

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

MATTHEW 20:16, ESV



✠Sunday, September 24, 2023 ✠

✠8:30 am Traditional 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 "Praise and Thanksgiving" (Movement 1) by Phil Lehenbauer

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand

Opening Hymn - Give Me Jesus

LSB #976



1 In the morn - ing when I rise, In the morn - ing when I rise,
2 Dark mid - night was my cry, Dark mid - night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, Just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, when I come to die, Oh, when I come to die,
5 And when I want to sing, And when I want to sing,



In the morn - ing when I rise, Give me Je - sus.
Dark mid - night was my cry, Give me Je - sus.
Just a - bout the break of day, Give me Je - sus.
Oh, when I come to die, Give me Je - sus.
And when I want to sing, Give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, Give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, Give me Je - sus.

Text and tune: African American spiritual
Text and tune: Public domain

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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated

Sermon Hymn - Seek Ye First

LSB #712



1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God, And His
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and
3 Man does not live by bread a - lone, But by



right - teous - ness. And all these things shall be
ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be
ev - 'ry word That pro - ceeds from the



add - ed un - to you! Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
mouth of the Lord, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Text and tune: Karen Lafferty, 1948
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Sermon

Offering

Please stand

Offertory - Take my Life

LSB # 783 sts. 1, 6



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its trea - sure store;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my - self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

Versicles

- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C **let my cry come to You.**
- P** In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
C **for You answer me.**
- P** Hide Your face from my sins,
C **and blot out all my iniquities.**
- P** Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C **and renew a right spirit within me.**
- P** Cast me not away from Your presence,
C **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**
- P** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- P** Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
C **my lips will praise You.**
- P** For You have been my help,
C **and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**
- P** Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
C **unite my heart to fear Your name.**
- P** I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
C **and I will glorify Your name forever.**
- P** May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.
C **May those who love Your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”**
- P** Save Your people and bless Your heritage!
C **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**
- P** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
C **listen to my plea for grace.**

Prayer

- P** Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your goodness and bless You for the love that sustains us from day to day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for Your holy Church, for the means of grace, for the lives of all faithful and just people, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that You have done for us and enable us to show our thankfulness in lives that are wholly given to Your service. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Send the light of Your truth into all the earth. Raise up faithful servants of Christ to advance the Gospel both at home and in distant lands. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** In Your mercy strengthen all congregations, especially Shepherd of the Coast, and support them in challenging times. Make them steadfast, abounding in the work of the Lord, and let their faith and zeal for the Gospel refresh and renew the witness of Your people everywhere. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Preserve our nation in justice and honor that we may lead a peaceable life with integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, especially the president and congress of the United States, the governor and legislature of this state, and to all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. Help them to serve this people according to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Take from us all hatred and prejudice, give us the spirit of love, and order our days in Your peace. Prosper the labor of those who work to bring peace and justice to the nations of the world that mutual understanding and common endeavor may be increased among all peoples. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

P Bless the schools of the Church, especially here at Shepherd of the Coast, and all colleges, universities, and centers of research and those who teach and work in them. Grant Your wisdom in such measure that people may serve You honorably in Church and state, and that our common life may be conformed to the ways of Your truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Sanctify our homes with Your presence and bless them with joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their Baptism and enable their parents to bring them up in lives of faith and devotion. Unite the members of all families in a spirit of affection and service that they may show Your praise in our land and in all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P By Your Word and Holy Spirit comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity especially those we now name in our heart. Be with those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow, and grant to all a measure of Your love, taking them into Your tender care. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God 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.

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 - Praise and Thanksgiving

LSB #789



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -



or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Bloss - om and wood.
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

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The Dismissal

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

Postlude: "Praise and Thanksgiving" (Movement 2) by Phil Lehenbauer

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

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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