

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023

Faith Lutheran Church

512-863-7332

Georgetown, TX 78628

flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

TEMPLE TALK: Board of Stewardship

INVOCATION:

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

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Psalm 103*

Vicar: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,

Vicar: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

People: who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

Vicar: who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

People: The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

Vicar: 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: “Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal” (Lutheran Service Book, #533)

Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!
Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.

See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!
 He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
 Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.
 Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!

Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.
 See now the threatening strong one disarmed!
 Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress,
 Brings forth the pris'ners triumphant, unharmed.
 Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!
 Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!

Jesus has come as the King of all glory!
 Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,
 Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;
 Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!
 Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!
 Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Vicar: The Lord is merciful and gracious,

People: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Vicar: He will not always chide,

People: nor will he keep his anger forever.

Vicar: He does not deal with us according to our sins,

People: nor repay us according to our iniquities.

Vicar: For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

People: so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

Vicar: as far as the east is from the west,

People: so far does he remove our transgressions from us

Vicar: In the hope of this promise, we confess together...

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son,

Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Vicar: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” (Lutheran Service Book, #940)

Holy God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.

Hark! The glad celestial hymn
Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim,
In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord:
Holy, holy, holy Lord!

Lo, the apostles' holy train
Join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain,
And the white-robed martyrs follow,

And from morn to set of sun
Through the Church the song goes on.

Thou art King of Glory, Christ;
Son of God, yet born of Mary.
For us sinners sacrificed,
As to death a Tributary,

First to break the bars of death,
Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.

Holy Father, holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Vicar: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Vicar: Let us pray:

People: O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our

Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HANDBELL ANTHEM: “How Can I Keep From Singing” arr. Arnold B. Sherman, published by Red River Music, 2007.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Genesis 50:15–21*

When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.” So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father gave this command before he died, ‘Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” But Joseph said to them, “Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.” Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: *Romans 14:1–12*

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written,
“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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 18th chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 18:21–35*

Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Nicene Creed.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The 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!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN: "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" (LSB, #851)

Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the_unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
“You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
“Give as I have giv’n to you”?

Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.

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SERMON: “Another Great Question” (*Romans 14:1-12*)

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

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.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is 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 on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

Pastor: *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI



G Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper will be distributed at the altar rail. Please follow the ushers' directions.

DISTRIBUTION SONG: "How Deep the Fathers Love For Us"

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure;
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away;
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life - I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

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DISTRIBUTION SONG: “Great Are You Lord”

You give life. You are love.
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope. You restore ev'ry heart
that is broken.

And great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to You only.

You give life. You are love.
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope. You restore ev'ry heart
that is broken.

And great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.

It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to You only.
And all the earth will shout Your praise.
Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,
“Great are You, Lord!”

(Repeat 2X)

It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.

It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to You only.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: “When Peace, Like a River” (LSB, #763)

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

He lives—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul.

It is well (It is well)
with my soul, (with my soul),
It is well, it is well with my soul.

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COMMON DISMISSAL:

Vicar: Now may this true body and blood our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in faith unto life everlasting.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Vicar: Let us pray:

People: 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. Amen.

BENEDICTION: *(Numbers 6:24-26)*

Vicar: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: “Where Charity and Love Prevail” (LSB, #845)

Where charity and love prevail
There God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ’s love
By love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul
Now love Him in return.

Forgive we now each other’s faults
As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown;
Let all contention cease;
Be God’s the glory that we seek;
Be ours His holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.

For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior’s name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.

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DISMISSAL:

+ † +

Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus
with

Liturgist: Vicar John Cotner
Proclaimer: Rev. Walt Pohland

Organist: Adam Perez

8:15 Lay Reader: Alicia Garcia
11:00 Lay Reader: Denise Barnes

Children’s Message: DCE Jonathan Loesch