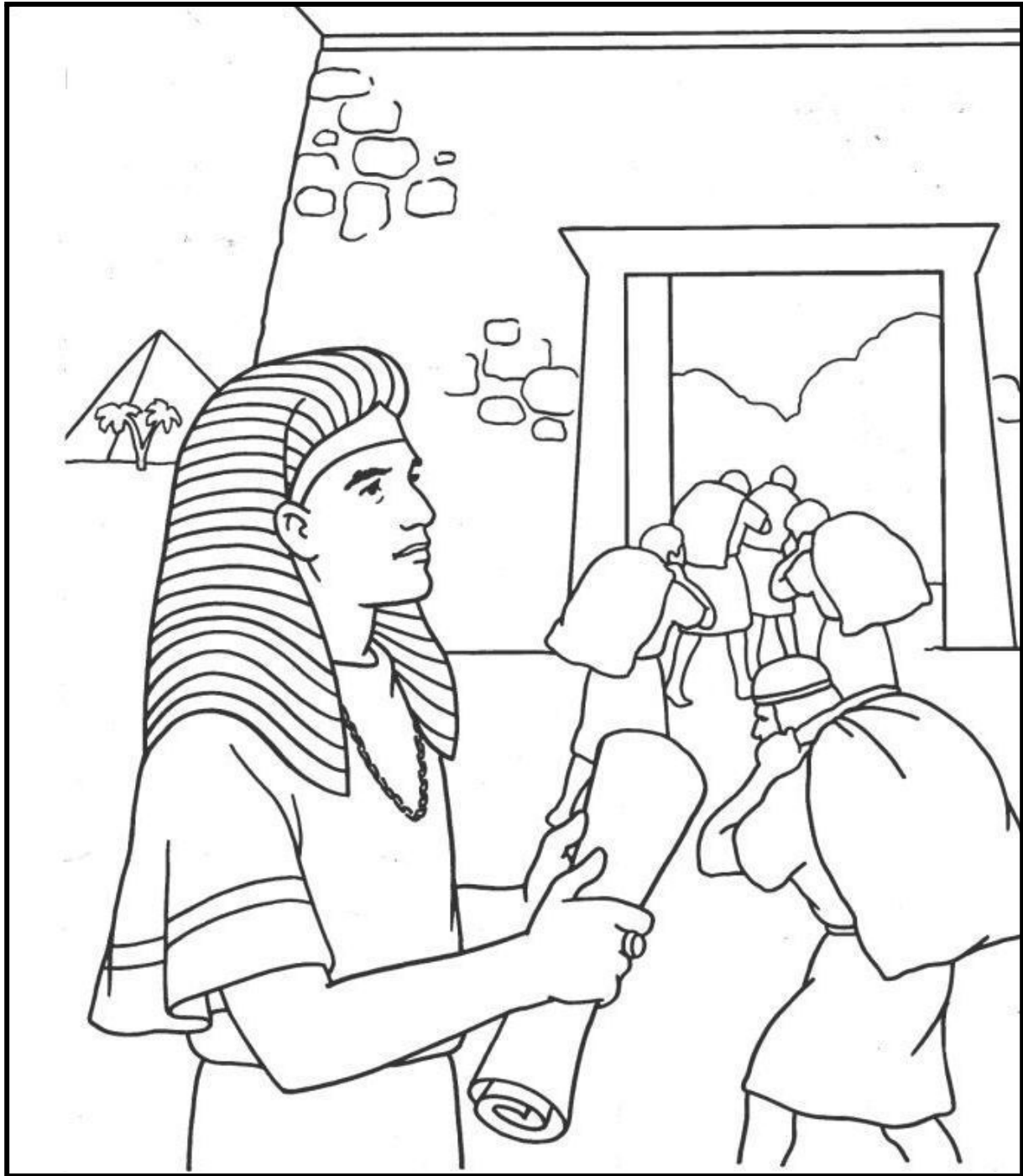


† Pentecost IX †

“Jesus Returns Through His Spirit”



“We Will Be Pharaoh’s Slaves”

Genesis 46—50

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”

