



Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 1, 2017**

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,
✠ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no
secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily
magnify your holy name, through Jesus
Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. 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 “*God Is Here!*”

**God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.**

**Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.**

**Here the servants of the Servant
seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living
to believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt,
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!**

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

C: Amen

Introduction to the day

P: Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God, such as prostitutes and tax collectors going before others into God's kingdom. In the reading from Ezekiel the people question whether the ways of the Lord are unfair; instead they are to repent and turn to the Lord.

Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, looking to the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. *(A brief silence.)*

C: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



“Let the little children come to me...”

Matthew 19:14 NIV

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

A reading from Ezekiel, the 18th chapter.

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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading from Psalm 25

R: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**C: My God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

R: Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are
treacherous.

**C: Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach
me your paths.**

R: 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.

**C: Remember, O LORD, your
compassion and love, for they are
from everlasting.**

R: 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.

C: You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

R: You lead the lowly in justice and
teach the lowly your way.

C: Amen.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from Philippians, the 2nd chapter.

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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA



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: Matthew 21:23-32

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew,
the 21st chapter.

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

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: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.



SERMON
“Humbly Taking a Knee”

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

**Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing your praise eternally.**

**O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.**

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: Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation. *(A brief silence.)* We pray for the mission of the gospel. Unite your church in its proclamation and witness. Let the same mind be in us that is in Christ Jesus.

Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Creator God, you provide daily for our nourishment. Bless fields and orchards, oceans and lakes, birds and animals, insects and fish. Sustain those who harvest your life-sustaining bounty. Help us share the gifts you have freely given.
Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: God of the nations, give all your people the mind of Christ. Guide national and international leaders to advocate for policies that look to the interests of the most vulnerable. Humble us when we question your mercy toward those who are different from us. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Self-emptying God, stir up compassion for those in need. Send your Spirit to those who are in crisis, troubled, weary, or discouraged. (*We pray especially for . . .*)
Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: We pray for our congregation and community. Guide our deliberations over difficult decisions. Strengthen our commitment to our ministries.
Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Gracious God, we give thanks for the saints whose tongues confessed Jesus Christ as Lord. Keep us confident in your promises until we join them in endless praise. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, gracious God,
we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting the power of Christ and the
gifts of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

~ VIDEO DURING THE OFFERING ~

“The Cure”
by Unspoken

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

***We give thee but thine own,
whatever the gifts may be,
All that we have is thine alone,
a trust, oh Lord, from thee.***

***May we thy bounties thus,
as stewards true receive,
And gladly as though blessed us,
to thee our first fruits give.***

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. 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: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

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.**

*PLEASE JOIN US OUTSIDE FOR OUR
ROOF LOAN
BURNING
CELEBRATION*



DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



































