

Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2023

9:30 a.m.

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

<http://www.bethanialutheran.org/bulletins/>

Order of Worship for Sunday, September 24, 2023

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's 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 Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come near to the Lord.

P: Lord, be with us this day.

L: Lift your sorrows and joys to the Lord.

P: Lord, hear the cries of our hearts.

L: Come, rest in the love and mercy of God.

P: Bless us, O Lord, that we may be blessings for others in your name. AMEN.

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

“Take My Life, that I May Be ” #406

Lutheran Book of Worship—Green Hymnal

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P: Let us pray the Prayer of Confession together,

C: Lord, You know how fickle we are. We proclaim your presence with us and then we behave in ways which run counter from your word. We get caught up in our own needs and whine about the injustices we feel in our lives. Help us to place our trust in your mercy and your compassionate love. Forgive us when we stray from your ways and wander into paths of self-pity and self-destruction. Lift us from the deep morass and put us back on track. Give us confidence in your presence and your direction throughout our lives, for we ask these things in Jesus' name. AMEN.

SALUTATION

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

C: 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.

(Please be seated)

WORD

OUR FIRST LESSON is from the book of Jonah, chapter 3, verse 10 through chapter 4, verse 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!

PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY - PSALM 145, verses 1 through 8.

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

²Every day will I bless you and praise your name forever and ever.

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

⁴One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and all your | marvelous works.

⁶They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will recount your greatness.

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of Philippians; chapter 1, verses 21 through 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.

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

²⁷Only, 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, ²⁸and 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. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(LBW #239)

Refrain
Leader All

Ne - no, ne - no la - ke Mu - ngu la - ku - i - ta we - we,
Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,
ne - no la wo - ko - vu, te - na je - ma. ma.
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort, and joy. joy.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 20th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

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. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and 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.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY -

"There's A Wideness In God's Mercy " #290

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

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 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.**

PRAYER SONG

$\text{♩} = 105$

In the Qui - et, Peace ful Pres - ence of this Place

May Our Prayer - ful com - mun-ion Re - flect God's Own Grace!

Join with us in sweet Si - lence, As we pray to end

¹² Vio - lence. See Him Shine through us

All of our Days!

PRAYERS

L: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

L: God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind. We especially ask that you watch over Dan, Ann Marie, Pat & Pete, Jeff & Sue, Austin, Kevin, Ryan, Anita, Grete, Glenn, Bonnie, Heather, Brad, Michelle, Illiana, Junior, Bob & Sue, Suzy, Richard, Ryan J and all those we name in our hearts. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)

$\text{♩} = 105$

In the Qui - et, Peaceful Pres - ence of this Place

May Our Prayer - ful com - mun-ion Re - flect God's Own Grace!

Join with us in sweet Si - lence. As we pray to end

Vio - lence. See Him Shine through us

All of our Days!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with others around you.)

OFFERTORY

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

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.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,
Broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
And gave it for all to drink , saying;
This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you
And for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.

P: Let us join together in the prayer that our Lord taught us to
pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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

L: Jesus invites you to this table.

Come, eat and live.

(Please be seated)

SHARING THE MEAL

For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice is preferred let the assistant know.

For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.

COMMUNION HYMN - "Give Me Jesus"

#777

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

(Please rise)

COMMUNION BLESSING

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us Pray,

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.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

L: Go forth into God's world as God's own children. Let the love of Christ be reflected in your life and your deeds. Go with joy to serve the Lord.

C: AMEN!

SENDING HYMN -

"Rise Up O Saints of God"

#393

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Kelly Imhoff

Lector: Vicki Thiery

Communion Assistants: Kelly Imhoff & Vicki Thiery

Acolyte: Dominic Shawhan Offering Presenter: Kelly I

Coffee Hour: Sharon & Bettie Altar Flowers: Open

Building Host: Kelly Imhoff

WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 10/01):

Worship Leader: TBD

Lector: Anne Woodward

Communion Assistants: TBD and Anita Nielsen

Acolyte: Eli Imhoff Offering Presenter: Brad Larsen

Coffee Hour: Open Altar Flowers: Open

Building Host: TBD



If you have anyone you would like to have added to the prayer chain **please contact Kelly Imhoff at 262-554-1558 or by email: bethaniaprayer-chain@wi.twcbc.com**

Cans FOR K-9's



We are still collecting aluminum cans to help support the Racine County K-9 program.

Remember the food pantry. Suggested items: Canned dinners, Peanut butter, toilet paper, hygiene items, soup, and pastas.

SECRET PRAYER PARTNERS

There are some prayer partners who have not been in touch with their partner yet so please leave them a card or a note so they know that someone is there for them. If you need help getting it to your partner you can mail it to the church or leave it in Cathi's mailbox and she will be sure to get it to them.

Your Secret Prayer Partner Leader

Please join us on TODAY, September 24th after worship for our clothing changeover from summer to fall. Our families that visit us need warmer clothing items so this is the time when we ask for your assistance. We will once again have pizza and great conversation following, so please consider heading up to the second floor after service to unpack boxes and totes. Pick up some coffee in the Hearth Room and join us. The sign up is on the board outside the Hearth Room.



Thank you,
Jacci Young.



NOW AVAILABLE:

NON- PROFIT GRANT
APPLICATIONS

Deadline is: **OCTOBER 2, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.**



It's that time of year when we begin to think about collecting food items for the Thanksgiving baskets that we put together for families in need. Starting Sunday, October 8th, please consider helping Bethania fill bags with groceries. There will be a green barrel marked "Thanksgiving Baskets" for you to fill.

Oct. 8th canned vegetables

Oct. 15th canned gravy

Oct. 22nd canned fruit

Oct 29th Mac' N cheese

Nov. 5th Peanut & Jelly

Nov. 12th box of instant potatoes or 5# bag of potatoes

We will also be accepting monetary donations that will be used to purchase grocery store gift cards which will be attached to each basket. Thank you in advance for helping to make Thanksgiving special for some families who are struggling. If anyone knows of a family that would benefit from a Thanksgiving basket, please let me know.



Jacci Young
262-497-4284

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Please consider hosting coffee hour. The coffee will be started by the building opener. Treats maybe store bought or homemade.

Sign up sheet is in the hearth room on the serving table.

CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONALS

(for October –
December)

are available
on the table
just inside
the
sanctuary
doors.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Sunday, September 24, 2023 -

9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

11:00 a.m.—Coffee Hour

Monday, September 25, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.—Bible Study

Thursday, September 28, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Friday, September 29, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Sunday, October 1, 2023

9:30 a.m. – Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30 a.m. –Coffee Hour