

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Thursday, Sept. 21 & Sunday, Sept. 24, 2017



Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

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The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know
Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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HYMN "O God, Forsake Me Not" LSB 731

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 27:1, 4a, 5

P: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

C: The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

P: One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

C: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

P: For He will hide me in His shelter in the day of trouble;

C: He will conceal me under the cover of His tent; He will lift me high upon a rock.

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Psalm 27:6, 9; Isaiah 55:6-7

P: As we come to the house of the Lord, we know that we are unworthy of God's love. We have sinned against friends and families, neighbors and co-workers.

C: We have not loved God with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have grumbled against God and His authorities. We have sought selfish desires instead of God's will.

P: We turn to God in repentance and implore Him for mercy.

(Silence for reflection.)

P: Lord, hide not Your face from us. Turn not Your servants away in anger.

C: Do not forsake us, O God of our salvation!

P: The prophet Isaiah writes, "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." The Lord is near to you. He has drawn near in the person

of Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection bring forgiveness, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. And now my head shall be lifted up. I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

✠ WORD ✠

HYMN "Oh, What Shall I Give Back, O Lord"

Tune: *LSB 344*

**Oh, what shall I give back, O Lord,
For ev'ry boon and each reward?
Your blessings far surpass my need!
Your benefits beyond exceed.**

**Salvation's cup I'll humbly raise
And call upon the name we praise.
I'll pay my vows unto my God
Before His people, fully awed.**

**Thanksgiving's sacrifice I give
And call the name by which we live.
Within His courts, my vows I'll pay.
Then, "Praise the Lord!" I'll sing and say.**

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SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA VERSE

Tune: *LSB 475*

**We have been saved by God's own grace,
Not by our works in time and space.
It is God's gift, His sweet embrace.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1–16

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Jesus said, “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.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Dear heavenly Father, You are the Lord of the harvest. Raise up missionaries who are willing to spread the Gospel of life and salvation to the ends of the earth. Grant them confidence and zeal to do Your work. Send Your Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who will hear the Word of Christ, that they may believe in You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, You are our rock and our refuge. Grant Your peace to all those who live in fear, especially immigrants, refugees, and all who are oppressed. Be their light and their salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, look with favor upon those who are homeless, unemployed, or underemployed. Grant them patience in the midst of suffering and meaningful vocations in Your perfect timing. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we know that Your ways are not our ways, but sometimes we fail to understand Your will. Strengthen the hearts of those who are

coping with disappointment, especially those struggling with infertility or miscarriage. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, be with those who are nearing the end of life. Send them comfort and strength as they will soon rest from their labors. Point them to the hope of Christ's return and the resurrection of the dead. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, we ask Your blessing and healing upon all who are sick or recovering. Cheer their hearts and heal their bodies according to Your perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, comfort those who mourn the death of loved ones. We know that to live is Christ and to die is gain. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, hopeful for His return, our resurrection, and the restoration of all creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Finally, Lord, guide Your Church to live in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ, standing firm in unity and truth as a witness to the world of Your light and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We ask all of these things in Your name, O Lord.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

If you are a confirmed member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation and would like to come forward with your family and friends during the distribution, please place your hands over your heart and you will receive a blessing.

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has called us all to seek and serve Him, and who by His death and resurrection brings us into eternal joy. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Tune: LSB 436

**Holy Lord of pow'r and might,
God of God and Light of Light,
Earth and heaven both are filled
With the glory You've instilled.
Let us sweet hosannas bring
To the blessed, coming King.**

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: 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. You have called us all to labor in Your vineyard and have graced us with rewards beyond what we deserve. We give You thanks for sending Your Son to labor on our behalf as well. He has borne our sin and become our Savior. 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. Hear us now 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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN “I Walk in Danger All the Way” LSB 716

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have had compassion upon us and abundantly pardoned our sins in this Sacrament. Keep us steadfast in the true faith throughout our lives, that we may not grow weary of doing good, but ever serve You in humility and fidelity; 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.

HYMN “Lord of All Hopefulness” LSB 738

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THIS WEEK AT CLC — (September 24 – October 1, 2017)

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am; Education Hour, 10:30am

Wednesday: Bible Class, 8:30am; 1st year Confirmation, 5:00pm; 2nd year Confirmation, 6:00pm

Thursday: Bethesda Work Day, 1:00pm; Worship/HC, 6:30pm

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am; Education Hour, 10:30am

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (Week ending September 17, 2017)

General & Building Funds: \$4749.00; Blessings: \$21.91; Road Sign: \$55.00; Genesis Fund: \$10.00

Attendance: Thursday: 29; Sunday: 122

CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUESTS AND VISITORS: We are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for fellowship and Bible class following the service.

Bathrooms are located upstairs on each end of the fellowship/Bible study area.

"THE REFORMATION": Orders are now being taken for a new book on the history of the Reformation. Dr. Cameron MacKenzie, (professor of church history at Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne,) presents a fresh look at this topic in this very readable and illustrated book. A sample of the book's contents and sign-up poster are located in the Fellowship Hall. Orders must be in by Sunday, October 8.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF WAUSAU AREA INGATHERING

will take place on Saturday, October 7. Volunteers are needed to help load the truck. See the fellowship bulletin board for more information.

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes. Throughout the year you will receive handouts discussing the eight important principles, from God's Word, that define Christian Stewardship and provide direction for growth. Check your mailbox for Stewardship Principles 1 and 2.

"LIFE QUOTES" from Lutherans For Life

"We have been freely received by the Lord God ... Since He generously extends compassion and forgiveness to each human being, we receive as freely, respect as fully, and defend as fiercely as we have been received, respected, and defended." *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life – (www.lutheransforlife.org)*