

St. Luke Lutheran Church

1025 The Dalles Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (408) 736-9216
The Rev. Dr. Robert McKee

Evangelical Lutheran Worship
17th Sunday after Pentecost

Setting IV
October 1, 2017

“AUTHORITY AND GRACE”

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE. ASK ANY USHER.

Dear Members & Guests - Welcome to Worship!

God has greatly blessed us with your presence here today. Thank you for responding to his invitation.

If you have a prayer request, bright yellow forms are located on the back of the pews. They are collected during Offering in this morning's worship. You will also find pew pads in each pew, as it is passed to you during the service, we ask that all visitors & members sign in.

Name tags are available in the back of the church. Please wear your name tag to assist those of us with failing memories to remember your name!

SERVING US THIS MORNING

Ministers: All of the Members of this Congregation!

The Rev. Dr. Robert McKee – Pastor
Secretary: Letty Lucero
Office Phone Line: 408-736-9216

The Rev. Gary Berkland – Visitation Pastor
Communications Coordinator: Janet Riddell
Fax Line: 408-736-6828

Website: www.st-luke-church.org

Preschool Director: Erin Rossetta

Preschool Phone Line: 408-730-0365

Preschool Email: AmazingCreationsPreschool@yahoo.com

Acolyte: Kevin Rubio

Crucifer: Erin Peters

Assistant Minister: Dawna Anderson

Lector(s): Sally Hedman, Danae Moreno

Children's Message: Erin Cassidy

Eucharistic Assistant(s): Lisa Pierce, Erin Peters

Greeter(s) - Front Door: John Krogman & Mary Hendrickson

Greeter(s) - Side Door: Al Neubieser & Sally Hedman

Ushers: John Krogman, John Dhanaraj

Altar Guild: Laura Dhanaraj & Wendy Callahan

Background Worship: Beth Stauter

Contemporary Worship Leader: Joe Howard

Worship Team: Joe Howard, Seth Henderson, Paul Mitchell, Claudia Zichterterman, Deb Mandac and Ron Zichterterman.

Director of Music: Claudia Zichterterman

Organist: Claudia Zichterterman

Choir Director: Chris Frye

Bell Choir Director: Wil Mandac

Sound-Computer Tech: Brad Sime & Francis Prabhu

Altar Flowers given today by the Tsangs in celebration of the Loo's (52nd)
& Tsang's (24th) Wedding Anniversaries.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

Claudia Zichterterman

CALL TO WORSHIP

"COME NOW IS THE TIME TO WORSHIP"

WELCOME

Pastor Bob McKee

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG:

"GOD IS HERE!"

*ELW #526
(Red Hymnal)*

INVOCATION & KYRIE (Please Stand)

(music found on page 147)

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

[C] And also with you.

[A] *In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*

[C] Lord, have mercy.

[A] *For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

[C] Lord, have mercy.

[A] *For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*

[C] Lord, have mercy.

[A] *For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

[C] Lord, have mercy.

[A] *Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.*

[C] Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE “The Feast of Victory”

(music may be found on page 149)

[A] *This is the feast of victory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.*

[C] Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia, Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[P] Let us pray...

[C] O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us your Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME WITH ERIN CASSIDY

SONG: “HE HAS MADE ME GLAD” with “THIS IS THE DAY”

SHARING OF THE PEACE

[P] The peace of the Lord be with you always.

[C] And also with you. (Share your peace, with one another, and then please be seated.)

GOD ENCOUNTERS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

1st Reading – Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Read by Sally Hedman

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot turn from their wicked ways. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Psalm 25:1-9

Led by Sally Hedman

[W] *To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.*

[M] My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

[W] *Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.*

[M] Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

[W] *Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.*

[M] Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

[W] *Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.*

[M] You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

[C] **You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.**

CHORAL OFFERING

“WE BELONG TO CHRIST”

Worship Choir

(by Bob Moore)

2nd Reading – Philippians 2:1-13

Read by Danae Moreno

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

[P] Lift up your heart and receive the Holy Gospel...

[C] **Glory to you, O Lord.** (spoken)

Gospel – Matthew 21:23-32

Read by Pastor Gary Berkland

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

[P] This is the Gospel of our Lord.

[C] **Praise to you, O Christ.** (spoken)

MESSAGE: "AUTHORITY AND GRACE"

Pastor Gary Berkland

SERMON SONG: "THE LION AND THE LAMB"

APOSTLES' CREED

[C] **I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

(*universal)

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

(All members and guests, please sign in on the form in the pew pads when it is passed to you.
Prayer requests are collected when plates are brought forward.)

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

[A] Let us pray...

[C] **Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your
goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer
ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and
redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who offered
himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

[A] Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according
To their needs.

I. GOD FORGIVES HIS PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (Please stand)

[P] Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one
who reforms us again and again.

[C] **Amen.**

[P] Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

[P] Source of all life,

[C] **We confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward.**

Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

[P] God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ✝ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

[C] **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

[C] **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.

"LAMB OF GOD"

(music found pg. 154)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION - THE EUCHARIST (be seated)

Our Lord Jesus is the host of his table. He invites all to come to him. Those who are baptized and believe in our Lord's presence "...in, with, and under the bread and wine..." are invited to commune by intinction. If you are not communing, please receive a blessing of the day. We come to his table via the center aisle, returning to our seats via the side aisles. If you are unable to come forward but wish the gifts Christ has for you, please notify an usher, and the servers will come to you.

COMMUNION SOLO:

"WHAT A BEAUTIFUL NAME"

Sung by Hannah Moody

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

[P] The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

[C] **Amen.**