Saint Luke Lutheran Church | July 23, 2023

Invocation

Father, Creator of all heaven and earth, ✠ **you save us from our selfishness and make us your children through Baptism, Repentance, and Communion.** ✠ Through your Son Jesus, who is your Word embodied in flesh, ✠ **we die to Civilization's Way of arrogance, fear, and violence.** ✠ Through your Holy Spirit, who dwells among us and within us, ✠ **we are reborn in Jesus's Way of faith, hope, and love.**

Processional Song ✠ GC2 515 “We Are the Light of the World”

♫ *Blessed are they who are poor and empty, theirs is the kingdom of God. Bless us, O Lord, make us poor and empty; bless us, O Lord, our God.* ♪ (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN: ♫ *We are the light of the world, may our light shine before all, that they may see the good that we do, and give glory to God.* ♪

♫ *Blessed are they who are meek and humble, they will inherit the earth. Bless us, O Lord, make us meek and humble; bless us O Lord our God.* ♪ (REFRAIN)

♫ *Blessed are they who thirst for your justice, they will be satisfied. Bless us, O Lord, hear our cry for justice; bless us, O Lord, our God.* ♪ (REFRAIN)

♫ *Blessed are they who show others mercy, they will know mercy, too. Bless us, O Lord, may we show your mercy; bless us, O Lord, our God.* ♪ (REFRAIN)

♫ *Blessed are they who live your way of peace, they are the children of God. Bless us, O Lord, make us peaceful people; bless us, O Lord, our God.* ♪ (REFRAIN)

Pentecost Litany

Jesus has ascended to the Father, ✠ **but he has not left us as orphans.**

He has begun to return as he promised, ✠ **by pouring out his Spirit upon us.**

He dwells among us and all creation ✠ **and he has made us the Body of Christ.**

† Baptism — The Way of Faith †

Surrendering to the Creator

Jesus says, “You must be born again through water and the Spirit ✠ **to enter the Creator's Kingdom.**” ✠ Father, Son, & Holy Spirit ✠ **I surrender to you all of my mind, all of my heart, and all of my body and soul.**

(we make the sign of the cross—touching forehead, heart, and shoulders)

Jesus says, “If you love your self, family, or nation more than me, ✠ **you cannot be my disciple.** ✠ If you hold onto your life, you will destroy it, ✠ **but if you let go of your life, you will save it.**” ✠ Father, into your hands ✠ **I commit my spirit.** ✠ Father, not my will, ✠ **but your will be done.** ♫ *Take my life and all my heart, take my whole soul ev'ry part. Take my mouth and let it be, filled with your truth and mercy. ♫ Take my hands and let them love, with compassion from above. Take my feet and let them go, on the Way that Jesus showed. ♫ Take my money and fam'ly, give me faith and set me free. Take my life and teach me how to love all creation now.* ♪ (LSB 783)

Prayer of the Day

Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them."

(the Christ candle is lit to remind us that Jesus is coming among us)

♩ *We are filled with the Spirit, and we follow the Lord, We are filled with the Spirit, and we follow the Lord, And we pray that all creation may one day be restored. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.* ♪ (GC2 728)

The Lord Jesus be with you. ✠ **And also with you.** ✠ Let us pray. Heavenly Father, help us to not make ourselves slaves by trusting in anyone other than you to provide. In the name of Jesus, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

Listening to the Creator

Jesus says, "Come to me, all of you who are tired and burdened. Learn from me and practice my teachings and you will find rest for your souls. Those who listen will live." ♪ *Listen to what Jesus teaches, listen to him every day. Listen as you walk and follow, listen also as you pray. Listen to him every moment, listen with an open mind. Listen to find peace and patience, listen so you will be kind.* ♪ (LSB 770)

Remembering the Saints & Martyrs ✠ Potamiana & Basilides

Father, we give you thanks for the great cloud of saints and witnesses who have gone before us and have embodied the Way of Jesus. Today we remember Potamiana who was arrested in Egypt and submerged in boiling oil for not renouncing her faith in Jesus in 205 AD. She befriended the officer who led her to her execution, Basilides, and after her death he was so moved that he declared himself a Christian and was beheaded. Help us learn from their faith and example, **Amen.**

Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 36*



♩ *Your love, O Lord, extends to | the heavens,*
* *your faithfulness and justice reach | to the skies.*
O Lord, you preserve all humans and | animals.
* *all creatures take refuge | in your hands.*
They are all filled with your | provision,
* *and you give them to drink | of your joy.*
For with you is the fountain | of all life,
* *and with you is | all true light.* ♪

Law & Prophets ✠ Genesis 47:13-31

The Prophets reading comes from Genesis 47. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**
We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

Epistle ✠ Romans 4:1-12

The Epistle reading comes from Romans 4. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**
We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

† Holy Gospel † Matthew 13:31-52

We stand for the word of Jesus. ♪ *We praise our Lord Jesus who comes with healing in his hand. He frees us who are slaves of death, he raises us to stand. He fills us with his love and truth, he gives us all we need. We come to listen now and on his living word to feed.* ♪ (tune: LSB 444)

The holy Gospel comes from Matthew 13. ☩ **Blessed are those who listen to Jesus.**
If you have ears to hear, then listen! ☩ **Lord Jesus, help us to practice your Word.**

Message

† Repentance — The Way of Hope †

Confronting Our Past

Jesus says, “I know everything you do. Pay attention and remove the log from your own eye. I have called you out of Civilization. Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!”

(silence for reflection)

For placing our self, family, and nation above you, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For trusting the technology and works of human hands, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For being hypocrites who misrepresent your name, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For not living in restful peace with land, animals, and each other, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For not respecting our fathers and mothers in Christ, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For being violent to our bodies and your creation, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For not keeping our sexuality within marriage, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For trying to possess and control your creation, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For not being vulnerable and truthful with others, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

For competing with others and not being content with our lives, ☩ **Father, forgive us.**

Father, turn us back to walking in your Spirit. ♪ *Lord Father we have wandered and hidden from your face. Rescue your whole creation with your almighty grace. From trust in wealth and weapons and blindness to your Way, save us and all creation with your own hands, we pray.* ♪ (LSB 449)

Jesus says, “I discipline those I love. Come out of Civilization, my people, so you will not share in its sins and plagues. Not one stone will be left standing, it will all be torn down.” Will you turn away from Civilization’s Way of arrogance, fear, and violence and reaffirm your Baptism into Jesus’s Way of faith, hope, and love? ☩ **Yes, I renounce Civilization’s Way and pledge to follow Jesus.** ☩ Jesus says, “Put your sword away. If you live by the sword, you will die by the sword. But if you forgive others, your heavenly Father will forgive you.” Will you release all debts and grudges that you hold against anyone—including yourself and every member of this church? ☩ **Yes, I forgive all those who have hurt me, frustrated me, or owe me anything.** ☩ Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven. Get up and walk. Go and sin no more.” ☩ **Amen.**

Song of the Day ☩ “*God We Long For Our Own Comfort*” (tune: LSB 803)

♪ *God, we long for our own comfort; we want life that's full and sure — Stones to bread, right now, abundant; we forget what shall endure. When we look to things around us for our pleasure, out of greed, God, we pray that you'll remind us: it's your Word we really need.* ♪

- ♫ *We confess we push the limits; faith gives way to testing pride: "Be dramatic, make a statement, prove that God is on your side." When we're tempted to show others that you'll do what we request, God, remind us to be humble — not to put you to the test. ♫*
- ♫ *We bow down to what is evil to achieve the things we choose; We don't see when sin is subtle; we don't see what we might lose. May we look again to Jesus who, though tempted, turned from wrong. By your Spirit, guide and lead us; keep us watchful, faithful, strong. ♫*

Waiting on the Creator

♫ *Our Father, bring your Rule and will to earth. Give what we need for worry-free rebirth. Bring peace among us and forgive us too, as we forgive and love in all we do. ♫ Protect us from all things that will mislead. Keep us from selfishness, violence, and greed. We place our lives into your hands this day. Teach us to listen and to walk your Way. Amen. ♫ (LSB 637)*

(incense is lit to symbolize our prayers ascending to God and as its smell fills this space we are reminded of his presence among us)

