



# **Faith Lutheran Church**

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

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, September 17, 2017**



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the  
✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**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. (*A brief silence.*)  
Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **OPENING HYMN**

***“When Morning Gilds the Skies”***

**When morning gilds the skies,  
my heart awaking cries:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
When evening shadows fall,  
this rings my curfew call:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**When mirth for music longs,  
this is my song of songs:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
God's holy house of prayer  
has none that can compare  
with "Jesus Christ be praised!"**

**Sing, sun and stars of space,  
sing, all who see his face,  
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
God's whole creation o'er,  
today and evermore  
shall Jesus Christ be praised!**

**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:** Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry.

Yet God is gracious and merciful,  
abounding in steadfast love. In  
baptism we receive the grace of God  
that is freely given to all. As Luther  
wrote, in the presence of God's  
mercy we are all beggars.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

**C:** **Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**



**Join us in Children's Church!**

## **FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11**

A reading from Jonah, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

When God saw what the people of Ninevah did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry.

He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush.

But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die."

Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

R: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **A Responsive Reading from Psalm 145**

**R:** I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

**C:** **Every day will I bless you and praise your  
name forever and ever.**

R: Great is the LORD and greatly to be  
praised! There is no end to your greatness.

**C: One generation shall praise your works  
to another and shall declare your power.**

R: I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

**C: They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

R: They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

**C: The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30**

A reading from Philippians, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.

Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you,

I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.

For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well - since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1-16**

**P:** The holy gospel according to Matthew,  
the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

Jesus said to the disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?'

They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage.

And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.'

Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

***“Fair or Not Fair?”***

**HYMN OF THE DAY “*Lord of Light*”**

**Lord of light, your name outshining  
all the stars and suns of space,  
use our talents in your kingdom  
as the servants of your grace;  
use us to fulfill your purpose  
in the gift of Christ your Son:**

***REFRAIN:     Father, as in highest heaven,  
                  so on earth your will be done.***

**By the toil of faithful workers  
in some far outlying field,  
by the courage where the radiance  
of the cross is still revealed,  
by the victories of meekness,  
through reproach and suff'ring won.**

***REFRAIN:    Father, as in highest heaven,  
                  so on earth your will be done.***

**Grant that knowledge, still increasing,  
at your feet may lowly kneel;  
with your grace our triumphs hallow,  
with your charity our zeal;  
lift the nations from the shadows  
to the gladness of the sun.**

***REFRAIN:     Father, as in highest heaven,  
                  so on earth your will be done.***

**By the prayers of faithful watchers,  
never silent day or night;  
by the cross of Jesus, bringing  
peace to all and healing light;  
by the love that passes knowledge,  
making all your children one.**

***REFRAIN:     Father, as in highest heaven,  
                  so on earth your will be done.***

## **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. Let us pray for the church and its ministry. Unite us in one Spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** God who stretched the spangled heavens,  
we thank and praise you for the gift of the  
sun, moon, stars, mountains, valleys,  
grasslands, and deserts.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: God of great mercy and love, you show faithfulness and kindness to the world every day. Guard those who suffer because of dishonest policies, corrupt government, or unfair labor practices. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** God, you provide for all our needs.  
We pray for those who are homeless,  
jobless, or hopeless. We pray for those  
who are forgotten, ignored, or isolated.  
We pray for all in any need (*especially*).  
Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We pray for our congregation and our neighborhood. Accompany us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Give us joy in the present and hope for the future.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** God of endings and beginnings, we remember before you all the faithful departed (*especially*). Comfort those who mourn. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**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 ~**

***“In Christ Alone”***

***By Stuart Townend***

## **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:** By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. 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.**

# **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**









































