



# **Faith Lutheran Church**

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,  
and Caring through Christ***

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 11, 2016



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



# **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. (*brief silence*) Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,**

**things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

**~ OPENING HYMN ~**

**“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”**

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great  
name we praise!**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting,  
thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring  
above  
thy clouds which are fountains of  
goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest,  
to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like  
leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught  
changeth thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory;  
thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee,  
all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render;  
oh, help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

**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.**

# INTRODUCTION

P: The grumbling of the Pharisees and the scribes in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God wills to seek and to save the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope.

As Paul's first letter to Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.

**C: Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Let us pray.

**ALL:** O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care,

**that we may reject whatever is  
contrary to you and may follow  
all things that sustain your life in  
your Son, Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

# ***Children's Church***

## **FIRST READING      EXODUS 32:7-14**

A reading from Exodus, the thirty-second chapter

The LORD said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they 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!' ” The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now 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.”

But 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? Why 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. Remember 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.’ ” And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**

# PSALM 51 ~ A Responsive Reading ~

R: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses

**C: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

R: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**C: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

R: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

**C: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

R: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**C: Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

R: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

## **SECOND READING 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17**

**A reading from First Timothy, the first chapter.**

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence.

But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the foremost.

But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

R: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God!**



## **GOSPEL Luke 15: 1-10**

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the 14th chapter

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices.

And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**~ SERMON ~**

**“Joy in Heaven”**

# **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”**

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us;  
much we need your tender care.  
In your pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use your fold prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us; we are yours.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have bought us; we are yours.**

**We are yours; in love befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way;  
keep your flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear us children when we pray.**

**Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
hear us children when we pray.**

**You have promised to receive us,  
poor and sinful though we be;  
you have mercy to relieve us,  
grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to you.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
early let us turn to you.**

**Early let us seek your favor,  
early let us do your will;  
blessed Lord and only Savior,  
with your love our spirits fill.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have loved us, love us still.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
you have loved us, love us still.**

# **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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Rejoicing in the Spirit's work among us, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

Gracious God, we thank you for your word that strengthens the weak and the faint in heart.

We thank you for your word that encourages the believer and saves sinners.

Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** We pray for those places in our world ravaged by fires or floods (*especially*). Restore the land, and bless the efforts of those who work to save and protect it.

Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**P:** We pray for the leaders of nations and all those in positions of authority. Guide them as they make decisions for the good of all. Lead them in the ways that make for peace.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** We pray for those who suffer as the result of war, violence, terrorism, or natural disaster. And we pray for those who willingly serve others in dangerous situations:

first responders, firefighters,  
emergency medical personnel,  
members of the military, law  
enforcement.

Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** We pray for our congregation. Prepare us to welcome newcomers. Make this a place of hope for the least of these in our community. Be with those who are sick, injured, or in any need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C:** **Your mercy is great.**

**P:** Let us remember with thanksgiving the blessed dead who rest from their labors. Gladden us by their lives of faith, and at the last day unite us in the joy of heaven.  
Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

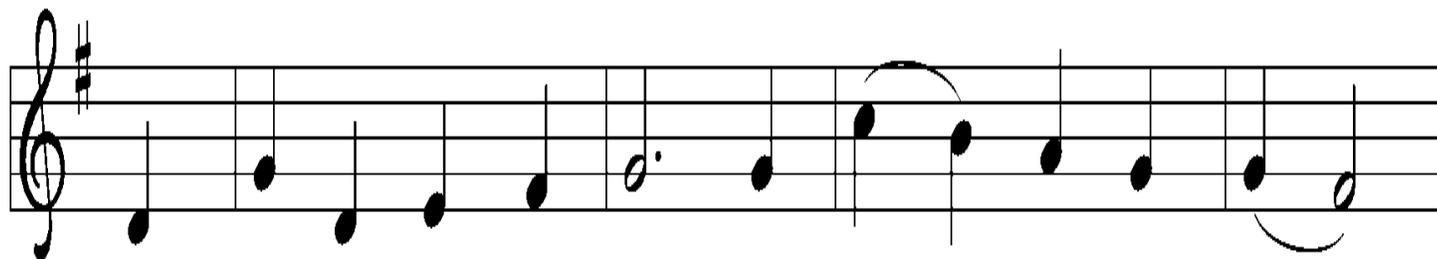
**C: Amen.**

# **SHARING THE PEACE**

**P:** The Peace of Christ be with you.

**C.** **And also with you.**

**~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~**  
***“The Prayer”***  
**Josh Rogan and Charlotte Church**



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

# OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**C: we give you thanks and praise.**

# DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the  
Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

# **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**



**COMMUNION**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P:** We come to you, O God, giving you thanks that in this feast of mercy, you have embraced us and healed us, making us one in the body of Christ. Go with us on our way.

Equip us for every good work, that we may continue to give you thanks by embracing others with mercy and healing; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

# **BLESSING**

**P:** Almighty God, Father, + Son,  
and Holy Spirit, bless you  
now and forever.

**C: Amen**

# **CLOSING HYMN**

**“Choral Benediction”**

**May the light of God shine on us today.  
May the light of God shine on us today.  
May it show us where to travel,  
lead us back if we should stray.  
May the light of God shine on us today.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the warmth we feel within us,  
show in all we do and say.**

**May the love of God live in us today.**

**May the peace of God be with us today.  
May the peace of God be with us today.  
May it guide us and protect us,  
as we go our separate ways.  
May the peace of God be with us today.**

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God.**