PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

4672 N Cedar Ave. Fresno, CA 93726 Rev. Michael N. Vernava Rev. Khai N. Lee

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost September 24, 2023

The Mission of Peace Lutheran Church is to honor our Lord Jesus Christ through worship and ministering to all God's people equipping them for service to God and to each other.

CREATIVE WORSHIP

As We Gather: Calling A Faithful Pastor

O Gracious Father, You led Your holy apostles to ordain ministers for the proclamation of Your Word and the Faithful administration of the Sacraments of Christ. Grant to this congregation the guidance of the Holy Spirit to choose a suitable pastor according to Your will for the blessing of Your Church in this place; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN *"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" LSB 821*

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Matthew 20:14, ESV

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INVOCATION

- C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 67:1–5, 7

- P May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us,
- C that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.

- P Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!
- C Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.
- P Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!
- C God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins and hear the words of absolution that assure us of God's forgiveness. The section on "Confession" in the Small Catechism written by Dr. Martin Luther instructs and directs us with these words:
- C Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.
- P Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
- C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the

power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.

- P God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.
- C Amen.
- P 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.
- P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your lives reflect His forgiveness. Be at peace!
- C Amen.

KYRIE

- L In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L For the peace from above and for our salvation. Let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- L Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Amen.

COLLECT

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

Isaiah 55:6–9

⁶"Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;

⁷let 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.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,

neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For 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

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear....

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as 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. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only 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, ²⁸and 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. ²⁹For 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, ³⁰engaged 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.

PSALM

27:1–9; antiphon: v. 4a

- P The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- C When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.
- P Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.
- C One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.
- P For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock.
- C And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.
- P Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!
- C You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek."
- P Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!
- 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.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1–16

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

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

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE HYMN



MESSAGE

"Equal Pay for Unequal Work" St. Matthew 20:1-16

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB 158

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.



COLLECT FOR GRACE

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting Ρ God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints.

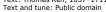
the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life + everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY





HYMN "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways" LSB 707

grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

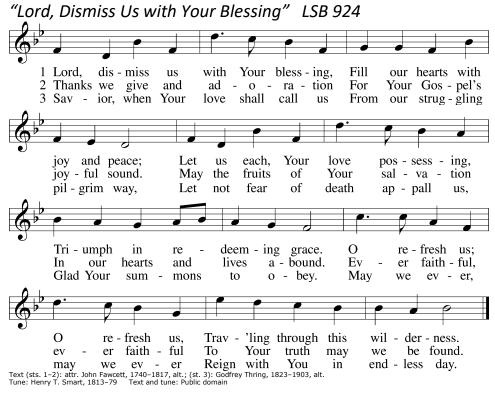
C Amen.

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.

CLOSING HYMN



ANNOUNCEMENTS