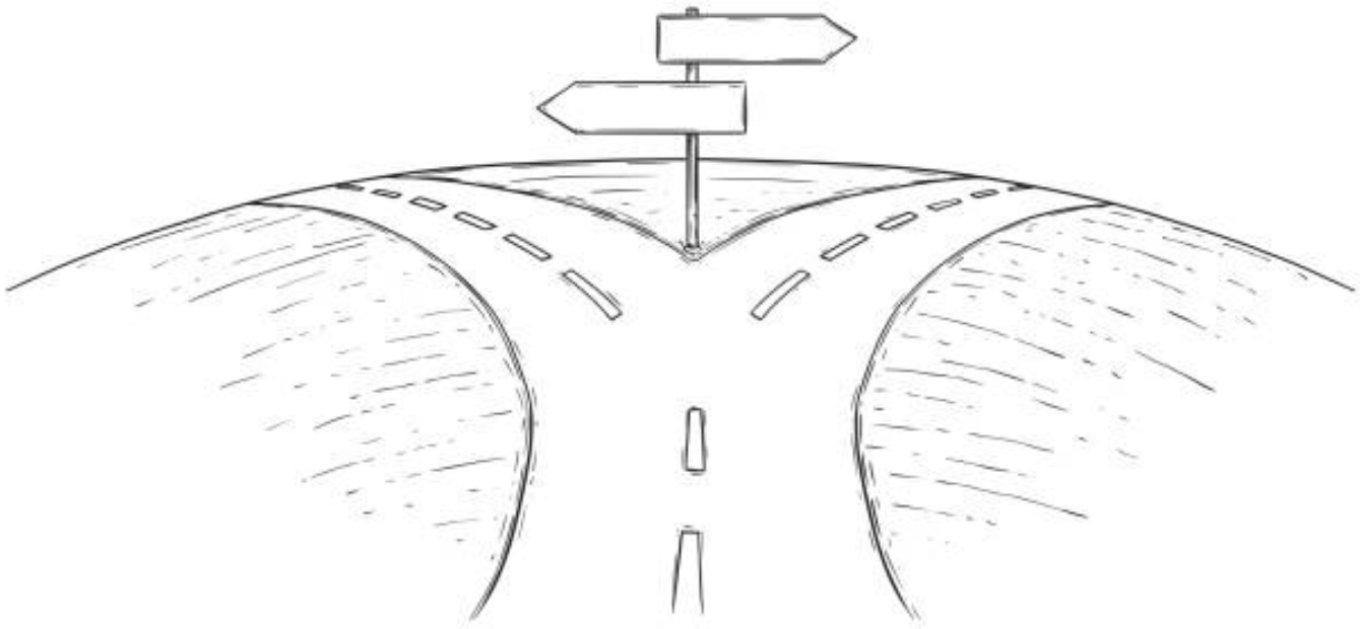


† Pentecost XV †

“Jesus Returns Through His Spirit”



“Life or Death”

Deuteronomy 29—30

✠ The Divine Liturgy ✠

“Love the Creator & His Creation Like Jesus”
Saint Luke Lutheran Church | September 3, 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 755 “*The Trumpet in the Morning*”

♫ *Ev'ry prison wall will crumble, ev'ry chain will fall away when we hear the trumpet sound in the morning. And the debts that stole our dreaming we will no more have to pay when we hear the trumpet sound in the morning.* ♪ (REFRAIN)

REFRAIN: ♪ *Lowly eyes shall be lifted, while the tyrants taste their fear, for that sound is both a gospel and a warning. When we rise as a people who proclaim that God is near, who will dare to sound the trumpet in the morning?* ♪

♫ *Then the rich will grasp at shadows for the land is God's alone, when we hear the trumpet sound in the morning. Ev'ry immigrant be welcome, all the homeless find a home, when we hear the trumpet sound in the morning.* ♪ (REFRAIN)

♫ *Come and join the great thanksgiving, take your neighbor by the hand and become the voice of freedom that will thunder through the land. Let the earth repose in sabbath while her children's hearts renew, and give back to God in justice what God's bounty gave to you.* ♪ (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 choose life everyday by choosing to obey your Word. 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 ✠ Maxima & Donatilla

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 Maxima and Donatilla, teenage girls in north Africa, who alone stood up for their faith when their village was forced to renounce Jesus. In 258 AD these young girls were brutally tortured before being thrown to the wild animals in the arena. The animals refused to attack them so the Roman officials had to finally behead them. Help us learn from their faith and example, **Amen.**

