

**“THE
LAST
WILL BE
FIRST,
AND THE
FIRST
LAST.”**

MATTHEW 20:16, ESV



*‡Sunday, September 24, 2023 ‡
‡10:30 am Praise Service ‡*

Welcome in Jesus' Name

May God richly bless you as you worship Him. If you are a guest with us, we want you to feel welcome; you honor us with your presence, and we are glad to have you here. Please fill out the Attendance Registration located in your bulletin. Prayer requests can also be taken care of on the same insert. If you have a specific prayer request that you would like the Pastor to pray for during the Prayers of the Church, please fill out the bulletin insert and give it to an usher, who will then deliver it to the Pastor.

Holy Communion

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper as part of our worship service, on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month during the 8:30am service and the 2nd & 4th Sunday during the 10:30am service. We invite those who share our confession of faith, namely, that Jesus is truly present in, with & under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation to commune with us. Those who share a different confession or have not yet been instructed in the Lord's Supper are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing.

We offer individual cups. The light-colored cups in the center are grape juice instead of wine. Pastor will be available prior to the worship service to answer any questions about Holy Communion.

To Our Guests

We often have guests in worship from all over the world. Please introduce yourself to Pastor or a Greeter before or after the worship service.

Large Print Bulletin: If you desire a sight-saving bulletin, please ask an usher.

***Flowers on the Altar are given to the Glory of God
By the Jerry and Carol Irving to pray for Barbara Oldani
and Lorry Huza for their health issues***

Prelude by Mark and Phil

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand

Hymn of Invocation

Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God
One day ev'ry knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose you now

Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God
Come

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

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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.

Please be seated

Old Testament

Isaiah 55:6-9

- A** God's compassion comes through for the people of Israel, yet this promise comes with a timeline. The people must return to the Lord while they can. He is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but He still has expectations for holy living. This is a reminder that God's ways are above our ways, and His thoughts exceed our thoughts. Yet, His thoughts and ways are for us, and for our salvation. Today's Old Testament is from Isaiah chapter 55.

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.**

Epistle

Philippians 1:12-14,19-30

A Paul's words to the Philippians are clear, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." These words bring forth hope and promise, which is the intent of Paul in this letter. Here we find encouragement for them to maintain their course of faith, to continue their prayers for him and each other, and to live a life worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Today's Epistle is from Philippians chapter 1.

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.

Please stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

P Who are we to question God's grace and mercy? If God chooses to welcome people into His kingdom who only believe for one hour prior to death, then who are we to question His goodness. Instead, let us celebrate with all the people of God and rejoice in His grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love. As you listen to this text, I encourage you to seek God's will in being like those who are happy to receive the Master's grace, and to never find yourself amongst those who are grumbling against the Master's goodness. Today's Gospel is from Matthew chapter 20.

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 life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated

Sermon Song

The Wonderful Cross

When I survey the wondrous Cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain, I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride

See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did such love and sorrow ever meet?

Or thorns compose, so rich a crown

(Chorus)

Oh the wonderful Cross,
Oh the wonderful Cross
Bids me come and die
And find that I may truly live
Oh the wonderful Cross,
Oh the wonderful Cross
All who gather here by grace,
Draw near and bless Your name

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all

(Chorus)

Sermon

Offering

Please stand

Offertory

Be Glorified

In my life Lord, be glorified, be glorified!
In my life Lord, be glorified today.

In Your church Lord, be glorified, be glorified!
In Your church Lord, be glorified today.

Prayer of the Church

- P** Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us. God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend all who are ill, hospitalized, lonely, oppressed, or in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Preface

LSB 216

- 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 to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 162

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 217

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also, He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei - The Lamb

LSB #547 sts. 1, ref

1 The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price! Refrain

ref Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

Please be seated

Distribution

Please stand

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord makes His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart

Forever

Give thanks to the Lord, our God and King
His love endures forever
For He is good, He is above all things
His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise

With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever
For the life that's been reborn
His love endures forever

(Chorus)

Sing praise, sing praise,
Sing praise, sing praise,

Forever, God is faithful
Forever, God is strong
Forever, God is with us
Forever

From the rising to the setting sun
His love endures forever
And by the grace of God, we will carry on
His love endures forever

(Chorus)

The Dismissal

- P** Go in peace and serve the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude by Mark and Phil

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Five from Lutheran Service Book

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LCMS Foundation

TODAY | TOMORROW | FOREVER

Life is full of starts and stops, but the Lord looks at all our lives in one grand design. Our estate plans dwell in the grand design vision, instead of focusing only on the moment. Worrying about change may serve as an obstacle, keeping you from putting an estate plan in place. Details of estate plans probably will change over time. Yet the core values are something you can get in place today. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you think and pray about those decisions. Contact Tony Hunt 260-222-1291 or tony.hunt@lfnd.org

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Opportunities at Shepherd of the Coast

‡8:30 am – A traditional worship service in the classic Lutheran liturgical style.

‡10:30 am – Praise Service – A contemporary worship service that is geared to families with young children.

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