

Fall 2024

September 1—October 27, 2024
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 6

Welcome to Lord of Life!

All are welcome here. We extend a special welcome to visitors. We're glad you joined us today!
The following information may help you in your worship experience and getting to know Lord of Life.

Communal words spoken and sung will be on the screen and/or in this bulletin. The bold text is spoken together. Songs/hymns can also be found (with music) in either Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) cranberry hymnal or All Creation Sings (ACS) purple hymnal. Both can be found under a chair near you.

Holy Communion is the Lord's Table and all are welcome, regardless of age. We celebrate the Eucharist (literally "thanksgiving") during worship every Sunday. Our bread is dairy, nut, and gluten-free; wine and juice are both available.

Children are welcome in this place! At baptism, we welcome people into God's family and the community of Lord of Life. Children of all ages are integral members of the Body of Christ, and have a place in our community that includes worship. Children learn by seeing, hearing, and experiencing worship with adults (not just their parents) who care about them. We embrace the sounds and activity that accompany them.

We have a few resources for parents:

PrayGround: Table up front with coloring supplies. Go with your child, sit near the table, or send them independently.

Activity Bags: great things to occupy busy hands during worship, located on the shelves just outside the sanctuary; ask an usher if you need help finding them.

Nursery (for children 0-5, 5-7 by exception): You can leave young children in the nursery. Our nursery attendant has been background checked. There is a sign-in sheet for security.

Narthex (Gathering/Entrance space): Benches, rocking chairs, or space to move around.

Offering is an act of worship and a privilege to return to God a portion of what God has given us. If you are a guest, do not feel obligated to give, but for those comfortable participating, please join us in this act of worship. Offerings given today are joyfully used for outreach to the greater church/community and for the work and ministry of Lord of Life. You may donate by using the QR code that leads you to the website (www.lordoflife.org), by mail, using direct deposit with your bank, or RMD / QCD / or stock gift (in consultation with your financial advisor).

If at anytime you are uncomfortable standing, you are free to remain seated.

If you are worshiping from home, you are invited to participate, not just observe. Please prepare your own sacred space for worship. You might include some candles, a cross, and water for remembering your baptism. Please join worship in-person to celebrate Communion with the congregation! If that is not possible, please reach out and we can have a member of our Care Team arrange a visit with Communion.

*Lord of Life is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
You can learn more at www.elca.org.*

Narrative Lectionary Readings

FALL 2024 - YEAR 3 of the Narrative Lectionary – God’s Promise No Matter What

September 1 - 15th Sunday after Pentecost - Creation & Fall

Genesis 4:2b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8, 21-24

September 8 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost – God’s Work Our Hands worship at First Lutheran Kennewick

September 15 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost - God’s Promise to Abraham

Genesis 15:1-6

September 22 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost - God Works through Joseph

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

September 29 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost – The Promise of Passover

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

October 6 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost - Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-14

October 13 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost - God Answers Hannah

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

October 20 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost - God’s Promise to David

2 Samuel 7:1-17

October 27 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost - Solomon Dedicates the Temple

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43

GATHERING

Land Acknowledgement: Lord of Life Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Cayuse, Walla Walla, Palouse, Wanapaum, and Yakama peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

PRELUDE

The people gather for worship. Consider where you worship today and how it will facilitate a meaningful experience of what God has for you today. Take a few moments to breathe and center yourself to be present. Please put your device on silent, and set it aside so you can focus during this time.

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are gathered here today as one body.

One people, one family, each one of us beloved of the same One God.

Here we will sing as one. Here we will pray as one.

Here we will share one meal at one common table that welcomes us all.

**Together, as one community, we will hear the stories of one Jesus,
who taught kindness, compassion, forgiveness, and love unto his dying breath.**

Here, we are encouraged and challenged by an untameable Holy Spirit.
The One Spirit who moves to both strengthen our convictions and soften our hearts.

**When we agree and when we are in conflict, this truth remains the same;
We are all a part of God's one holy family, bound together in love.
We belong to one another.**

Together we share this one calling:

**To be the hands and feet of Jesus in our world, to love others as we have been loved.
Lavishly. Completely. Without reservation or discrimination.**

We have been claimed and sealed as cherished children of the Three-in-One.

**Let us worship together in spirit and in truth,
bearing witness to Your hope in our world
as we learn to live as one.**

Amen.

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

It is in our confession that we realize and acknowledge our desire for God and our trust in God's mercy. It is in admitting the difficult and messy truth of our lives and of the world that we take our first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us join in our confession, first in silent prayer.

