



**OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Southern Pines, North Carolina**

**ORDER FOR WORSHIP**  
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**September 17, 2023**

## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Blessed be God, the one who forms us, (+) Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. Amen.*

*Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.*

**Steadfast and faithful God, you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

*Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In Christ (+), you are forgiven. Amen.*

## **GATHERING SONG - Here I Am to Worship**

### **THE APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

*People:* **And also with you.**

### **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Pastor:* O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **TEMPLE TALK**

### **THE FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-20**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.'" Now therefore please forgive the crime of the

servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.

Here ends the reading. Word of God, Word of Life...

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM: Psalm 103:8-13** (*Read responsively by half verse.*)

The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

He will not always accuse,  
**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
**nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
**so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him;**

as far as the east is from the west,  
**so far he removes our transgressions from us.**

As a father has compassion for his children,  
**so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.**

**THE SECOND READING: Romans 14:7-10**

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 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, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God.

Here ends the reading. Word of God, Word of Life...

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**THE CHILDREN'S SERMON** - Heather Lussier

## **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *I Love to Tell the Story* ELW #661**

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.*

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:14-16**

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

*Pastor:* The Gospel of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God!**

## **THE SERMON:** Kingdom Stories

This Little Light of Mine

Pastor Frank Waugh

## **THE HYMN OF THE DAY - This Little Light of Mine ELW 677**

## **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

### **PRESENTATION**

*Those making affirmation may gather with the ministers at the font.*

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for these sisters and brothers, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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 to the dead.\* 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

### **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

**I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**

People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

**We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in us the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

**We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

### **THE PEACE**

### **THE OFFERING**

### **THE OFFERING RESPONSE**

### **THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** - ELW p. 144

*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 our thanks and praise.**

### **THE PREFACE** (*Sung by Pastor*)

### **THE SANCTUS**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Spoken*)

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

## **COMMUNION SONGS**

### **Lamb of God**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.

## **THE COMMUNION PRAYER**

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE BLESSING**

The God of glory, (+) Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## **THE SENDING SONG - O God of Light ELW 507**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**