CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

HELLERTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

August 3, 2025 10:00am

~ The Reverend Philip C. Spohn ~

As you enter the worship space, feel free to go to the altar and light a candle representing your life and the light you are to the world. May you shine brightly throughout the week.

∫ Summer Music Series 2025 Guests, Reclaimed Performing Arts Company
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Order of Worship

Communion Sunday

Prelude: "Who I'd Be" from *Shrek the Musical* Lyrics: David Lindsay-Abaire

Music: Jeanine Tesori

No matter who you are or where you are on your journey, you are welcome here!

Welcome & Announcements

We are gathered and ready and aware of God's presence.

Chime

Silence

Prayer: The Nuclear Prayer The Rt. Rev. William E. Swing

United Religions Initiative

The Beginning and the End are in your hands, O Creator of the Universe. And in our hands you have placed the fate of this planet. We, who are tested by having both creative and destructive power in our free will, turn to you in sober fear and in intoxicating hope.

We ask for your guidance and to share in your imagination in our deliberations about the use of nuclear force. Help us to lift the fog of atomic darkness that hovers so pervasively over our Earth, Your Earth, so that soon all eyes may see life magnified by your pure light.

Bless all of us who wait today for your Presence and who dedicate ourselves to achieve your intended peace and rightful equilibrium on Earth. In the Name of all that is holy and all that is hoped. Amen.

Opening Hymn: In the Garden (See Insert)

Time for All Ages Josh Gulotta

Psalm 107:1-9, 43 (Responsive)

Corky Blake

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.
- ² Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,
- ³ gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

- ⁴ Some wandered in desert wastes; they found no path to a city where they might dwell.
- ⁵ They were hungry and thirsty; their spirits languished within them.
- ⁶ Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD, and you delivered them from their distress.
- ⁷ You led them on a straight path to go to a city where they might dwell.
- ⁸ Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.
- ⁹ For you satisfy the thirsty soul and fill the hungry with good things.
- 43 Whoever is wise will ponder these things, and consider well the LORD's steadfast love.

First Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's

life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Help us God, as we seek to interpret what this means for our lives.

Message

Reception of Tithes & Offerings

Anthem: "Someday" from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* Lyrics: Stephen Schwartz Music: Alan Menken

I used to believe, in the days I was naive, that I'd live to see a day of justice dawn. And though I will die long before that morning comes, I'll die while believing still. It will come when I am gone.

Someday, when we are wiser, when the world's older, when we have learned. I pray, someday we may yet live, to live and let live.

Someday, life will be fairer, need will be rarer, greed will not pay.

Godspeed this bright millennium on its way. Let it come someday, when the world's older, when things have changed. Someday, these dreams will all be real. Till then, we'll wish upon the moon. Change will come one day, someday, soon.

Prayers of the Church

Tim Brown

After each petition: You satisfy the thirsty, and fill the hungry with good things.

Baby Emerson Shermetta, Chuck Coe, Heather Stahler, Kathy Einherst, Leona, Tammy Harding, Mark Rambo, Deanna Benner, Michele Daage, Ferd Piccuirro, Tim Willard, Bill Bergstresser, Bonnie Oszeyczik, Paige Sharrer, Bill Tone, Mary Ann Kolumber, Carole Ackerman, Keith Schaedel, Janis, Melissa Melancon, Gary Brandt, Chelsea, Bob Uttard, Tiffany Weddle, Kyle

Finally, and together: Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus, whom we love and follow.

Amen.

Words of Institution: (Please kneel if able)

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for all."

We gather at this table and remember how on the night when Jesus was handed over, he gathered with his disciples in the upper room and together they shared in an ordinary meal that had extraordinary implications.

For at this table, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with one who betrayed him. At this table, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with one who denied him. At this table, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with those who fled in his time of need. At this table, Jesus broke bread and shared wine with people from all walks of life.

And so whenever we gather at this table to share the bread and the cup in this community of faith, we proclaim Jesus' life, which affirms there is a place at the table for all people, for the love of God transcends every power that tries to contain it.

The Lord's Prayer

Preparation Hymn: One Bread, One Body (Instrumental) John Foley

Distribution Song: "Dance with You" from The Prom Lyrics: Chad Beguelin

Music: Matthew Sklar

I don't want to start a riot; I don't want to blaze a trail; I don't want to be a symbol or cautionary tale. I don't want to be a scapegoat for people to oppose. What I want is simple as far as wanting goes.

I just wanna dance with you. Let the whole world melt away and dance with you.

Who cares what other people say?

And when we're through, no one can convince us we were wrong. All it takes is you and me and a song.

I don't need a big production, streamers hanging in the air; I don't need to spend the night with confetti in my hair; I don't need a room of people that I don't really know. I just want to hold you and never let you go!

I just wanna dance with you...

Two people swaying slowly, nothing more and nothing less. Why anybody fears that is anybody's guess.

I just wanna dance with you...

Communion Prayer

Gracious God, as we received this bread and wine, we receive the presence and life of Christ within us, so that the spirit of Christ might work through us. Amen.

Closing Song: What a Friend We Have in Jesus ELW #742

Benediction

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

Postlude: "Friendship" from Anything Goes Cole Porter