Silence for personal reflection

CONFESSION

God of Grace,

We have been unkind.

In our anxiety and fear, we have turned against one another.

We distrust and devalue one another.

We have reduced those we once loved to little more than which "side" they are on.

We have learned to see each other as enemies instead of neighbors and friends.

Forgive us, God, and teach us what it means to repent.

In the midst of anger and accusations,

Teach us to listen and seek to understand.

In the midst of division and deception,

Teach us to be kind and true.

May we not avoid our differences in the name of "keeping the peace,"

But by the help of your Spirit, help us to love one another through our differences,

Calling forth a true peace, your peace,

that heals, restores, and reconciles us all to one another,

Destroying walls and building bridges as living instruments of your love to all the world.

For the sake of Jesus, our brother and friend.

Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Beloveds, hear this good news. God's love is uniting and reconciling all of creation and you are included in that love.

Hear now that you have already been forgiven, by the work of the † triune God. And in that forgiveness, you are freed to love and serve others as you have first been loved.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

September 1 – ELW #733 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
September 15 – ELW #731 Earth and All Stars
September 22 – ELW #716 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace
September 29 – ELW #695 As Saints of Old
October 6 – ELW #513 Listen, God Is Calling
October 13 – ELW #672 Signs and Wonders
October 20 – ACS #979 Making Their Way
October 27 – Our God, We Are a Church Reformed (words at back of bulletin)

GREETING

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.

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Let us pray.

Sept 1

Lord God, grand architect of the universe, your design of creation was meant to be filled with relationships – between you and creation, between humankind and animals, between creatures and all of the universe. Show us how not to damage, but to create, not to demean, but to uplift, not to hate, but to love, so that your creation may be in harmony. Amen.

Sept 15

God of the covenant, as you promised Abraham descendants as numerous as the stars, you have also promised us that we might live under those stars as your people, faithful and loved. Show us how to live as your people, and how to nurture all your children with whom we share the same canopy of sky night after night. Amen.

Sept 22

God of dreams and hope, you spoke to Joseph in his dreams, and those dreams led him to great danger; yet you used the challenges in his life to save the lives of others. In you, no good thing is accidental. You work in us and through us, even when we are not aware of your presence. Help us to know that you are with us, and that only you are capable of turning all evil to good. Amen.

September 29

Lord God of grace and liberty, on the night of the Passover the sacrificed lamb became a sign of freedom and you freed the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. In Jesus, you freed all humanity from sin and death. Help us live into this new life; teach us to serve you in faithfulness as you have served us. To you we offer our gratefulness in the name of the one who turned slavery into new life, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Oct 6

Faithful God of an unfaithful people, the people of Israel doubted your power and turned to other gods to fulfill their needs. We too, turn to other gods, seeking acceptance, power, and independence. Show us how to live

humbly in you, and walk in your ways, in the name of the one who offered true power to all humanity, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Oct 13

God who answers prayer, we are blessed and humbled that you hear us when we call to you in our time of deepest longing. Receive our gratitude for your listening ear. Amen.

October 20

God of hope, you promised to make David's household great among the nations. Then you sent your son, Jesus, to transform this world so that all people are one in the great household of God. Show us how to live as your children, as sisters and brothers in your holy and blessed realm, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who will one day welcome us all home. Amen.

October 27

Lord God, whom no dwelling can contain, in this house we gather to call upon your mercy, to thank you for your goodness, and to praise your name forever. Hear the pleas that come to you from all corners of the earth, that our words may not fall upon deaf ears, but that you, our Creator, will respond with kindness, compassion, and grace, in the name of the one whose kingdom extends far beyond these walls, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Word

All Christian worship is biblical. We follow the Narrative Lectionary (NL), a relatively new approach to reading scripture, created by professors at Luther Seminary in 2010. The NL seeks to provide a narrative arc through scripture. Instead of a 3-year cycle like the RCL (Revised Common Lectionary, where Matthew, Mark, and Luke each get their own year, and John interspersed throughout), the NL is a 4-year cycle where every gospel gets its own year. The most dramatic difference is that there is only one reading, and it's not always from the gospels. The NL starts in Genesis and works through the early stories of God's people, hears from the prophets and reaches the gospel by Christmas, where it stays through Easter. After Easter we'll hear some post-resurrection accounts and stories of the early church through the Acts of the Apostles and the Epistles.

