacrament

The Gathering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

GATHERING ELW 438 *"MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING"*

Refrain

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most Merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PASTORAL GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion.

By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

[Congregation is seated.]

The Word

1ST READING: Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the Lord does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

6 Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:

I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

7 Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.

Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

8 Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

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

PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth. (Ps. 86:11)

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk | in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.

¹² **I will thank you, O Lord my God, with | all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**

¹³ For great is your | love toward me;
you have delivered me from the | pit of death.

¹⁴ **The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people | seeks
my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**

¹⁵ But you, O Lord, are gracious and full | of compassion,

slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy on me;

give your strength to your servant, and save the child ¹ of your handmaid.

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be ¹ put to shame; because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

2ND READING: Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

18 I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, 20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: SS5 “ALLELUIA! GIVE THE GLORY”

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give the glory and the honor to the Lord! (2x)

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

24 [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. 26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. 27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' 28 He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' 29 But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. 30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

36 Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." 37 He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; 38 the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, 39 and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. 40 Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. 41 The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, 42 and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

SERMON: PASTOR JEFF

SONG OF THE DAY: ELW 512 "LORD, LET MY HEART BE GOOD SOIL"



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God our source, protect your church from those who sow weeds among the wheat. Where we trade grace for judgment, restore us, and where we get lost among the complexities of life, guide us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God our creator, sustain creation in places not easily seen; the depths of oceans, microscopic

plants and animals, galaxies beyond our own. May we share earth's dedication to hope for what we do not yet see. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our soil, we yearn to live on your lands and waters with justice and in righteousness. Renew the hearts of all in authority, that our leaders guide wisely toward the flourishing of all.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our rock, be a source of constancy for those whose lives have been uprooted by war, eviction, global climate change, unemployment, harassment, false witness to their character, or illness or injury. (*We pray especially for . . .*) God of grace,

hear our prayer.

God our teacher, guide and provide for all summer camp staff and campers, daycare professionals, librarians, summer school educators and coaches, teachers preparing for the coming academic year, and youth becoming first-time babysitters. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

P: Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The Meal

OFFERTORY / OFFERTORY MUSIC

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A

Let us pray.

Loving God,

we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.

Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,

so that all creation can taste your abundance.

We ask this in the name of Jesus,

through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up 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, our duty and our joy,..
We praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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."

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

[THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE]

P

on the night before he died...

Again, after supper ...

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

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the incarnation of your Son:
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.
We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,
when Christ will come again in beauty and power
to share with us the great and promised feast. **Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray your Holy Spirit,
that we and all who share in this bread and cup
may be united in the communion of the Holy Spirit,
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unit of the Holy Spirit,
All glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heaven has come near.

Come, share in the feast!

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.**

Refrain – All

Nei-ther death, nor life, nor an-gels, nor rul-ers, nor

trials in the pres-ent, nor an - y trial to come, nei - ther height, nor

depth, nor all of cre - a - tion can ev - er sep - a - rate us

from the love of God poured out in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.

Leader or All

1 Dwell in the one who raised Christ from the dead; though your

2 All who are led by the Spir-it shall live as

3 All of the suf - f'ring we now must en - dure is

4 All of cre - a - tion a - waits the new birth, the

5 Who can sep - a - rate us from the love of Christ? Will



bod-y shall die, in Christ you shall rise through the
chil - dren of God, and heirs with Christ Je - sus, God's a -
noth - ing to the glo - ry so soon to be re - vealed when cre -
full - ness of re - demp - tion, through la - bor pains of love, and
hard-ship or dis - tress, per-se - cu - tion or fam-ine, or



Spir - it who brings you to life. *Refrain*
dopt - ed and cho - sen and loved. *Refrain*
a - tion it - self is set free. *Refrain*
so we wait in pa - tience and hope. *Refrain*
na - ked - ness or per - il or sword?

PASTORAL BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us pray.
Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

The Sending

BENEDICTION:

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: ELW 821 *“SHOUT TO THE LORD*

DISMISSAL:

P Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.

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