

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

La Crosse, Wisconsin  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020



***Our purpose:*** Faith Lutheran Church exists to share with all, God's love through Christ and His promise of salvation!

***As We Gather...*** A Christian singer once wrote, "The beauty of grace is that it makes life not fair." We see this played out in today's parable. The master tells the servants who are upset that others worked less hard for the same pay, "Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?" Our God is generous to us, and doesn't give us what we deserve. Whether we as Christians have joined the Church since infancy or if we've joined in the eleventh hour, let us rejoice in our Lord who gives us His grace and forgiveness in His Son Jesus completely free of charge.

!

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## 738 Lord of All Hopefulness

sts. 1, 4

1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:  
Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

### Exhortation

LSB 203

- 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, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, 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.

## Confession of Sins

LSB 203

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

## Absolution

LSB 203

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

## Introit

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

- P** I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.
- C** What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?
- P** I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
- C** Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.
- P** O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.
- C** 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.
- P** I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

## Kyrie

LSB 204



- C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 204



**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;  
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;  
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!  
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.  
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shiped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

## 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*

<sup>6</sup>“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; <sup>7</sup>let 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. <sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For 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 Reading

*Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30*

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . . <sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>as 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. <sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. <sup>24</sup>But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. <sup>27</sup>Only 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, <sup>28</sup>and 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. <sup>29</sup>For 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, <sup>30</sup>engaged 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

### Alleluia

*LSB 205*



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**C** These things are writ-ten that you may be-lieve that  
 Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

## Alleluia

**C** Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

## Holy Gospel Reading

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

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

<sup>1</sup>[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. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup>And 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.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <sup>12</sup>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.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first last.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Luther's Small Catechism

**P** The Third Article

**P** Sanctification

**C** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, ...Amen.

**P** What does this mean?

**C** I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith....

## 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

sts. 1–2



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and  
2 What God did in His Law de - mand And none to Him could



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They  
ren - der Caused wrath and woe on ev - 'ry hand For



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus  
man, the vile of - fend - er. Our flesh has not those



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the  
pure de - sires The spir - it of the



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.  
Law re - quires, And lost is our con - di - tion.

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## Sermon

**Text: Matthew 20:1–16 Title: Long Laborers**

## Prayer of the Church

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord and offer to Him the petitions and supplications of a people confident of His promise to hear and answer us with mercy.

*[Various petitions are offered, when the Pastor says, "Let us pray to the Lord" The congregation replies "Lord have mercy."]*

**P** ... that trusting in Your mercy we may delight in Your saving will where the last are made first by Your generosity and grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord

**C** Amen.



## Offertory 555 Salvation unto Us Has Come

st. 6

6 Since Christ has full a - tone-ment made And brought to us sal-  
va - tion, Each Chris - tian there - fore may be glad And  
build on this foun - da - tion. Your grace a - lone, dear  
Lord, I plead, Your death is now my  
life in - deed, For You have paid my ran - som.

Tune and text: Public domain

## Preface

LSB 208

- 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, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are 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.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

## Lord's Prayer

**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

**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  $\text{✝}$  body, which is given for you. This do 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  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, 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

LSB 210

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## Distribution

### The Dismissal

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

**C** Amen.

### Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

**C** 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

### Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us

through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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.

## 827 Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

sts. 1, 4



1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus call - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?  
4 Hear - ken to the Lord whose com - ing Marks the time when grace shall end,



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?"  
When with His an - gel - ic reap - ers He in glo - ry shall de - scend.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.  
Soon the night, the fi - nal har - vest; Soon the time for work shall cease.



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me?"  
Then the souls His grace has gar - nered Shall en - joy His Sab - bath peace.

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## Verse to Ponder

James 5:16

<sup>16</sup>Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

## Acknowledgments

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VISITORS:** Welcome to Faith Lutheran Church. We're glad to have you join us today and hope you find your worship here to be fulfilling and joyful! Please fill out the Record of Fellowship in the pew books, sign our Guest Book in the Narthex, and be sure to speak with an usher for a Welcome packet. We hope to see you again soon!

