



Worship Service
September 24, 2023
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Pastor Steve Resner



“So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School

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Divine Service 4

Welcome!

We are happy that you are with us to hear the Word of God

Preparing for Church This Sunday:

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard is a difficult parable for many who have been life-long Christians. In our human minds, we demand fairness. The workers who were hired at the 'eleventh hour' received the same pay as those who had worked all day, and we would say, "That's NOT fair!" But the reward of heaven is equal for all who believe! Praise God for those who come to faith at whatever time in their lives, whether from infancy or at the last moment of life. And we, as God's people, should rejoice over those who come to faith no matter when. God's promise of the joys of heaven is the same for all believers!



Quiet our Hearts for Worship – Lord Prepare Me

Welcome – Ringing of the Bell

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Opening Hymn 571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16; antiphon: v. 17

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.

What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.

Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.
O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.

Kyrie

LSB 204

**☩ Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204

**☩ 1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—**

**3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

**²When evildoers assail me
to eat up my flesh,
my adversaries and foes,
it is they who stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me,
yet I will be confident.

**⁴One thing have I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD
and to inquire in his temple.**

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will lift me high upon a rock.

**⁶And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

**⁸You have said, "Seek my face."
My heart says to you,
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."**

⁹Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
O you who have been my help.
Cast me not off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!

Epistle

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

¹⁹For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain

and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

C **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

C **These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

C **Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive

more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, '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.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C 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, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will 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.

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn 680 Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise

Sermon *"First and Last"*

Matthew 20:1-16

Offering

Offertory - We Give Thee But Thine Own

**We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P ... through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

Collect

A O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

LSB 212

- A** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Closing Hymn 837 Lift High the Cross

Acknowledgments

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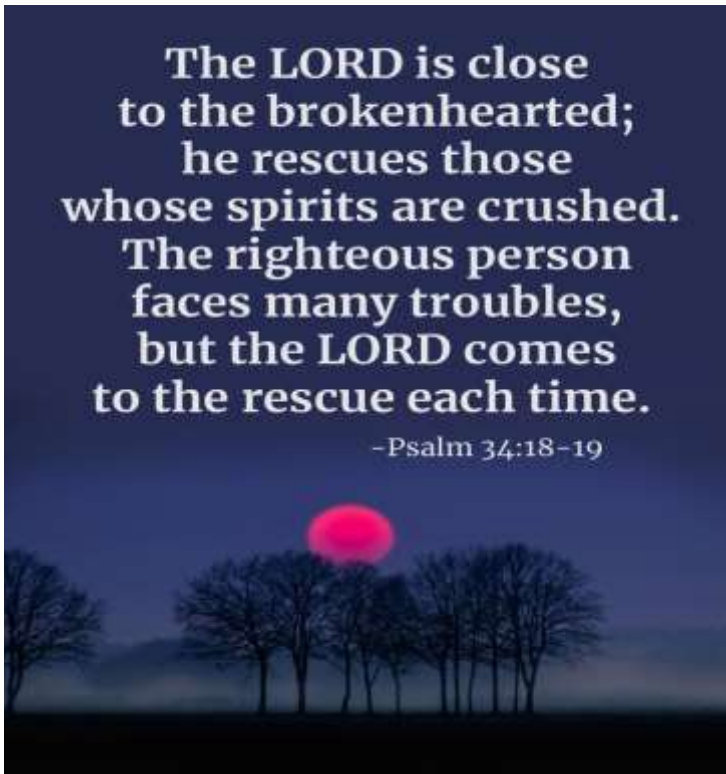
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Prayer Requests: Quinetta Rutledge, Brennan Schulte, John and Patti Trinklein, Charlie Duenckel, John Green, Jane Kesel, Konlee Kempker, Rebecca Eichelberger, Dana Simmons, Betty Hoecker, Terri Engelbrecht, Rita Linhardt, Danny Goodman, Dane Steenburgen, Denny Schulte, Gretchen Junkans, Ann Shipwash, Megan Limbach, Trevor Burrows, Cheryl Herzog, Clay Rolsing, Bruce Nilges, Harold Luebbering, Sandy Sebastian, Creed Sommerer, Kenny Braun, Verna Mae Menteer and Tim Lafser

Praise God for Answered Prayers: Brian Kempker

**The LORD is close
to the brokenhearted;
he rescues those
whose spirits are crushed.
The righteous person
faces many troubles,
but the LORD comes
to the rescue each time.**

-Psalm 34:18-19



Sermon Notes - 9-24-23

Where in the sermon did you hear the **Law** – bringing up the sinful nature of mankind and our need for a Savior?

Where in the sermon did you hear the **Gospel** – what God has done to free us from the troubles of the Law?

Where in the sermon did you hear the **Application** of God's Word for us – what actions should we take in response to God's grace toward us?