Hearing the proclamation of the Word is central to our worship experience. The Word is proclaimed throughout our worship, in our liturgy, prayers, sermon, hymns, and yes, scripture. You are invited to let go of the need to read along and simply listen, and let the Spirit lead your imagination and inspire your hearing.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

There is no children's message when we worship outside.

We end with this refrain:

All: You are a dearly loved child of God!

Children: And so are you!

SCRIPTURE ACCLAMATION

READING OF SCRIPTURE (The readings are printed at the back of this bulletin, sorted by date.)

A reading from...

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

September 1 – ACS #1049 Before the Waters Nourished Earth
September 15 – ACS #1027 Don't Be Afraid
September 22 – Joseph Was His Father's Favorite (words at the back of this bulletin)
September 29 – ELW #326 Bless Now, O God, the Journey
October 6 – ELW #605 Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive
October 13 – My Soul Rejoices in the Lord (words at the back of this bulletin)
October 20 – ELW #826 Thine The Amen
October 27 – ELW #504 A Mighty Fortress

WELCOMING NEW PARTNERS IN MINISTRY (October 13), ELW p. 234

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The creeds are a response to and a proclamation of the word. In our liturgy, sometimes we will use the creeds within church doctrine, and sometimes we use affirmations of faith, like this one, that use modern language to articulate our beliefs. Sometimes new words open up new pathways for naming and claiming what we believe. This affirmation is posted on the Eastwood Uniting Church in Australia, with credit to Ian Tozer (1997 UCA Assembly).

Let us affirm our faith in God together.

**We believe in God the creator, who is always creating
and invites us to affirm and explore who we are,
with all our differences;
and who is the source of our faith.**

**We believe in God the Savior, revealed in the world as Jesus the Christ,
who died and is risen, the one Lord of the church.**

**We believe in God the Reconciler, the Holy Spirit,
who is always with us, bearing witness with our spirits,
that we are the children of God.**

**We believe that our smallness can never diminish God's vastness;
that our frailties can never overcome God's will for wholeness;
that our sin can never crush God's power for new life even in the face of death.**

**We believe, and in this belief, we need one another,
as a choir needs every voice and every part
for the harmony to be complete.**

**We believe - that in the Holy Spirit, in Jesus Christ and in the love of God -
we are one!**

We believe—And may our lives reflect our belief.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

These prayers are prepared weekly, so they are not included in this seasonal bulletin. They will be on the screen so that you may help voice them. This time of prayer reflects the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world. Generally, we include these categories:

- *for the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel;*
- *for the well-being of creation;*
- *for peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community;*
- *for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely;*
- *for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit;*

- for the congregation, and for special concerns.
- We also give thanks for those faithful departed, whose witness inspires us.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. Please be aware that we all have different comfort levels for this. The peace we share is a sign of God's mission of reconciliation among us and the reconciliation we have with one another in Christ Jesus.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Oct 27 – Built on The Rock, Arr. By J. Harold Moyer, Publ. Augsburg Fortress and Mark Foster Music Co. Text: 1958/Arrangement 1999.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the Life of LoL:

- Sept 15 – Blessing of Teachers
- Oct 6 – Blessing of Animals
- October 13, October 27 – Mission Moment: Stewardship
- Oct 20 – Presentation of Bibles

Meal

OFFERING

A collection of material goods for the church's mission, including the care of those in need, is a sign of the giving of our whole selves in grateful response for all God's gifts. We offer to God what God has first given us: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Your financial gifts for LoL can be placed in the offering box at the baptismal font, made electronically through our website (www.thelordoflife.org), sent in the mail, using direct deposit with your bank, or RMD / QCD / or stock gift (in consultation with your financial advisor). Please contact the Financial Secretary with questions.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, **all good gifts come from your kindness. We offer you this bread, wine, and money, the harvest of our time and labor. Make us wise stewards of all your gifts, and good neighbors to all so that your name may be exalted in all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right that we lift every voice and sing.*

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of hardship, you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In this season, you meet us through the reconciliation of your spirit and remind us of your unwavering faithfulness and mercy.

And so with all your people, from all corners of the earth, and with the multitudes of the heavens, we lift our voices and join the unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en 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.

**This Preface is inspired by the hymn “Lift Every Voice and Sing” written by James Weldon Johnson by request around the turn of the 20th century, to honor Abraham Lincoln and his Emancipation Proclamation. By mid-century it had become known as the “Negro National Anthem.”*

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of mercy and abundance, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant, Jesus,

To preach words of hope to those who suffer,

To share meals with the outcasts and the despised,

And to free those enslaved by prejudice and sin.