**PLEASE NOTE...** Faith Lutheran Church is pleased to be able to offer a loop hearing assistance system. To access this system, simply activate the T-coil setting on your hearing aid. If you don't have a hearing aid or your hearing aid lacks a T-coil switch, we have headsets available which will provide sound amplification throughout the worship service. Please see an usher if you have any questions.

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are given to the Honor and Glory of God by Jim & Barb Hemker, celebrating their Anniversary.

**LUTHERAN HOUR RADIO** is broadcast on WKTY 580 AM Sundays at 7:30 AM. On **Sunday Sept 27<sup>th</sup>** guest speaker Rev. Dr. Jason Broge shares his message titled "**Room At The Table.**" Open doors and loud tables—places where God does His quiet work of changing lives, one dinner invitation at a time. God made room at His table for us so that we can make room at our tables for others. New Series "Households of Faith"

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE** **September 20<sup>th</sup>** "The Adoption Creed: 'Not flesh of my flesh, nor bone of my bone, but still miraculously my own; never forget for a single minute, you didn't grow under my heart, but in it.'" – *A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* ♥ [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)

**FREE MONEY ~ No Cost To You** When shopping on Amazon, go to AmazonSmile and choose Faith Lutheran Church. A percentage of your purchase is given to Faith Lutheran Church on a quarterly basis. **OR...** Purchase your Kwik Trip Gas Cards at Faith Lutheran Church. We receive a percentage back from Kwik Trip. ***Best thing yet*** – this FREE MONEY is our Mission Fund, distributed to Mission Fields chosen by our Voters!!!

**COW PIE BINGO FUNDRAISER** St. Matthew's School on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. Alex Jaeger will be selling tickets until Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, please email [aprilj98@hotmail.com](mailto:aprilj98@hotmail.com) and we will meet with you to fill out the ticket. The tickets are \$20 each, you need not be present to win, but are always welcome to come to join the fun! The monies raised will be used for funding field trips, family events, and school improvements. The winning prize is \$1,000 and the child with the most tickets sold will receive a \$50 gift card! Thank You!

~Alex and April Jaeger~

**THURSDAY IN PERSON BIBLE STUDIES** Men meet at 9:00, Women meet at noon!

**LIFE CHAIN** is a peaceful and prayerful public witness of pro-life individuals standing for one hour praying for our nation and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. Join us on **Sunday October 4, 2020, 2:00 – 3:00 PM**. Meet at church at 1:30 PM and we can head out as a group to stand united.

**SCAVENGER HUNT:** The youth (middle school and older) of Faith Lutheran Church will be doing a scavenger hunt Sunday, September 27th after the second service at Riverside park. Lunch will be provided. I am looking for someone to help me organize the scavenger hunt.

### **Communion at Faith**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that in Communion we receive not only the bread and wine, but Christ's very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord invites all those who trust His words, repent of sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us.

Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. Any who are not yet instructed (confirmed), in doubt, or who holds a confession differing from this congregation and the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor.

For those who prefer not to drink wine, there is one cup of white grape juice (which contains one drop of wine) in the inner ring of the cup tray. Please register your communion on the Record of Fellowship booklets at the end of the pews. Thank you!

**Text: Matthew 20:1–16**

**Title: Long Laborers**

Why do the long laborers have such a long face?

- Are the long laborers upset because the master \_\_\_\_\_ them?

Although your appreciation for the rewards of Christianity may grow, God's \_\_\_\_\_ remain the same.

- Are the long laborers upset because they worked \_\_\_\_\_?

The *opinio legis* or the 'opinion of those under the law' is that we can actually complete the \_\_\_\_\_.

- Are the long laborers upset because they took their eyes off the \_\_\_\_\_?

So why not plan for a deathbed conversion and live a wild life now? Because being in the Master's vineyard is its own \_\_\_\_\_.

OUR MASTER CALLS US TO LABOR NOT BECAUSE OF OUR ABILITY TO PERFORM BUT BECAUSE OF HIS GREAT \_\_\_\_\_ FOR US.