

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

2107 Three Oaks Rd, Cary, IL

September 20, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Inspired by Christ • Serving under Christ • Growing in Christ

Order of Service from Setting Four, page 203 in the Lutheran Service Book

OPENING HYMN

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

LSB 915

**Today Your mercy calls us to wash away our sin. However great our trespass, whatever we have been,
However long from mercy our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us and make us clean today.**

**Today Your gate is open, and all who enter in shall find a Father's welcome and pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, a present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised, a glorious crown in heav'n.**

**Today our Father calls us; the Holy Spirit waits; His blessed angels gather around the heav'nly gates.
No question will be asked us how often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, it is our Father's home.**

**O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door, what should we do without You when heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, to drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, one ear will hear our prayer.**

Is. 1:18; Luke 15:20-24; Heb 9:14; Jn 10:9

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. *Psalms 124:8*

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.

Psalms 130:3-4

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. *Luke 18:13*

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen. *John 20:19-23*

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 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord. What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation 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 beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen. I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.

Psalm 116:12-13;15-17

KYRIE *Mark 10:47*

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*

**To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth;
goodwill from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing--
our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heavenly King.**

**To you, O sole-begotten, the Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us Jesus; receive our heart-felt cry,
Where you in pow'r are seated at God's right hand on high--**

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

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

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 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. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear...for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, 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. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. 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, 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. 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, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. *John 20:31*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

“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. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 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?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ 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.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 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.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ 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

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 of the world to come. Amen!

HYMN OF THE DAY

“For the Fruits of His Creation”

LSB 894

**For the fruits of His creation, thanks be to God. For His gifts to ev’ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth’s safekeeping, thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done. In the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God. For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, For the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

Mark 4:26-27; 2 Cor. 9:6-12, 15

SERMON: “A Question of Fairness” *Matthew 20:1-16*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord. *Colossians 3:1*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise. *Psalms 136*

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto You O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, 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 singing:

THE SANCTUS *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored, heaven and earth with full acclaim
shout the glory of Your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI *John 1:29*

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Jesus Shall Reign”

LSB 832

**Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore till moons shall wax and wane no more.**

**To Him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise with ev'ry morning sacrifice.**

**People and realms of ev'ry tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on His name.**

**Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.**

**Let ev'ry creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.**

Ps. 72:5-11,17; Rev. 11:15, Ps. 8:2; Matt. 21:15-16; 11:28

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

NUNC DIMITTIS *Luke 2:29-32*

**O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace, for I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill, the glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son, all glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;
for as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding through all eternity.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P: 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

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“Not What These Hands Have Done”

LSB 567

**Not what these hands have done can save this guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.**

**Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.**

**Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.**

**Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to Thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free.**

**Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;
Thy pow'r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.**

**I bless the Christ of God, I rest on love divine,
And with unfalt'ring lip and heart I call this Savior mine.**

Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 3:28; 4:5