Jesus says, "Learn from the birds. They do not store up for tomorrow and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Do not fear or worry about tomorrow. Not a hair from your head will be destroyed. Seek only your Father's Kingdom and he will give you everything you need." *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♫ Lord have mercy. ♫*

Father, set us apart from Civilization in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. Take charge of our lives and all those in authority. Use everything that happens to bring your good judgment and healing upon all creation. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♫ Lord have mercy. ♫* Father, provide for us, protect us, and heal our brokenness. Especially this day we remember Charlene Sargent, John Espino, Jan & Paul Zugelder, Carolyn Davis, Celise Sims, Dale Bridge, Cindy Ford's birthday, and those we name in our hearts... Father, give us exactly what we need this day and teach us to be content with that. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♫ Lord have mercy. ♫* Father, forgive us and free us from all that enslaves us. Help us to walk away from our anxieties, traumas, and addictions to Civilization's Way, so we may walk in Jesus's Way. Empower us to love and forgive everyone, even our enemies, in the same way you have loved and forgiven us. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♫ Lord have mercy. ♫* Father, humble us and remind us that we have no strength apart from you. Stay with us in times of difficulty and save us from our selfishness. Comfort us in the certain hope that all your creation and children will be renewed and raised from the dead. *In peace, let us pray to the Lord, ♫ Lord have mercy. ♫*

Father, help us to let go and surrender everything into your loving hands, trusting that you are working all things to the good of those who love you. **Our Father in heaven, may your name be holy, may your Kingdom come, and may your will be done—on earth as in heaven. Give us this day what we need for today. Forgive us in the same way that we forgive others. Do not abandon us when we are tempted, but pull us away from what is evil. For all authority, power, and glory are yours—now and forever. Amen.**

† Communion — The Way of Love †

Sharing the Lord's Peace

Jesus says, “Make peace with each other ☩ **before you come to the Lord's altar.**
By this all people will know that you are my disciples: ☩ **if you love each other.**”

Offering

Jesus says, “Do not store up things on earth. To be my disciple you must give up everything you own. Sell your possessions and give to the poor.” We offer all we have to the Lord, while also offering gifts to support this communion.

Musical Offering

Pledge of Allegiance

☩ *We come before you, Lord, to bow. We lay our lives at your feet now. All things are yours, we own nothing! Our lives are in your hands this day. Give what we need, O Lord, we pray. Please protect us, provide for us! Watch over us, ever with us, always love us!* ☩ (LSB 816) Jesus says, “If you pledge your allegiance to me before others, then I will pledge my allegiance to you before my heavenly Father.”

I pledge allegiance to one God, the all-powerful Father, who is the Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I pledge allegiance to one Lord, Jesus Christ, who is God's only Son. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He loved and he suffered. Under Pontius Pilate, he was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he was raised from the dead. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. He is coming to judge the living and the dead. His Kingdom will not end.

I pledge allegiance to the Holy Spirit, who is the giver of life, the holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the baptism for forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life in the age to come. Amen.

Thanksgiving

The Lord Jesus be with you. ☩ **And also with you.** ☩ Lift up your hearts! ☩ **We lift them to the Lord!** ☩ Let us give thanks to our Creator! ☩ **It is right to give him thanks and praise!** ☩ Praise and thanks are due to you, Father, ☩ **for you provide, protect, love, and renew us and all creation!** ☩ We are grateful that you bring heaven and earth together through Jesus's love for all creation!

☩ *Joyful, joyful we adore you, Creator of all that lives! Earth and heaven praise and thank you, for your love and all you give! Fields and forests, fruit trees and birds, thunderstorms and starry skies, seas and mountains, and grazing herds, praising you who never dies!* ☩ (LSB 803)

† Words of Our Lord Jesus †

On the night before our Lord Jesus was crucified, he revealed his Way of rescuing all creation from the Way of Civilization. Before supper, Jesus humbly washed the feet of his students and enemies. Jesus said, ☩ **“Follow my example. Love each other, even your enemies, in the same way I have loved you.”** ☩ During supper, Jesus then took

the bread and broke it. He gave it to them, saying, “This is my body which is being given for you. Do the same for each other in my memory.” After supper, Jesus then took the cup and gave thanks. He said, “This is my blood which is being shed for you, for the forgiveness of all of your sin. Do the same for each other in my memory.”