On the night before he died, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks and he broke it. He gave it to his friends saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the promise of new life. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup, we remember Jesus’s life among us;

His friendship with the outcasts, his eating with the sinners.

His healing for the sick, his care for the poor.

O God, send, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and wine,

That we who share this meal may become a holy communion, the body of Christ in the world.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Please use the version or language of your heart.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's table, as we receive the presence of Christ for us in bread and wine. This meal is for all regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, criminal record, or list of offenses.

When we are inside, make your way to the front using the side aisle. There will be bread, wine, and grape juice. A basket to collect used cups is in the center. After receiving the elements, return to your seat by the center aisle. If you have questions when you get up front, it is okay to ask. The bread is gluten-free, nut-free, dairy-free, and full of grace! The Meal may be brought to your seat if it would be helpful; please let the ushers know and they will notify the leaders.

When we are outside, we commune using the sealed cups at our seats so that no one has to risk a fall. The Communion cups are available at the usher table.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

- September 1 – n/a (outside)
- September 15 – ELW #837 Many and Great, O God
- September 22 – As We Eat This Bread (words at the back of this bulletin)
- September 29 – You Are My All in All (words at the back of this bulletin)
- October 6 – n/a (outside)
- October 13 – ACS #1015 As A Mother Comforts Her Child
- October 20 – ELW #492 Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup
- October 27 – ACS #970 We Come Now to Your Table

SENDING OF COMMUNION (September 22)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Life-giving God, **through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to share your love and kindness with others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Sending

BLESSING

Beloveds, as we leave this time together, may we be reminded that God is with us.
Where hearts are fearful and constricted, may God grant courage and hope.
Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and assurance.
Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination.
Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings of love and compassion.
Holy God, Creator, Redeemer, and Unifier, † bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

(Adapted from ELW In Times of Conflict, Crisis, Disaster)

SENDING HYMN

September 1 – ELW #771 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens
September 15 – ACS #1038 God, We Gather As Your People
September 22 – ELW #764 Have No Fear, Little Flock
September 29 – ELW #542 O Living Bread from Heaven
October 6 – ACS #985 Let Us Enter In
October 13 – ELW #419 For All the Faithful Women (v. 1, 4, 2, Last)
October 20 – ELW #311 Hail to the Lord's Anointed (v. 1, 2, 4)
October 27 - ELW #670 Build Us Up, Lord

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Try to be kind to one another. **We will. Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Music not found in hymnals

September 22—Hymn of the Day, Joseph Was His Father's Favorite
(Tune "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty" ELW # 777)

**Joseph was his father's favorite out of all his family there,
And his brothers did not like it when he got his coat to wear.
It was different from the others — brighter, bolder than the rest.
So he bragged to all his brothers that his father loved him best.**

**Joseph's nights were filled with dreaming; in his mind, he'd always win.
Soon his brothers started scheming so they could get rid of him.
In a pit they took and threw him, then they sold him. Who could save?
To a land where no one knew him, he was taken as a slave.**

**Joseph, dreamer, there in prison saw a famine on the way.
So his wondrous gift of vision set him free and saved the day.
When his brothers came in hunger, begging, "Help us! Give us food,"
Joseph told them, "Weep no longer! "God intended this for good."**

**Soon the family reunited; so began new, joyful days.
And through Joseph, we're reminded God can work in wondrous ways.
God, we trust in you to guide us when we cannot see your plans.
Always, always you're beside us; all of life is in your hands.**

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September 22 – Communion, As We Eat This Bread

As we eat this bread and we drink this cup, we're be -
com-ing the bod - y of Christ. Come and fill our hearts so we'll
dream your dreams and your king-dom will come through our lives.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff contains the melody for the second line, featuring two triplet markings over the first two measures. The third staff contains the melody for the third line, also featuring two triplet markings over the first two measures. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

Text and music: Stephanie Spellers
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September 29 – Communion, You Are My All in All

Verse 1

**You are my strength when I am weak, you are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all
Seeking You as a precious jew'l, Lord to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all**

Chorus

**Jesus Lamb of God, worthy is Your name
Jesus Lamb of God, worthy is Your name**

Verse 2

**Taking my sin, my cross my shame, rising again I bless Your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up, when I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all**

Dennis Jernigan, © 1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc., CCLI #11458374

October 13—Hymn of the Day, My Soul Rejoices in the Lord
(Tune "O Day of Rest and Gladness" ELW # 521)

