

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2020

Faith Lutheran Church

Online

Georgetown, TX 78628

512-863-7332

flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

INVOCATION:

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

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 27:1,3, 13-14*

Pastor: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

People: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Pastor: Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;

People: though war arise against me, yet will I be confident.

Pastor: I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

People: Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

People: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: “The Lord, My God, Be Praised” (Lutheran Service Book, #794)

The Lord, my God, be praised,
My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me
Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield
And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield
New blessings on my way.

The Lord, my God, be praised,
My trust, my life from heaven,
The Father's own dear Son,
Whose life for me was given,
Who for my sin atoned
With His most precious blood
And gives to me by faith
The highest heav'nly good.

The Lord, my God, be praised,
My hope, my life from heaven,
The Spirit, whom the Son
In love to me has given.
His grace revives my heart
And gives my spirit pow'r,
Help, comfort, and support
In sorrow's gloomy hour.

The Lord, my God, be praised,
My God, the ever-living,
To whom the heav'nly host
Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised,
In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son,
And God the Holy Ghost.

Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Pastor: Fear not, dear ones! The Lord God Almighty rules over all things. He has not abandoned His people, nor will He ever break His promise to be with you always. With God beside you, nothing can harm you.

People: Why, then, are we so uneasy? No virus can keep us out of heaven, no financial setback can rob us of the peace breathed into us by the risen Jesus, nor can any corrosive politics impede the power of His Spirit within us. It is sin at work in us that causes us to doubt and tremble. Forgive us, Holy Father; deal generously with us for the sake of Your Son, and enable us by His death and resurrection to stand fast against every foe, even our own timid hearts and uncomprehending minds. Amen.

Pastor: Dear ones, I say again, "Fear not!" Jesus, the Son of God, shed the blood that cleanses you from all unrighteousness. Marked with His cross, You are pure before God, dear to Him, and welcome in His kingdom. As a called and ordained minister of this gospel, and with the authority the reigning Christ bestowed on His Church, I, therefore, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: Let us pray:

People: Those who oppose You are many and mighty, Lord Jesus. They persecute Your Church and inflict pain on those who love You. Yet it was precisely through suffering that You redeemed Your people and secured for us places in Paradise. Fortify us for daily labors in Your kingdom that serve holy purpose here in time and for eternity. Amen.

THE 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.”

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: 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.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20thth chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 20:1–16*

[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. 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."

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Apostles' Creed

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The 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!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The Children's Message will return to its regularly scheduled place when we are able to increase the length of the worship service. Until then, it is available online at www.flcms.org/index.php/media/sermons.

HYMN: "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling" (LSB, #827, verses 1-2, 4)

Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—
Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,

“Here am I, send me, send me”?

Some take up His task in morning,
To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday,
Others late in afternoon;
Even as the sun is setting,
Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty
That God’s Word so richly yields.

Hearken to the Lord whose coming
Marks the time when grace shall end,
When with His angelic reapers
He in glory shall descend.
Soon the night, the final harvest;
Soon the time for work shall cease.
Then the souls His grace has garnered
Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

Text (st. 1): Public domain

Text (sts. 2–4): © 2001 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005093

SERMON: “Now Hiring” (Matthew 20:1-16)

OFFERTORY:

While the Coronavirus may have changed the way we come through the front doors of church, thanks be to God it has not prevented us from coming to Church! Please consider, as you are able, returning thanks and giving today at www.flcms.org/index.php/give.

OFFERTORY HYMN: “Lift Up Your Voice ” (v. 5, tune: Woodlands)

For workers pray, for faithful workers pray;
New fields for harvest ripen ev’ry day.
All people need the Gospel’s precious gold:
How will they hear unless God’s deeds are told?

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

BENEDICTION: *2 Corinthians 13:14*

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Go Labor On" (verses 1, 5-6; tune: Tallis' Canon)

Go labor on; spend and be spent—
'Tis joy to do the Father's will.
It is the way the aster went;
Should not the servant tread it still?
Toil on, faint not, keep watch and pray;
Be wise the erring soul to win.
Go forth into the world's wide way;
Compel the wand'rer to come in.
Toil on and in your toil rejoice;
For toil comes rest, for exile home
Soon shall you hear the Bridegroom's voice,
The midnight cry, "Behold, I come!"

DISMISSAL:

Please be seated
and kindly wait for an usher to dismiss your row.

+ † +

Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus

with

Proclaimer – Rev. Bill Crowe

Liturgist – Rev. Walt Pohland

Organist:

Karen Darby

Musicians:

Adam Perez and Austin Angerman

Children's Chapel:

DCE Jonathan Loesch, DCE Austin Angerman