✠ *When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death Lord Jesus. So as we share this feast may we, remember your love for us. Help us now to follow your Way, and to walk in your goodness. Always make us one in you.* ✠ (LSB 384)

Invitation to the Table

Jesus says, “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood is united with me and will be raised from the dead.” We gather around Jesus’s table, ✠ **trusting that he is truly giving his whole self to us through this bread, wine, and communion.** ✠ As we receive the Lord’s gifts, ✠ **we commit to laying down our lives for each member of this church in the Way that Jesus has laid down his life for us.** ✠ We invite all Baptized members of the holy universal Church, who give their undivided allegiance to Jesus and are at peace with their brothers and sisters in Christ, to join us in this mysterious communion between the Creator and his creation.

✠ *Oh come Lord Jesus come and dine and give yourself through bread and wine. Feed us so we may have new birth, and bring your rule ov’r all the earth. Come now, come now! Our Lord Jesus and bring your healing love to us!* ✠ (LSB 357)

Sharing the Bread & Wine

Sent to “Do the Same in My Memory”

Christ Jesus, as we feed on you ✠ **we are made members of your Body.** ✠ We no longer live for ourselves ✠ **but you, Lord Christ, live within us.** ✠ As you have laid down your body and blood for us, ✠ **help us to do the same for each other in your memory.** ✠ Jesus says, “Go and live this truth: ✠ **The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!** ✠ Heal the sick, raise the dead, ✠ **cleanse the unclean, and cast out evil spirits.** ✠ Freely you have received from the Lord, ✠ **now freely you must give.** ✠ I am sending you like sheep among wolves, ✠ **but do not fear, take up your cross and follow me.”**

✠ *Give us mouths to sing your glory, hearts your teachings to obey, hands that live your love that fills us, feet to walk your holy Way. Holy Spirit, light-creator, may the truth which you do send, fill our lives with loving mercy and trusting peace without end!* ✠ (LSB 578)

Blessing

Jesus says, “Blessed are you in your poverty and suffering, for you are in the Creator’s Kingdom. Blessed are you in your humility, for you will inherit the earth. Blessed are you when you are merciful and peaceful, for you will find mercy and peace.” ✠ **Amen.**

Recessional Song ✠ *“Who Is Like This Generation” (tune: LSB 848)*

✠ *Who is like this generation and to what do they compare? They’re like children who are saying, “We’ve played songs and you don’t care! You won’t join us in our dancing! You won’t join the games we bring!” As we dwell on our own doing, God, we miss the song you sing.* ✠

✠ *We have longed for wealth and greatness—to be beautiful and strong. We have*

turned our eye from justice, but you would not go along. We have moved with great ambition, our position to enhance. Then we've viewed you with suspicion, when you would not join our dance. ♪

♪ When we scorn what's good for others till they hunger and they thirst, When we hurt your sons and daughters, when we put our comfort first, When our songs are loud and hollow, when pride rises up and roars, Show us what it means to follow when the pipe and dance are yours. ♪

♪ Christ, remind us what you taught us: you said, "Blessed are the meek." And your dance proclaims forgiveness; God's own love is what you speak! May the song of love you've given be the music that we hear; Send us dancing for your kingdom as we seek to serve you here. ♪

Saint Luke's Mission Focus

F asting	C ommuning
O bserving	H ealing
L istening	R esting
L etting-go	I mitating
O beying	S haring
W orking	T hanksgiving

* Faith & Film: "The New World" Jul 24, 31 @ DG

* Scripture Study: "The Shepherd of Hermas" Wed, 6 pm @ DG

Weekly Calendar | July 23 - 30, 2023

Sun, Jul 23	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy "We Will Be Pharaoh's Slaves" Genesis 46—50
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text-of-the-Day Study
Mon, Jul 24	6:00 pm	Faith & Film: "The New World"
Wed, Jul 26	6:00 pm	Scripture Study: "The Shepherd of Hermas"
Sat, Jul 29	7-9 am	Breakfast & Devotion
Sun, Jul 30	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy "You Are Standing on Holy Ground" Exodus 1—4
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text-of-the-Day Study

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