

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BRISTOL, CT

WORSHIP WITH THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD  
August 17, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses” and are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

Offerings towards our Ministries are welcomed at our entryways or you can scan this code with your phone camera.



**+GATHERING+**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.*

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.*

We give you thanks, O God, O Living One, for you have created all, and you water the earth abundantly. Oceans and aquifers praise you. Rivers and streams bless you.

All life is sustained by you, our Source.

We praise you for Christ, the firstborn from the dead, who frees us from sin and raises us up to new life.

Here at this font we touch the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing through the city of God.

Here, death is washed away forever.

Here, we are grafted into the tree of life, with leaves for the healing of the world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this assembly, into this community, and throughout all creation.

Cleanse us from our fears and drown our divisions.

Grant that all may drink of your mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**How Firm a Foundation**

**ELW 796**

**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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **+WORD+**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

### First Reading

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw. A reading from Jeremiah, chapter 23.*

<sup>23</sup> Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup> How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup> They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

*Jeremiah 23: 23-29*

### Psalm 82

<sup>1</sup> God stands to charge the divine council assembled, giving judgment in the midst of the gods:

<sup>2</sup> **"How long will you judge unjustly, and show favor to the wicked?"**

<sup>3</sup> Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy;

<sup>4</sup> **rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked.**

<sup>5</sup> They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

<sup>6</sup> **Now I say to you, 'You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High;**

<sup>7</sup> nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.'"

<sup>8</sup> **Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own.**

## Second Reading

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life faithfully. In addition to this “cloud of witnesses,” we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

A reading from Hebrews, chapter 11.

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace. <sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment.

<sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. <sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

*Hebrews 11: 29-12:2*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## Gospel

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

The holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: <sup>49</sup> "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

*Luke 12: 49-56*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** (aimed toward Grades K thru 6<sup>th</sup>, but those younger are welcomed with an accompanying adult).

## SERMON

**Heather Johnson**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**Canticle of the Turning**

**ELW 723**

## L: APOSTLES' CREED

*Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

## L: PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

*A brief silence.*

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God our healer, we continue to pray for those on our prayer list. In addition we lift up to your care these loved ones and concerns that we name aloud or in our hearts before you now...*(time is allowed for additions)*. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Now may we lift up praise and thanksgiving for Restored Health, Life Celebrations and God Sightings for which we are joyful...*(time is allowed for responses)* God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

### **SHARE THE PEACE**

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

*Remain Standing*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

*We feast on the presence of Christ in his Word.*

### **OFFERING**

Offerings towards our Ministries are welcomed at our entryways or you can scan this code with your phone camera.



### **OFFERTORY**

**Take My Life, That I May Be**

**ELW 583**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*For all we have received from God, let us pray for what we return.*

O God, you give good gifts to your children simply because we ask. We now return our gifts to you in gratitude for your loving care. Bless them to your service wherever there is need, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD –**

**(continues at the front of ELW pgs. 219-220 left column)**

### **+SENDING+**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

### **REMINDERS**

### **SENDING HYMN**

**God Be the Love to Search and Keep Me**

**ACS 1084**

### **DISMISSAL**

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

### **POSTLUDE**

## **WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, August 17, 2025**

Worship Lay Leader: Arlene Creswell

Musician: Aimee Allen

Assisting Minister: Valerie Holcomb

Lay Preacher: Heather Johnson

Lector: Joyce Chmura

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Jon Fitzgerald, Roy Tessman, Bob Cummisky

Altar Guild: Edie Valencis

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## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, August 17, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Worship with Thanksgiving for the Word

(Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Tag Sale Meeting with Dawn Stitham (Fellowship Hall)

### **Wednesday, August 20, 2025**

6:30 p.m. Connecticut Handbell Musicians Rehearsal

### **Thursday, August 21, 2025**

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (YOUTH Room)

### **Saturday, August 16, 2025**

10:00 a.m. Fitness Class with Nancy Plourde (Parish Hall)

### **Sunday, August 24, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

11:00 a.m. Bible Nuggets

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: [churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org](mailto:churchoffice@FaithBristolCT.org)

Pastor Chris Dion, phone: 860.989.3507

## **Meals for Neighbors Food Pantry**

Please consider helping us keep the MFN Food Pantry stocked. We are currently in need of

Soup/Stew Rice Cereal

Donations should be placed in our grocery carriage in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your kindness.

Thank you for your generosity.

Kathy Golden