



Are you envious  
because I am  
generous?

MATTHEW 20:15

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 24, 2023**

**9:00 a.m.**

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

Building Disciples - Growing in Faith  
Serving in Christ's Name

The Reverend Gwenn L. Trout, Interim Pastor

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Welcome to all – especially visitors!!!

**It is no accident that you are here today!**

You are an answer to our prayer. We have been praying for you, and believe that God has brought you here because God wants to touch your life.

We welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ!

*Large print bulletins are available in the Narthex or from an usher.*

**Holy Communion:** All God’s Children are welcome to come to God’s Table! It is at the Table we receive Christ’s body and blood through the bread and wine. This holy meal renews and nourishes our spirit. Come and eat. If you are unable to walk up to the altar to receive communion, please let an usher know and Pastor will bring communion to you.

***The prefilled glasses are grape juice.***

*Please remember to write any prayer requests for today in the prayer book in the Narthex.*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNITY TIME**

### **PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: In the presence of God, who knows our very hearts and our minds, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

**C: we come before you, beloved but broken. We have not always treated others as we would want them to treat us. We have not always called out injustice and abuse. We have not always been kind to ourselves. We have not always taken care of the world we share with other living creatures.**

**Remind us of who we are: beloved children bathed in your love. Renew us by your Spirit to live as your holy people, bringing healing to the brokenness around us. Amen.**

P: At every moment you are held in existence by the love of God, renewed by the Spirit within and among you, and made alive again in Christ. Receive this assurance in Jesus' name: you are + forgiven and freed to live for the healing of the world.

**C: Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN**

### **ELW #401 "Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading"**

## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## **KYRIE** *(sing responsively)*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    **Christ, have mer - cy.**  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    **Lord, have mer - cy.**  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

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

<sup>10</sup>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.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." <sup>4</sup>And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" <sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>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."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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?"

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8** *(read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!  
There is no end to your greatness.

**<sup>4</sup>One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

**<sup>6</sup>They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

**<sup>8</sup>The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

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

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <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 for you. <sup>25</sup>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, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>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, <sup>28</sup>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. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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



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



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Repeat alleluia*

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>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?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>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.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <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 the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to

me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P: The Gospel of our Lord

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

*Please be seated.*

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

The Rev. Gwenn Trout

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #765 "Lord of All Hopefulness"**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

A: Let us confess our Christian faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

**C: 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.**

### **THE PRAYERS**

*The assisting minister prays on behalf of the congregation.*

A: Growing in the soil of the Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who seek the richness of life in God.

*A brief silence.*

A: God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of

creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind especially Steve, Jay, Bill, Elizabeth, Dottie, Sherry, Jack, Jerry, Doug, Jordan, Christian, Pastor Anne, Sheree, Janie, Reba, Arla, Marge, Jerry, Terrie, and those we name before you now, aloud or in the silence of our hearts. // Guard their waking and their sleeping. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: God who is slow to anger, compel us to boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find purpose in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. Merciful God,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Hear us as we pray, living God, and nourish us always at your table of grace, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*We share a sign of peace with our neighbors, then are seated.*

**OFFERING**

“Give Me Jesus”

*Ushers will collect the offering.*

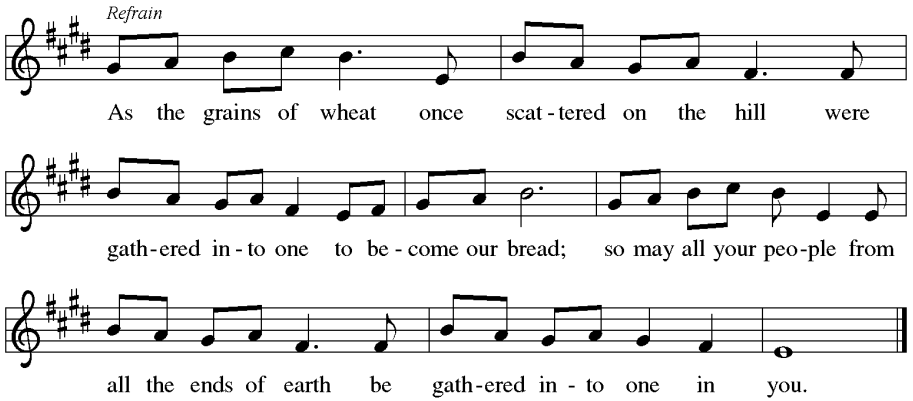
*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

*Ushers will bring forward the offering and the communion elements, followed by the bearers of the school kits and quilts.*



## OFFERTORY "As the Grains of Wheat"

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain'. The lyrics are written below the notes. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some dotted rhythms. The second staff continues the melody, and the third staff concludes with a double bar line.

## BLESSING OF SCHOOL KITS AND QUILTS

P: Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we send these quilts and school kits to Lutheran World Relief for distribution around the world.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you. We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us. Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, and especially of those in need. Let us be your hands and feet and voices to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people. May those who receive school kits be empowered in their learning, and those who receive quilts find dignity in their use and comfort in their warmth. Grant that these gifts may be a sign of your love to all people, through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Please join me in prayer:

**C: Generous God, we thank you for the gifts you bestow upon us daily. Make us aware of each blessing that comes our way, and create in us the constant desire to be blessings for others. Bless what we bring before you, we pray. Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 our thanks and praise.**

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. From age to age your creation sings your praises. You feed even the birds of the air, and you clothe the fields with lilies. You gave your blessing to Abraham and his descendants, and you spoke with Moses, Elijah, and David. Blessed are you, Lord our God:

**C: Blessed are you, Lord our God.**

You fulfilled your covenant with us in Jesus. He is Emmanuel, your beloved Son, the star that guides us to wisdom, the treasure hidden in a field. He is the landowner who overpays the workers, the judge who separates good from evil. Blessed are you, Lord our God:

**C: Blessed are you, Lord our God.**

For us he lived, for us he died, for us he rose to eternal life. Then and now he invites us to your banquet.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We hear his call, we repent our ways, and we enter with joy into the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you, Lord our God:

**C: Blessed are you, Lord our God.**

Send your Holy Spirit here on your gathered disciples. Make of this meal the body and blood of forgiveness. Heal us and grant us your righteousness, that we may love you and serve our neighbors. Blessed are you, Lord our God:

**C: Blessed are you, Lord our God.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, our Father in heaven, the Rock on which we build, the Dove alighting on us all. We worship you and sing our praises, today and to the end of the age. Amen.

**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.**

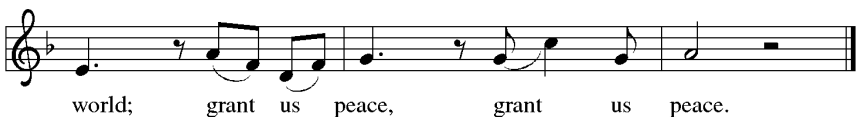
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**C: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

## LAMB OF GOD



*Please be seated.*

## **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

*Please stand as you are comfortable.*

### **POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A: Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

P: May the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus ✝ this day, and always.

**C: Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN ELW #668 “O Zion, Haste”**

### **DISMISSAL**

A: Strengthened by the living bread that Christ has given us, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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