Chanted Psalm ✠ *Psalm 42*



♪ *As the deer longs for streams | of water,
* so my being longs for | you, my God.
My life thirsts for God, for the | living God,
* when can I go and | meet with God?
My tears have been my food | day and night,
* people say to me, “Where | is your God?”
By day the Lord directs his | love to me,
* at night his song | is with me. ♪*

Law & Prophets ✠ Deuteronomy 30:6-20

The Prophets reading comes from Deuteronomy 30. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.** We do not live on bread alone, ✠ **but on every word from the Lord.**

Epistle ✠ Romans 8:1-17

The Epistle reading comes from Romans 8. ✠ **Blessed are the ears that listen.**

We do not live on bread alone, ☩ **but on every word from the Lord.**

† Holy Gospel † Matthew 21:28-44

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 21. ☩ **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 ☩ “*All My Hope on God Is Founded*” (tune: LSB 621)

☩ ***All my hope on God is founded; he always my trust renews. Me through change and chance is guiding, only good and only true. God wants my heart, mind, life, and soul, to be given to him whole.*** ☩

- ♫ *Mortal wealth and earthly power, sword and crown betray our trust; though with care and work we build them, walls and cities fall to dust. But God's power, will never yield, he is my strength and my shield.* ♪
- ♫ *Daily does the almighty Giver, gen'rous gifts on us bestow; his great goodness never fails us, his word leads us where we go. Love always comes from his good hand; he gives life through his command.* ♪
- ♫ *God will restore all creation, all his creatures will be fed. He will never leave or forsake us, and he will raise all the dead. He sent Christ to call one and all, those who follow shall not fall.* ♪

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, Jan & Paul Zugelder, Carolyn Davis, John Espino, Kathy Polzkill, Celise Simms, 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.”

♫ *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)

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. ♫ *We fall down now before you, Jesus you are the Lord. We lay our crowns before you, by all the earth adored. We give you all of our lives, we will hold nothing back. For you gave us everything, there is nothing we lack. You are the true Lamb of God, you gave your life for all. Teach us now to live like lambs, to trust you as we fall.* ♫ (LSB 941)

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 ✠ **“God Send Your Prophets Here”** (tune: LSB 602)

♫ *God, send your prophets here, For all around we see The sinful, broken values of humanity. Accepting death and fear, The nations go to war And so deny that peace is worth our struggling for.* ♫

- ♪ *Send stewards of the earth, For it's becoming plain: This world we haven't cared for cries aloud in pain. Forgetting nature's worth, Consuming for today, We never realize what it is we throw away.* ♪
- ♪ *Send ones who love the poor, For leaders arm the lands; They buy their tanks and take the food from children's hands. With greed, we long for more While others cry for bread; Remind us that we can't be full till all are fed.* ♪
- ♪ *Who are your prophets here? We wonder, Lord, and search — And then we realize you are calling us, your church. Your kingdom, God, is near; You show what life can be! So by your Spirit may we answer, "Lord, send me!"* ♪

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: "Mass" Sep 4 @ DG
- * Faith & Film: "The Chosen" (Season 3) Sep 11, 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, Nov 6, 13, 20 @ DG
- * Scripture Study: "The Shepherd of Hermas" Wed, 6 pm @ DG

Weekly Calendar | September 3 - 10, 2023

Sun, Sep 3	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy "Life or Death" Deuteronomy 29—30
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text-of-the-Day Study
Mon, Sep 4	6:00 pm	Faith & Film: "Mass"
Wed, Sep 6	6:00 pm	Scripture Study: "The Shepherd of Hermas"
Thurs, Sep 7	6:00 pm	Choir
Sat, Sep 9	7-9 am	Breakfast & Devotion
Sun, Sep 10	9:30 am	Divine Liturgy "The Manna Stopped" Joshua 1—7
	10:45 am	Food & Fellowship Text-of-the-Day Study

Saint Luke Lutheran Church (722 Reynolds Ave) — www.stlukeskck.org
 Luke Kammrath, Pastor — luke.kammrath@gmail.com (913) 303-0977
 Marie Sasnett, Financial Deacon — marie.stlukes@gmail.com
 Marsha Oyer, Music — arbpe@sbcglobal.net
 Disciple Garden (DG): 3200 N 10th Street, Kansas City, KS 66104
 Donate Online Through Venmo: @StLukes-Church