



Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Whether you are joining us in-person or on-line we are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We pray that our time of worship together further encourages and strengthens our call to discipleship.

MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

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 already and always forgiven.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

As Saints of Old

ELW #695



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
 2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - hor, love, and give;
 3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
 to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
 to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
 The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
 O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
 a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
 teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christerson, 1900-1996, alt.
 Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune
 Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW #167


Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion




sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

2 Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo - ple of

God; to make all things new.

Text and music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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 +

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 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?"

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 145:1-8

READ RESPONSIVELY

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

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

²**Every 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.

⁴**One 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.

⁶**They 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.

⁸**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.

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.

Word of God. Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Thy Word (v.1)

Words and Music by

**Pronouns changed to plural possessive

Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

CHORUS

♩ = 70 F C/E F B⁷/D C F

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

5 C/E F B⁷/D C F *Fine*

Thy Word is a lamp un - to my feet and a light un - to my path.

VERSE

C Gm Dm Am B^b C

1. When I feel a - fraid, and I think I've lost my way, still You're there right be -

2. I will not for - get Your love for me, and yet my heart for - ev - er is

12 B^b/F F C Gm Dm Am B^b C

side me. Noth - ing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me

wan - der - ing. Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to Your side; I will love You

16 C/D D C^{sus} C *D.C. al Fine*

to the end. _____

to the end. _____

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GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

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. ³When 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. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶ 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?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸ 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.' ⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² 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.' ¹³ 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?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR MARY E. ZUPANSIC

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW #765



1	Lord	of	all	hope - ful - ness,	Lord	of	all	joy,
2	Lord	of	all	ea - ger - ness,	Lord	of	all	faith,
3	Lord	of	all	kind - li - ness,	Lord	of	all	grace,
4	Lord	of	all	gen - tle - ness,	Lord	of	all	calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy;
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther. 1901–1953
Music: SLANE. Irish traditional
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

THE SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

CONTEMPORARY SONG—*My Life is in You*

CHORUS

My life is in You, Lord
My strength is in You, Lord
My hope is in You, Lord
In You, it's You
My life is in You, Lord
My hope is in You, Lord
In You, it's in You.

VERSE

I will praise You
With all of my life
I will praise You
With all of my strength
With all of my life
With all of my strength
All of my hope is in You.

TAG: In You.

CCLI Song #17315

Daniel Gardner

©1986 Integrity's Hosanna! Music

+ THE MEAL +

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS *Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithe.ly, or direct deposit from your bank.*

OFFERING HYMN

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL

ELW #184



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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

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.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 for the remembrance of me.

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

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW P. 208



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION SONG/HYMNS *10,000 Reasons
Give Me Jesus*

ELW #770

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

ELW #207



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.
 Amen.

BLESSING

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

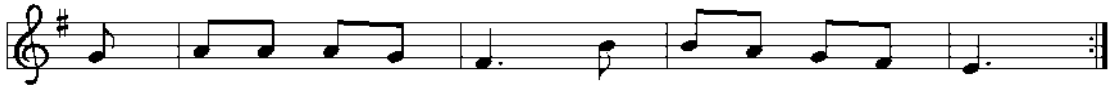
SENDING HYMN

THE LORD NOW SENDS US FORTH

ELW #538



En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta, es - tá
 The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
 pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
 to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live,
 Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
 The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain
 un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
 to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;
 me ha to - ca - do, a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
 that falls to you and me and all who are made free.



A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a_ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

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ABOUT THIS WEEKS TEXT

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.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

PETE ELLERTSEN, DEBI ELLERTSEN, PAULA TONELLATO,
NORM KOEFOED, IVY KOEFOED, HERB KIEL, PASTOR MARY

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to peace.lutheran@comcast.net OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name.

PASTORAL CARE: IF YOU WOULD LIKE A VISIT FROM PASTOR MARY, OR YOU HAVE A PASTORAL EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL PASTOR MARY ON HER CELL PHONE AT 920.671.4338.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24:

PRESIDING AND PREACHING: PASTOR MARY E. ZUPANSIC

ASSISTING: ELIZABETH MITCHELL

USHERS: ELAINE UREKAR, LIBBY LETTERLY

POWERPOINT: LINDA RICE

CAMERA: JANET KOCIS

MUSICIAN: BRENDA PECK

FELLOWSHIP: LOIS MOORMAN

FLOWERS: CHARLENE SAMPSON — IN HONOR OF HER BIRTHDAY

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM — 9:30AM

DWELLING IN THE WORD — 10:45AM

FAITH FORMATION — 10:45AM

SUNDAYS@6 — 6:00PM (ZOOM)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 CHOIR PRACTICE — 7:00PM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 IN PERSON WORSHIP/LIVESTREAM — 9:30AM

DWELLING IN THE WORD — 10:45AM

FAITH FORMATION — 10:45AM

SUNDAYS@6—6:00PM (ZOOM)

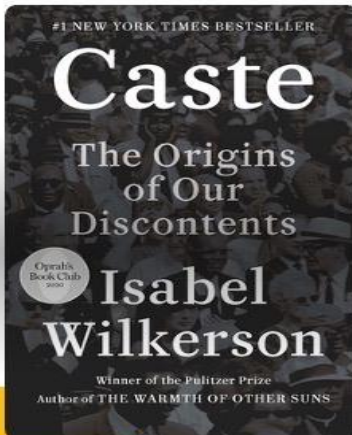
AFTER WORSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 24 — We will pack up our health kits and box up our quilts. Then on **October 28th, our boxes will be transported to St. John's here in Springfield, where they begin their trip around the world. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED TO THIS PROJECT!**



REMEMBER TO TAKE A NAME FROM THE BOWL AND BE PRAYING FOR THAT PERSON THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.



Peace Lutheran Church
2800 West Jefferson
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: 217-546-7646
E-mail: peace.lutheran@comcast.net



SUNDAYS AT 6
Adult Faith Formation

Beginning September 24
6 to 7 p.m. on Zoom

For detail, contact:
Debi and Pete Ellertsen
Edmund.ellertsen85@gmail.com
217-793-2587