

Faith Lutheran Church

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10:00am Worship Service • Sunday, September 17, 2023 • 16th Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CALL TO WORSHIP (sung 3 times)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true; with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C **Amen.**

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Steadfast and faithful God,

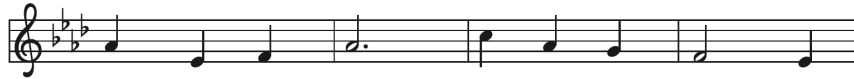
C **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE:

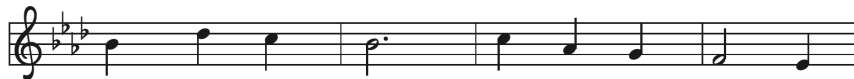
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
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Please be seated.

PASTORAL WELCOME

Faith's Mission is to preach, teach, and share God's love in Christ.

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST LESSON: GENESIS 50:15-21

A The First Lesson is from the 50th chapter of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 103 *(Sung responsively)*

**Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**

you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

**As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**

As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O Lord.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 14:1-12

A The Second Lesson is from the 14th chapter of Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

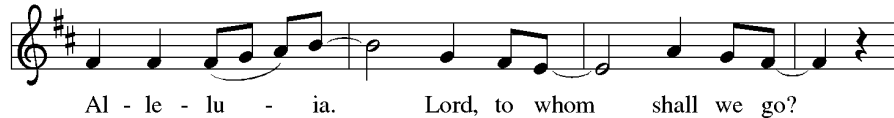
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

You may be seated

SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day: *Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil* ELW 721 (sing 3xs)

APOSTLES' CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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 into hell.
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.**

You may be seated.

FAITH MISSION MOMENT & GOD SIGHTINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation.

A brief silence. You may speak petitions aloud or in the silence of your heart.

We pray for the ministry of Faith Lutheran Church and School, and for your Church around the world....

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for your good creation.... Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We pray for leaders of our nation and around the world.... Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who are sick, grieving, or otherwise in special need of your care; those we name aloud and in the silence of our hearts... Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the joys and blessings we have experienced this week... Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Taste and See That the Lord Is Good, Lloyd Larson (Faith Choir)

please stand as you are able

OFFERING PRAYER

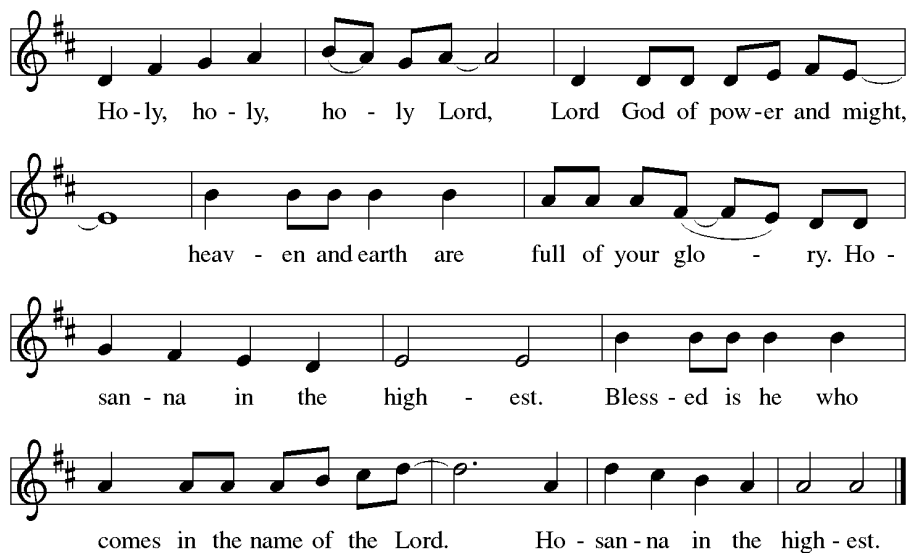
God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

P	The Lord be with you.	C	And also with you.
P	Lift up your hearts.	C	We lift them up to the Lord.
P	Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.	C	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
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**

You may be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

Sending Song: *Go, My Children with My Blessing* ELW 543

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. God is at work in you!

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE