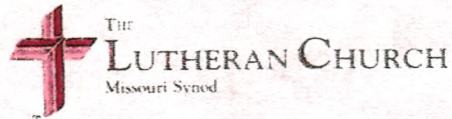


The children  
of the promise  
are counted  
as offspring







## PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Selah, WA 98942  
(509) 697-4353

Guest Pastor Jack Flachsbart

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*“Where the Love of Christ is Shared ”*

**Visitors:** Please introduce yourself to the Elders. We hope you will fill out one of our cards in the pew so we can be of service to you.

## August 6, 2023

About the Cover: As Isaac was the child of promise, Paul helps us see that being a member of the family of God is not determined by bloodline or any human factors. Being counted as a child of promise is linked to faith in Christ, the true offspring of Abraham. Christ and His forgiving work on the cross has brought us into the family of God sheerly out of His grace and mercy.



## **TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 13**

Grace Not Law

August 6, 2023

### **AS WE GATHER**

Human law would expect that the physical descendants of Abraham and the people included in the nation of Israel would receive God's promised blessings, but God's covenant is based on His great grace. The covenant to David is for all people, whoever will listen to His gracious invitation. "Come to Me," the Lord says through Isaiah, "hear, that your soul may live" (Isaiah 55:3). In the Epistle, Paul laments that although the blessings of God came through the Jewish people, most have cut themselves off from the promise. His hope lies in the grace of God, which says "the children of the promise are counted as offspring" (Romans 9:8). And grace continues! Today God counts us worthy to serve His gracious plans, just as our Lord used even the doubting disciples to feed the 5,000 in the Gospel. Grace, indeed!

### **✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**HYMN**

816

"From All That Dwell Below the Skies" LSB



## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden,

**People: 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;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

We admit, O Lord, that we often do not freely respond to Your grace.

**People: Forgive us for confusing Your free and eternal grace with the ways of this world. In Your mercy, renew our faith and instill gratitude in us that we may rely on Your daily and eternal blessings.**



Pastor: We admit that we have not always shared the compassionate concern of Paul. We rejoice in having faith but do not always share our joy with the people around us.

**People: Forgive us and open our eyes to see the opportunities to tell of our faith. Give us compassionate hearts to care for those who have rejected our Savior's sacrifice for all people.**

Pastor: We admit that we have not always considered the needs of others before our own, nor how You might use us and our gifts for their welfare.

**People: Forgive us and increase our faith in You. Move us by Your Holy Spirit to be part of the answer to their prayers, for we are Your instruments to meet the needs of the people around us.**

Pastor: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus, Son of God and Son of David, kept God's eternal covenant. He paid the price with His suffering and death for you so that grace might be freely offered to you. You are counted as children of Abraham because of the faith God has planted within you. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Rest assured, your sins are forgiven.

**People: Amen. Thanks be to God.**



✠ WORD ✠

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul.

People: **Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**    *Isaiah 55:1–5* (God offers an everlasting covenant to David.)

<sup>1</sup>“Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!



Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;

hear, that your soul may live;

and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,  
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you."

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE** *Romans 9:1–13* (We are included in the  
promise because we share Abraham's  
faith.)

<sup>1</sup>I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my  
conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— <sup>2</sup>that I have  
great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could  
wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for  
the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the  
flesh. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption,  
the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship,  
and the promises. <sup>5</sup>To them belong the patriarchs, and from



their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>6</sup>But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, <sup>7</sup>and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." <sup>8</sup>This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. <sup>9</sup>For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>10</sup>And not only so, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, <sup>11</sup>though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call— <sup>12</sup>she was told, "The older will serve the younger." <sup>13</sup>As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**GRADUAL AND VERSE**     *Romans 11:33, 36; Psalm 78:25*

**Pastor:** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

**People:** How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!

**Pastor:** For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

**People:** To Him be glory forever. Amen.



Pastor: Alleluia. Man ate of the bread of the angels;  
**People: He sent them food in abundance. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL**    *Matthew 14:13–21* (The feeding of 5,000)

Pastor:            The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the  
fourteenth chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John], he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup>Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." <sup>16</sup>But Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup>They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." <sup>18</sup>And he said, "Bring them here to me." <sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Pastor:            This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**



**HYMN OF THE DAY**    "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"  
LSB 892

**SERMON "Favorite Stories" Matthew 14:13-21**

**CREED** *Nicene Creed*

**People:** I believe in one God,  
          the Father Almighty,  
          maker of heaven and earth  
          and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
          the only-begotten Son of God,  
          begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
          God of God, Light of Light,  
          very God of very God,  
          begotten, not made,  
          being of one substance with the Father,  
          by whom all things were made;  
          who for us men and for our salvation came  
down from heaven  
          and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the  
virgin Mary  
          and was made man;  
          and was crucified also for us under Pontius  
Pilate.  
          He suffered and was buried.  
          And the third day He rose again according to



