LUTHERAN CHAPEL



MARK 16:1-20 AND MATTHEW 20:1-16 "UNFAIR MERCY"

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard seems so unfair. Yet God's mercy, surprising and wonderful, is up to Him, right?

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

lutheranchapelchurch.org (704) 864-6491

LUTHERAN CHAPEL SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SERVICE OF THE WORD

BOLD indicates congregational responses.

* Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.

GATHER

WELCOME

Who are you? We are children of God (1 John 3:2). What is our mission? The mission of Lutheran Chapel is to share God's love.

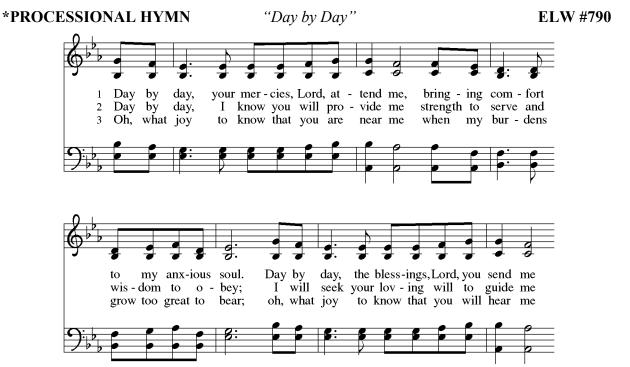
PRELUDE "Prayer" arr. David Paxton

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: We gather together in the name of the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.





Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Öskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882 Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress.

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LITANY *Psalm 145:1-2, 146:6-8, Philippians 4:19, 1 Peter 2:9-10, Numbers 6:26*

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,

C: for in your wisdom you have formed us.

P: You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

C: We bless you and praise your name forever.

P: You set free those who are bound.

C: We bless you and praise your name forever.

P: You raise up those whose courage falters.

C: We bless you and praise your name forever.

P: You provide for our every need.

C: Accept our grateful praises.

P: You have called us from all peoples.

C: We rejoice and bless your name forever.

P: You bless your people with peace.

C: We bless you and praise your loving grace.

P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,

C: for in your wisdom you have formed us.

*APOSTLES' CREED

All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

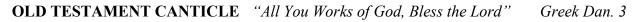
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

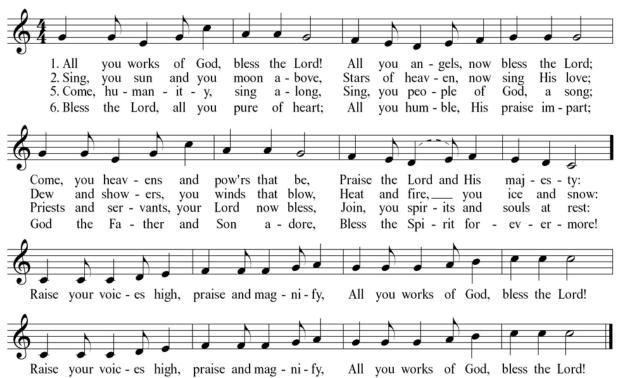
The third day He rose again from the dead.

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.





Text: Stephen P. Starke

Tune: Jamaican; Adapt. Doreen Potter

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children who want to come forward for the Children's Message at the front of the church are welcome to do so. Let the little children come unto our Lord always!

FIRST LESSON 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 shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When 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.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He 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. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then 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.

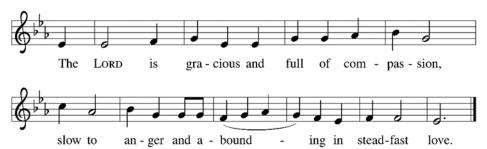
⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared 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."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then 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. ¹¹And 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?"

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8 Mark Mummert



Psalm refrain reproduced from Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary © 2008 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

I will exalt You, my god and King,

And bless Your name forever and ever.

Every day will I bless You

And praise Your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to Your greatness.

One generation shall praise Your works to another

And shall declare Your power.

I shall speak of the glorious splendor of Your majesty and all Your marvelous works.

Refrain

They shall tell of the might of Your wondrous acts,

And I will recount Your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of Your great goodness;

they shall sing joyfully of Your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion;

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Refrain

STORY OF SALVATION LESSON

MARK 16:1-20

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But

he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Shorter Ending of Mark

[[And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.]]