**My soul rejoices in the Lord; my God gives strength to me.
I feel my heart within me soar at God's great victory.
O God, you are the Holy One! You are the Rock I trust.
I sing with joy what you have done — for you've delivered us.**

**O God, you turn the world around and make things fresh and new.
The proud and mighty are cast down; the poor find life in you.
See! Those who ate till they were stuffed are searching now for bread,
while those who never had enough feast at your table spread.**

**The burdens that we long have known by grace are cast away.
You lift the poor to sit on thrones and bring a just, new day.
The ones who grieve what might have been are finding ways to be
the blessing-bearers, loving kin, in your community.**

**This song was Hannah's joyful shout of wonder and surprise.
Young Mary, too, would sing it out, that you change people's lives.
May we remember all you do — and your surprising ways.
May acts of love and justice, too, grow from our songs of praise.**

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October 27 – Gathering Hymn, Our God, We Are a Church Reformed
(Tune “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” ELW # 886)

**Our God, we are a church reformed, A church reforming still:
We long to grow in your true Word, And follow more your will.**

**How awesome is your sovereign rule; You reign from heav’n above.
Yet you knelt down in Jesus Christ, In sacrificial love.**

**In love, you bring your people here And call your church to you,
That we may know salvation's joy And serve in all we do.**

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Fall Readings 2024 September 1 – October 27

SEPTEMBER 1 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost - CREATION & FALL

Genesis 4:2b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8, 21-24

^{4b}In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the LORD God formed a human from the dust of the ground, and breathed into their nostrils the breath of life; and the human became a living being. ¹⁵The LORD God took the human and put them in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the human, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

³Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. ⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and the woman hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

²¹And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man and the woman, and clothed them.

²²Then the LORD God said, “See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— ²³therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

SEPTEMBER 15 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost - God’s Promise to Abraham

Genesis 15:1-6

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and

the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

SEPTEMBER 22 - 18th Sunday after Pentecost - God Works through Joseph

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

Chapter 37

³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

⁵Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I dreamed. ⁷There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

^{17b} Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams." ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." ²²Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" — that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.

²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. ²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

²⁹When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes. ³⁰He returned to his brothers, and said, "The boy is gone; and I, where can I turn?" ³¹Then they took Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat, and dipped the robe in the blood. ³²They had the long robe with sleeves taken to their father, and they said, "This we have found; see now whether it is your son's robe or not." ³³He recognized it, and said, "It is my son's robe! A wild animal has devoured him; Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces." ³⁴Then Jacob tore his garments, and put sackcloth on his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

Chapter 50

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

SEPTEMBER 29 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost – The Promise of Passover

Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

Chapter 12

¹The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people

who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

Chapter 13

¹The LORD said to Moses: ²Consecrate to me all the firstborn; whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites, of human beings and animals, is mine.

³Moses said to the people, "Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the LORD brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten. ⁴Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out. ⁵When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this observance in this month. ⁶Seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festival to the LORD. ⁷Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen in your possession, and no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory. ⁸You shall tell your child on that day, 'It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

OCTOBER 6 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost – Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-14

¹When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ²Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." ⁶They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" ⁹The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹²Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" ¹⁴And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

October 13th – 21st Sunday after Pentecost - God Answers Hannah

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

Chapter 1

⁹After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. ¹⁰She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. ¹¹She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

¹⁹They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

Chapter 2

¹Hannah prayed and said,

"My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in my God.

My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory."

²"There is no Holy One like the LORD,
no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God."

³Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed."

⁴The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength."

⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.

The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn."

⁶The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts."

⁸He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.

For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's,
and on them he has set the world."

⁹"He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;
for not by might does one prevail."

¹⁰The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered;
the Most High will thunder in heaven.

The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king,
and exalt the power of his anointed."

October 20 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost - God's Promise to David

2 Samuel 7:1-17

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."
⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹²When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. ¹⁵But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. ¹⁷In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

October 27 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost - Solomon Dedicates the Temple

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:27-30, 41-43

Chapter 5

¹ Now King Hiram of Tyre sent his servants to Solomon, when he heard that they had anointed him king in place of his father; for Hiram had always been a friend to David. ²Solomon sent word to Hiram, saying, ³You know that my father David could not build a house for the name of the LORD his God because of the warfare with which his enemies surrounded him, until the LORD put them under the soles of his feet. ⁴But now the LORD my God has given me rest on every side; there is neither adversary nor misfortune. ⁵So I intend to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD said to my father David, 'Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, shall build the house for my name.'

Chapter 8

²⁷But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

⁴¹Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name ⁴²— for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm — when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, ⁴³then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.