

*“He fell to the ground
and heard a **VOICE**
say to him, ‘**SAUL,**
why do you
persecute me?’”*

Acts 9:4



*The purpose of our Community is:
 ❁❁❁ "Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ" ❁❁❁*

Prelude

Shirlene Everhart

Welcome and Announcements**Invocation**

Every worship service opens by invoking the name, the presence, and the power of the one true God, the God in whose name and by whose power we became members of the Holy Christian Church in our Baptism.

*(Pastor) In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 (Everyone) Amen.*

Prayer of Confession of Sin

[Everyone]: Gracious Heavenly Father, as today is the third Sunday in September, we recognize that time is flying and the summer is quickly coming to an end. As the days are now getting shorter, let us marvel at the grace of God in Christ Jesus which is infinitely patient with us poor sinners! We readily admit that we are sinful human beings in desperate need of Your mercy and grace. Please grant us pardon, and forgive us our sins for Jesus' sake, as we look to His suffering and death for mercy. Give us the strength and joyful faith to follow Your guidance in our lives, and grant us a peaceful life of Christian service, as we serve the Lord in our lives, and plead the merits of your Son, and our Savior Jesus Christ for forgiveness. In His Name we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Grace

[Pastor]: The Bible urges us to penitently and sincerely confess our sins, for Jesus' sake. Having done so in faith, we now humbly seek God the Father's pardon. Christ has promised to us His forgiveness because of His suffering and death at Calvary. Thus, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, and in the stead and by command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Peace be with you. Amen.

Opening Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, #173

Children's Sermonette:

'What does 'born again' mean?...'
 Pastor McDonald

Worship Through Our Giving

We express our gratitude to God as we give to support the work of the church so that more people may hear the Good News about Jesus. Please ask an usher if you need an envelope.

Offertory

We Worship Through Speaking and Hearing the Word of God

We read the Word of God to strengthen, encourage, and challenge us for the week ahead.

Old Testament Lesson

Jonah 1:1-4, 7, 12, 14-15 [NKJV]

¹ Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” ³ But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. ⁴ But the LORD sent out a great wind on the sea, and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. ~~~ ⁷ And they said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, that we may know for whose cause this trouble *has come* upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. ~~~ ¹² And he said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will become calm for you. For I know that this great tempest *is* because of me.” ~~~ ¹⁴ Therefore they cried out to the LORD and said, “We pray, O LORD, please do not let us perish for this man’s life, and do not charge us with innocent blood; for You, O LORD, have done as it pleased You.” ¹⁵ So they picked up Jonah and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging.

Epistle Lesson

Acts 9:1-8 [NKJV]

¹ Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. ⁴ Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” ⁵ And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It *is* hard for you to kick against the goads.” ⁶ So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord *said* to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” ⁷ And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. ⁸ Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought *him* into Damascus.

[If you are able, please stand for the reading of the Gospel]

Gospel Reading

Matthew 18:1-5, 10-14 [NKJV]

¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” ² Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, ³ and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. ~~~ ¹⁰ “Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that in heaven their angels always see the face of My Father who is in heaven. ¹¹ For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost. ¹² “What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? ¹³ And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that *sheep* than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. ¹⁴ Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

We Respond to God’s Word by Confessing Our Faith

As we recite together the words of the Apostles’ Creed, we join the worldwide chorus of followers of Jesus, who, for centuries, have confessed their faith through this simple declaration.

Everyone: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sermon Hymn:

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee, #448

Sermon:

‘Born again, by God’s grace!’

Acts 9:4

Pastor Robert McDonald

Message Notes:

Communion Hymn*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound, #578***We Worship at the table of the Lord's Supper***Communion — If you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please hold up 2 fingers when you reach the person with the cups.**Everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior is welcome and invited to join us. Together we receive anew the love and grace that God pours out to us through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. Come hold in your hands and taste on your lips the love He poured out for you.**Pastor: The Words of Our Lord...(Consecration of the Elements)***Everyone: 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.***Distribution,***Benediction****Sending Hymn***Sent Forth by God's Blessing, #284**Pastor: Go in Peace and Serve the Lord.***Everyone: Thanks be to God**

~~~~~

**Postlude Music**

## ***Things going on during the week:***

***Monday-Friday: 7:15 am to 5 pm Little Blessings Christian School***

***Thursdays: Choir practice will resume September 21.***

## ***Birdhouse = Building Fund Donations***

Please place all and any donations for the Building Fund in the Birdhouse. This fund is needed to replace 'The Shack' and build for the future of this church. Being more visible to Mission Avenue we hope to attract Christians looking for a new home and non-Christians looking for what is missing in their life.

## ***Mark Your Calendars!***

***October 14, Saturday - Women's Bible Study, 10 am.***

***November 5, Sunday - Love Offering ... for Missions***

Once a quarter, we will be collecting a special offering in the 'Missions Giving Box' on your way out of the Sanctuary for our Missionaries. This offering is above and beyond our regular giving. In planning ahead, we will repeat the Love Offerings in 2023 on the first Sunday in February, May, August & November.

Community Lutheran Church, AFLC\*: 760.722.3337  
 4507 Mission Avenue, Oceanside, CA 92057  
**www.cloceanside.com**

## Building Committed Followers of Jesus Christ

**Little Blessings Christian Preschool: (760) 378-7973**

**Preschool Schedule: Monday – Friday ... 7:15 am to 5:00 pm**

Kristen Erwin, Preschool Director



~~~~~

Weekly Schedule:

- Sundays:** **10:00 am** **Worship Service & Sunday School**
 11:00 am **Community Fellowship Time**
 12:00 pm **Council Meeting, usually 3rd Sunday of each month**
- Thursdays:** **Choir will resume September 21, 2023**
- Saturdays:** **10:00 am** **Women's Bible Study**
 Second Saturday of each month

For more information, please visit:

Website: www.cloceanside.com

Facebook Page: Community Lutheran Oceanside

AFLC [Association of Free Lutheran Congregations]: aflc.org



Prayer Chain Requests

Please mark the Connection Card very clearly ... your request is for Pastor only or you want the prayer chain to pray for your request.

Children's Activity Items

These are available for younger children during the service. They are in the cabinets at the back of the church to the left of the Prayer Room.