The Longer Ending of Mark

⁹[[Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. ¹⁰She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. ¹¹But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

¹²After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. ¹³And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them.

¹⁴Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. ¹⁵And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. ¹⁶The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

¹⁹So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.]] L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STORY OF SALVATION TIMELINE

The timeline below offers an overview of the Story of Salvation lesson and Bible in a Year readings from Genesis to Revelation. <u>The + marks where we are now</u>. A memory verse for the week is in bold. Claim the gift for yourself!

Creation: Fall: Promise: Exodus: Conquest: Judges: Kings and Prophets: Exile: Restoration: 2nd Temple: + **JESUS**: Apostles: Last Day: New Creation

*GOSPEL **MATTHEW 20:1-16**

Those who are able may stand to honor Christ during the reading of the Gospel.

Response after announcement:

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

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

"Unfair Mercy" MESSAGE

On the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

The Law is an aspect in the Word that shows our brokenness, sin and need for Jesus' saving power: The mercy of the Lord Jesus frustrates me. Destroy the evil doer! Yet what about when I do evil?

The Gospel is an aspect in the Word that gives strength, wisdom and hope in Jesus' ultimate saving power: The mercy of the Lord Jesus is a metaphysical fact to the early risers, the late comers, and even to you and me.

So What? I am not in control. You are not in control. Can we leave the final payment, the final judgement to Him? Pray the Lord have mercy in your daily prayers.



Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

PRAYER

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

God is the owner of everything. We brought nothing into the world and we are taking nothing out of it. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be wise managers of the gifts He has given us in our selves, our time, and our possessions. A wise use of money will give, save, spend, and avoid debt. The traditional teaching is to give 10% (the tithe), save 10%, and spend 80%. Note: Our ushers will walk up and down the aisle during the musical offering with the offering plate for any who may have missed the plates when entering the church.

MUSICAL OFFERING

CHANCEL CHOIR

"Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me"

arr. K. Lee Scott

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would gracious be; Help me now thy grace to see, I would be like thee; And, with words that help and heal, thy life would mine reveal; And, with actions bold and meek, for Christ, my Savior, speak.

Truthful Spirit, dwell with me, I would truthful be; Help me now thy truth to see, I would be like thee; And, with wisdom kind and clear, thy life in mine appear; And, with actions brotherly, Speak Christ's sincerity.

Holy Spirit, dwell with me, I would holy be; Show thy mercy tenderly, Make me more like thee; Separate from sin, I would and cherish all things good, And whatever I can be Give him who gave me thee.

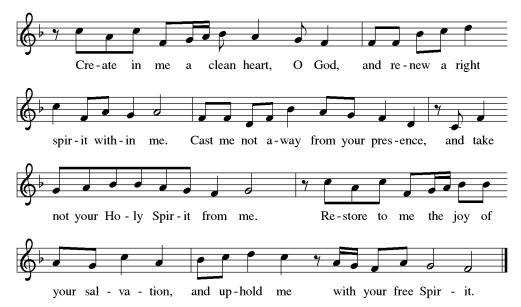
Mighty Spirit, dwell with me, I would mighty be; Help me now thy power to see, I would be like thee; 'Gainst all weapons hell can wield, be thou my strength and shield; Let thy word my weapon be, Lord, Thine the victory.

Gracious Spirit, dwell with me, I would be like thee!

*OFFERTORY

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

ELW #186



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

(In Unison)

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.**

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

SENDING

*BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24-26

P: 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. In the Name of the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

ELW #759



Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887 Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"A Testimony of Faith"

Franklin Ritter

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OUR ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Ken & Ann Marie Lentz in honor of their family birthdays in September - Zac 9/22, Melissa 9/25 and Ann Marie 9/30!

THOSE SERVING AT LUTHERAN CHAPEL TODAY

Ministers	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant	Kim Rundzieher
Director of Music Ministries	Kathie Riebe
Assistant Minister	
Lector	Trish Ratchford
Acolyte	Hunter Clark
Crucifer	Will Clark
Head Ushers	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR	Steve Clark
Council Members of the Month	Dan Lineberger & Gene Weaver

PARISH NEWS

NURSERY ATTENDANTS BY REQUEST: If your family is in need of a nursery attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our standby attendants.

RESTROOMS: Restrooms are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS: The Women's Circles of Lutheran Chapel kindly request that the parents of college students give their child's college address to the church office by Sunday, October 1, 2023. We would like to send your child a gift. If we don't have the addresses we will be unable to do so. During COVID we were not able to continue this ministry and we are excited to once again be able to show our college students love and care. Thank you from the Women of the Lutheran Chapel WELCA.

