

# Sunday, September 24, 2017

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



## **BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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## **Pastor Nathan Lundgren**

(Pulpit Supply)

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Church Secretary: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

### ***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

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### INTRODUCTION

*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables, in which Jesus says the reign of God is like workers who get paid the same no matter when they start. When God changes his mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### OPENING HYMN:

**“When Morning Gilds the Skies”**

**#853 ELW**

(please stand on the last verse)

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the ✠ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Source of all life,

**we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation.**

**Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ✠ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**BELL ANTHEM:                    “This is the Day”**

## **First Reading: Jonah 3:10--4:11**

*After Jonah’s short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but should not I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites who do not know the difference between their right and left hands?*

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. <sup>3</sup>And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” <sup>5</sup>Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. <sup>7</sup>But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in

which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8**

*The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)*

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God and king, and bless your name forever and ever.

<sup>2</sup>**Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.**

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised! There is no end to your greatness.

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.**

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

**Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30**

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup>I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup>but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. <sup>29</sup>For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ <sup>8</sup>When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>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.’ <sup>13</sup>But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to You, O Christ**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**“Lord of All Hopefulness”**

**#765 ELW**

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*A brief silence.*

Let us pray for the church and its ministry. Unite us in one Spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God who stretched the spangled heavens, we thank and praise you for the gift of the sun, moon, stars, mountains, valleys, grasslands, and deserts. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of great mercy and love, you show faithfulness and kindness to the world every day. Guard those who suffer because of dishonest policies, corrupt government, or unfair labor practices. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God, you provide for all our needs. We pray for those who are homeless, jobless, or hopeless. We pray for those who are forgotten, ignored, or isolated. We pray for all in any need (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our congregation and our neighborhood. Accompany us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Give us joy in the present and hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of endings and beginnings, we remember before you all the faithful departed (*especially*). Comfort those who mourn. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated*

## **OFFERING**

*Ushers will begin passing the offering plate. Please rise as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of life,

**you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.**

**Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.**

**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN:**

**“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”**

**#669 ELW**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.**

### **THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK**

Music: Bell Choir & Digital Hymnal

Greeters: Marilyn Andrews, Bev Wedig

Ushers: 9:00 – Winnie Zahradka, Judy Wozney Lector: 9:00 – Winnie Zahradka

Hospitality Hosts: Jack & Paula Spetz, Ron & Joni Mehlhop

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, September 17, 2017: 8:30am 65 10:00am 37

**THIS WEEK AT Bethesda****Sept. 25 through Oct. 1, 2017**

Monday	9/25	1:00 pm	Double Deck Pinochle
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Tuesday	9/26	9:00 am	Quilters
		9:00 am	Crafters
Wednesday	9/27	8:30 am	Bible Study
		9:30 am	Stitchers
		6:00 pm	Choir Practice
		7:00 pm	Praise Team
Thursday	9/28	8:00 am	ROMEOS
		12:30 pm	Fun Timers
		6:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Friday	9/29	10:00 am	Bone Builders
Sunday	10/1	8:30 am	Worship
		10:00 am	Worship

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENDANCE REGISTRY** Please sign and pass the attendance registry which you will find in the pew. Information will be gathered for Evangelism.

**BETHESDA WOMAN OF THE ELC SAVE THE DATE** Thursday, October 12, 2017, Heartland Conference Fall Gathering, Crosslake Lutheran Church, Crosslake. “DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY” What God has to say about what creates true happiness and freedom from worry. Coffee and treats at 8:30 a.m. Worship/ Communion at 9 a.m. Brunch will be served. Please bring silent auction items. Signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

**ANNUAL MEETING TODAY** Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> following the one 9:00am service Sunday.

**LUTEFISK DINNER** Trinity Lutheran Church in Milaca will be having its annual Lutefisk, Ham & Potato Sausage Dinner on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. See the poster on the bulletin board for more details.

**CRAFTERS** will meet Tues., Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> – not Tues., Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, MILACA** will be having their annual Men's Meatball Supper & Women's Bazaar on Wed., Sept 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-8:00. See poster on bulletin board.

**FLU SHOT CLINIC** will be held at Bethesda on Tuesday, Oct 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:00am. Bring your insurance card. See Poster on the bulletin board for other locations, times and dates.