**the Scriptures**

**and ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge  
both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Lord and giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son together is  
worshiped and glorified,**

**who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and  
apostolic Church,**

**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission  
of sins,**

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

### **OFFERING**

**“ Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” LSB 805**

### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor: Let us go to our heavenly Father with prayers,  
praise, and thanksgiving.**

**For those who have not truly heard the grace offered  
to all through the everlasting covenant given to  
David, but rely on the letter of the Law, expecting  
justice instead of mercy, let us pray to the Lord.**

**People: Open their ears to hear and move people of faith  
to call them to turn to Your gracious invitation.**



Pastor: For the Holy Spirit's work through Word and Sacrament to instill and strengthen the faith of all who call out to God in hope and trust, let us praise the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, heavenly Father, through Christ our Lord, for the gift of faith by the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: With one another and our brothers and sisters around the world, for all God's promises, which endure forever, let us thank our gracious God.

**People: Thanks be to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for Your steadfast love.**

Pastor: For all who face this day with little or no food, with poor shelter and tattered clothes, without caring support or necessities, dealing with ongoing oppression and persecution, struggling through long-term ills and sudden man-made or natural disasters, [*including . . .*], that our gracious God would visit, relieve, strengthen, and surround them with caring people and the precious Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

**People: Hear our prayers for them and the longing in their hearts, gracious Lord. Use us and our gifts to be part of Your answer to their fervent prayers.**

Pastor: We bring all these things to You in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**



## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### **PREFACE**     *2 Timothy 4:22*

**Pastor:**        The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:**        Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:**        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

### **PROPER PREFACE**

**Pastor:**    It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who by His death and resurrection opened to all people Your gracious promises of eternal life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for the boundless mercy and grace You have shown in sending Your Son to bear our sins and be our Savior. Gathered in His name, we pray that You would strengthen us to rely not on our own strength, but on Your love and forgiveness. Strengthen and guide us to invite others to Your grace in the way we think, speak, and act. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**     *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark  
14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;  
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for



the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26;*  
*Revelation 22:20*

**Pastor:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pastor:** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** 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.

## **PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
People: Amen.

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“Lamb of God” LSB 550  
“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” LSB 700

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You  
have again shown us forgiveness and love in the  
precious gift of Your Son's body and blood.

People: **Grant us strengthened faith through this  
Sacrament that we exhibit in our life Your  
gracious invitation to eternal life for all who  
believe;**



**Pastor:** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**     *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:** **Amen.**

**HYMN**            “I want to Walk as a Child of the Light” LSB 411

**DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:**            Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**



## **Membership Covenant**

**In order for the congregation and the Leadership to deal effectively with issues in the congregation, the following guidelines are to be followed:**

- 1. All members affirm their right to express their opinions about the life and ministry of the congregation.**
- 2. The congregation operates with a direct democracy form of government that allows members to share their opinions directly with the pastor, leadership, committees, and congregational meetings.**
- 3. When members of the congregation express an opinion to leadership, the leadership person shall ask, "What would you like me to do with this information?"**
- 4. When members of the congregation express an opinion to a leadership team member, the member shall be invited to bring the information/opinion to the next council meeting. The time and date shall be given.**
- 5. If the member does not wish to appear in person, the leadership member shall ask the member for permission to use their name in reporting. If permission is not given, the leadership member shall say, "I'm sorry, but I will not be able to report this to the council since we do not deal with anonymous letters or comments."**
- 6. If permission is given, the leadership member shall report the information/opinion to the leadership team and use the members name.**
- 7. At his/her discretion, a leadership member may ask that the member refer this issue to another member for presentation.**
- 8. Each issue shall be placed on the agenda and written in the minutes along with the action taken by the leadership. Action may include: "Received as information," "Pastor and /or President to visit member and report at next meeting," etc.**
- 9. Opinions may be shared in writing with the council and shall be handled in the above mentioned manner if the letter or statement is signed. While the covenant uses language regarding the leadership team, the same procedures apply to all boards and committees. May the Spirit give us grace to grow as a healthy congregation**



## In our prayers we pray especially for:

- Peace and Harmony in our church.
- Unspoken Prayers
- Shirley Davis she is started Chemo July 18<sup>th</sup>
- Safe Travels for everyone that is travelling.

## For our loved ones with cancer:

Mary Ackerman, Joe Koreis, Lisa McCloud, Rachel Snyder, Barb Peter, Louise, Julie Colgan, Eric Ragot, Jaclyn Freeborn, Robert Phillips, Shirley Davis.



Shirley Clements 8/1  
William Pitcher 8/7  
Dennis Smeback 8/8  
Judy Sinclair 8/11

Reader: Teri Sanchez

Ushers: Russ Hibdon & Steve Sinclair

Counters: Carol & Chris

Next Week 8/13 /2023

Reader: Laurie Follansbee

Ushers: Lee Groth & Josh Follansbee

Elder: John Cox

Counters: Carmen & Laurie