



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

**ORDER FOR WORSHIP**  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

**September 24, 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 - Cornerstone**

### **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:* Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness 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.**

### **THE FIRST READING: Jonah 4:2-11**

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. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.' And the Lord said, 'Is it right for you to be angry?' 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.

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. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. 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.' But God said to Jonah, 'Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?' And he said, 'Yes, angry enough to die.' Then the Lord said, 'You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?'

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

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

**THE PSALM: Psalm 145:1-3** (*Read responsively by half verse.*)

I will extol you, my God and King,  
**and bless your name for ever and ever.**

Every day I will bless you,  
**and praise your name for ever and ever.**

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
**his greatness is unsearchable.**

**THE SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-26**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 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 for you. 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, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

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 7:24-27**

'Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!'

*Pastor:* The Gospel of the Lord

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

**THE SERMON:** Kingdom Stories

Built on the Rock

Pastor Frank Waugh

## **THE HYMN OF THE DAY - *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* ELW 596**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

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 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.

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**

### **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 - Your Grace Is Enough**

### **THE DISMISSAL**

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

## **POSTLUDE**