

Today’s Scripture Readings

Isaiah 55:6-9
⁶ “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
⁷ 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.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30
¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ 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. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ 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, ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ 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, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Matthew 20:1-16
¹ “For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ 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?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸ 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.’ ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² 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.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

All Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®.

- In Our Prayers this Week—**
- *September mission of the month, Anchor of Hope.*
 - *Expectant mothers and their children.*
 - *Alice Denhardt, recovering from a broken hip.*
 - *Holly, a relative of Amy Assmann, battling cancer.*
 - *Jayne Cotter, receiving radiation and chemo treatments.*
 - *Jessica Dolezal, receiving treatment for recurrence of cancer.*
 - *Phil Bloedel, receiving hospice care at home.*
 - *Wendell Smith, son-in-law of Jim Schmitz, battling cancer.*
 - *Joan Eippert, receiving treatment for cancer.*
 - *Marion, Terry Ourada’s mother, sick with cancer.*
 - *Sarah Grisar, daughter-in-law of Dave and Bunnie Grisar, continuing battle with cancer.*
 - *Daryl Grimm, brother of Bunnie Grisar, for successful procedure and chemo treatment.*
 - *Pam Wordell.*
 - *Peace among nations.*
 - *The victims and families of all violence and disaster throughout our country and world.*
 - *Please also keep in prayer*
—our Seminarian Luke Konkel;
—John Wille our district president, who is undergoing aggressive treatment for cancer;
—Matthew Harrison our synodical president, for the LCMS;
—for the members, officers and auxiliaries of Emmanuel, for salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord’s body and blood;
—our circuit congregation, St. John in Sherman Center and Rev. Christopher Gillespie;
—our Missionary Rev. James May and his family in Africa; and
—our shut-in Members, Phil & Donna Bloedel, Bob & Alice Denhardt and Ed Friede.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



The Parable of the Vineyard Laborers
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.

Matthew 20:8

EMMANUEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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WE WELCOME all who gather with us around the Altar and Pulpit to hear the Word of God.

IF YOU ARE VISITING this morning, we are happy that you could join us today. *Please sign our guest book in the narthex.*

IF YOU DESIRE TO COMMUNE, please speak to the pastor before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine and are members in good standing of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

YOUNG CHILDREN are always welcome in our service. Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to me...”* Activity bags are available in the narthex.

NEED ASSISTANCE with anything? Please speak to the pastor or the usher.

RESTROOMS are available in the back of the church or in the education wing.

We pray that you feel welcome in our congregation, that you are blessed by the service, and that you will come again.

Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ

Those who are sent as “laborers for his vineyard” (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear “the burden of the day and the scorching heat” on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that “he may be found” (Is. 55:6), “have compassion” and “abundantly pardon” (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, “whether by life or by death” (Phil. 1:20), by “fruitful labor” (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are “worthy of the gospel” (Phil. 1:27).

T H E F A M I L Y A L T A R

- ①Verse of the Week — Matthew 21:23b** *“By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?”*
- ②Hymn of the Week — LSB #655** *“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”*
- ③Collect of the Week — Almighty God,** *You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*
- ④Daily Bible Readings — M:** *Mal. 1:1-14; Matt. 3:1-17* **T:** *Mal. 2:1—3:5; Matt. 4:1-11* **W:** *Mal. 3:6—4:6; Matt. 4:12-25* **Th:** *Deut. 1:1-18; Matt. 5:1-20* **F:** *Deut. 1:19-36; Matt. 5:21-48* **Sat:** *Deut. 1:37—2:15; Matt. 6:1-15* **Sun:** *Deut. 2:16-37; Matt. 6:16-34*
- ⑤Preparing for Next Sunday — Lessons for Pentecost 18:**
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Philippians 2:1-4, 5-18; Matthew 21:23-27; Psalm 25:1-10
- ⑥The Whole Story for the Whole Family — Week 3**

<i>Day 1—Pride in Our Hearts</i>	<i>Day 3—A Voice from the Whirlwind</i>
<i>Day 2—From Bad to Worse</i>	<i>Day 4—Called to Go</i>

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

Greeters — *Jerry & Betty Payne*
Elder — *Todd Graf*; Usher — *Karl Eippert*
Altar Guild — *Chris Born*; Jr. Altar Guild — *Kari Marks*
Cantors — *Andrew & Lorraine Harrill*; Acolyte — *Kai Reysen*
Organist — *Mrs. Terry Ourada*
Pastor — *Rev. Paul W. Marks*

The flowers in church today were placed by Jim & Sara Knepprath in remembrance of their wedding anniversary. We ask the Lord to continue His hand of mercy and blessings upon them.

Introit *(sung responsively after confession & absolution)* Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16; antiphon: v. 17



I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the Lord.

What shall I render | to the Lord*
for all his bene- | fits to me?

I will lift up the cup of sal- | vation*
and call on the name | of the Lord.

Precious in the sight | of the Lord*
is the death | of his saints.

O Lord, I am your | servant,*
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have | loosed my bonds.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanks- | giving*
and call on the name | of the Lord.

Collect *(spoken by pastor)*
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.

Gradual *(sung responsively)* Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.
Fear the LORD, | you his saints,*
for those who fear him lack | nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the | righteous,*
but the LORD delivers him out | of them all.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Lutheran Service Book
Divine Service-Setting Three
page 184 and following

Hymn of Invocation.....**#555**
stanzas 1-5
Confession and Absolution.....*p. 184*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

◀ Introit..... *see left*
Kyrie & Gloria.....*p. 186-187*
Salutation & Collect.....*p. 189*
Isaiah 55:6-9
The Compassion of the Lord

◀ Gradual..... *see left*
Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30
To Live Is Christ
Alleluia*p. 190*

Matthew 20:1-16
Laborers in the Vineyard
Nicene Creed.....*p. 191*
Hymn of the Day.....**#555**
stanzas 6-10

Sermon — “Unfairly Gracious”
Offertory*p. 192*
Offering
Prayer of the Church

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Communion Liturgy.....*p. 194-198*
Distribution.....*p. 199*
Please see communion statement above
Distribution Hymns.....**#853**
.....**#631**
Nunc Dimittis.....*p. 199*
Thanksgiving.....*p. 200*
Collect*p. 201*
Salutation & Benedicamus.....*p. 201*
Benediction*p. 202*
Hymn to Depart.....**#826**