CONGREGATIONAL COOKOUT: The Men of the Church will be sponsoring a hamburger and hot dog cookout on Tuesday, October 10th @ 6 PM in the picnic shelter. Plan now to attend and enjoy good food and fellowship. You might want to consider bringing a lawn chair. Hope to see you there.



DAILY PRAYER

EACH MORNING AND EVENING, PRAY TO THE LORD. (*Psalm 1:2*) Prayer lists and roster, Psalter readings, daily Bible lessons, and a song of praise are below.

PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Faye Anne Boyette, Buddy Carothers, Henry Hoffman, Pastor Peter Homovich, Susan Jackson, Leon Moretz, Nancy Rankin, Doug Rhyne, Bill & Kay Robinson, Pat & Barbara Robinson, Joe Veale, and Myra Weaver

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: Baby Aaron, Sheila Abernathy, John Austin, Sam Bell, Rick Belton, Deborah Carpenter, Doris Coggins, Mary Collins, Carol Coutant, Tucker Doyne, Jameson Franklin, Jonnie Heavner, family of Julia Heavner, Joyce Hoffman, Pastor Peter Homovich, Wade Huss, Rick Knowles, Bill Lankford, Pastor Terrell Long, Pastor Charles McManus, Rita Pasour, Randy Reel, Frank Sanders, Dakota Shuford, Christy Carpenter Smith, and Charlene Sorenson

To share concerns and updates for the prayer list you can contact the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439).

FEAST OF PSALMS: Psalter Book Two

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AM	42, 43	46, 47	50, 51	54, 55	58, 59	62, 63, 64	67, 68, 69
PM	44, 45	48, 49	52, 53	56, 57	60, 61	65, 66	70, 71, 72

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 39 September 24 to October 1, 2023

- 09/24 Morning Reading: Galatians 3—Evening Reading: Song of Solomon 4, 5
- 09/25 Morning Reading: Galatians 4—Evening Reading: Song of Solomon 6, 7, 8
- 09/26 Morning Reading: Galatians 5—Evening Reading: Isaiah 1, 2
- 09/27 Morning Reading: Galatians 6—Evening Reading: Isaiah 3, 4
- 09/28 Morning Reading: Ephesians 1—Evening Reading: Isaiah 5, 6
- 09/29 Morning Reading: Ephesians 2—Evening Reading: Isaiah 7, 8
- 09/30 Morning Reading: Ephesians 3—Evening Reading: Isaiah 9, 10
- 10/01 Morning Reading: Ephesians 4—Evening Reading: Isaiah 11, 12, 13

Traditional Song: "It is Well With My Soul" ELW #785 **Sing a New Song:** "We Will Glorify the King" W&P #154

The "Our Daily Bread" devotional is available as a booklet, an app in eBook format, daily e-mail, or podcast. Visit odb.org/subscribe.

This QR code goes straight to the Daily prayers page on the website that list the commemorations for the week.

Wednesday, September 27 ~ Holy Communion

Psalm 3 "On Spiritual Battle"

Thursday, September 28 ~ Story of Salvation Bible Study

Mark 16:1-20 "The Empty Tomb and Mystery of Resurrection"

Sunday, October 1 ~ Holy Communion

Acts 2:1-11 and Matthew 21:23-32 "Parable of the Two Sons"

CHURCH ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

	<u>SUNDA</u>	<u>Y, SEPTEMBER 24 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 202</u>
Sun-24	8:30 am	Fellowship
	9:00 am	Bible Study/Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship (Sanctuary)
	11:05 am	Luther Choir
	11:35 am	Chancel Choir
	8:00 pm	Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
Mon-25	8:30 am	Preschool
Tues-26	8:30 am	Preschool
	10:00 am	Clothing Closet Workday
	7:00 pm	CBS (Conference Room, Chapel, Classrooms)
Wed-27	8:30 am	Preschool
	5:30 pm	Chapel Ringers
	7:00 pm	Evening Service (Chapel)
Thur-28	8 8:30 am	Preschool
11141 =0	11:00 am	Bible Study (Library)
Fri-29	9:00 am	CBS (Youth Room)
Sat-30	9:30 am	Hungry Peeps Support Group (Fellowship Hall)