

# East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

September 24, 2023: 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

Rev. Jim Rushton     Organist: Pat Nelson

**INTRODUCTION:** *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.*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Before God, our rock and our refuge, let us keep silence, and then confess our sins.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**You know our failings better than we do; our sins are revealed in the light of your face. Our days and years pass by; the things we trust fade like grass. Be gracious to us, O God. Guide us again to the water of life, and renew in us the grace of holy baptism; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

You are all children of the light and of the day; you are God's children now. In the mercy of God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sin. With all the faithful in heaven and on earth, rejoice and be glad!

## GATHERING SONG

*Give to Our God Immortal Praise!* (ELW 848)

### GREETING (ELW p. 184)

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.**

### KYRIE (ELW p. 184)

### CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 185)

### PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 188)

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.**

### 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?*

A reading from Jonah, chapter 3:

<sup>10</sup>When 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.

<sup>4:1</sup>But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And now,

O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.”<sup>4</sup> And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup>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.<sup>7</sup> But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered.<sup>8</sup> 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.”

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.”<sup>10</sup> Then 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.<sup>11</sup> And 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?” The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8**

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

<sup>2</sup>**Every day will I bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.**

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

<sup>4</sup>**One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.**

<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.

<sup>6</sup>**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,**

**and I will recount your greatness.**

<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

<sup>8</sup>**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.*

A reading from Philippians, chapter 1:

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

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

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)**

*Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?*

*You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.*

*Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.  
Alleluia, alleluia.*

**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.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup>and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>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?' <sup>7</sup>They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup>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.' <sup>9</sup>When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup>And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup>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.' <sup>13</sup>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? <sup>14</sup>Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Faith Looks Up to Thee* (ELW 759)

CREED (ELW p. 189)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and  
unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\*  
who with the Father and  
the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

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,  
**receive our prayer.**

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,  
**receive our prayer.**

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,  
**receive our prayer.**

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. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

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,  
**receive our prayer.**

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,  
**receive our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

## OFFERING (ELW p. 190)

### OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray... God of every generation,

**We offer you our songs of praise and thanksgiving; we bring you these tokens of our talents and our lives. Help us to use our gifts in the name of Christ, so that justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.**

### DIALOGUE (ELW p. 190)

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.**

## PREFACE

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 190)

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 (ELW p. 191)**

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.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### **COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)**

*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, Lamb of God.*

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus (ELW 742)**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Shepherd of Israel, You have gathered us and fed us richly  
with the bread of life and cup of blessing. Open our eyes to all

who hunger and thirst for food and justice, that in them we may care for Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and always. **Amen.**

**BLESSING (ELW p. 192)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *Praise and Thanksgiving* (ELW 689)**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE VISITING:**



If you're visiting, please sign our guestbook (in narthex).  
*Worship times rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf.*

**OCTOBER WORSHIP TIMES**



*BOTH CHURCHES have communion on 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays*

*WEST 9:00 am worship / West coffee at 10am*

BOTH: 10:00 at West - JAM Sunday school

*EAST 11:00 am worship / East coffee after church*

**THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US**

**Note: Anyone interested may join Altar Guild**

**Altar Guild:** Sept. - Deanna Bakken

**Deacon:** Sept. - Lori Peterson

**Reader/Helpers:** Sept. 24 - Bruce Peterson

**East Acolytes:** If none listed, then ushers are covering

**TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES OVER PASTOR'S VACATION:**

**September 16<sup>th</sup> - Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Paul is on vacation, so**

**for all PASTORAL EMERGENCIES during this time, CALL:  
Pastor Steve Rheingans: (612) 250-9724 (of Byron Christ  
Lutheran Church)**

*FOR PULPIT SUPPLY ONLY – Rev. Jim Rushton will be preaching  
on September 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.*

## **EAST DONATIONS for TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS**



September 1 thru October 1, our mission is to collect school supplies for students that cannot afford the basics. **Please consider donating (by Oct. 1)...**

- Wide lined notebooks, Packs of No. 2 pencils
- Packs of 24 Color Crayons, Expo Markers (3-4 markers in a pack)
- Safety Scissors, Pencil Boxes, Large Erasers, Rulers (in inches and cm), and Solid Colored Folders
- Financial Donations can be made to “East Missions” and in the memo, write School Donations. These financial donations will be used by schools to purchase headphones. *Schools to receive these donations will be Byron, Kasson, Stewartville, and Hayfield.*

**OCTOBER EAST BAKING DAYS** - All East members are invited to come and help make Norwegian goodies at 10:00 am on **October 7 AND on October 28**. *We will sell our lefse and baked goodies at our Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> Baked Goods & Quilting Sale.*

## **PASTOR PAUL’S ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY**

Janna Thompson will be providing cake at both churches for the coffee hours on Sun., OCT. 15<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pastor Paul's ordination (which falls on the 16<sup>th</sup>)

## **EAST CONTRIBUTIONS:**

(09/03/2023 and 09/10/2023) Current \$12,185 and  
In-memory of Elsie Weatherly \$50 Education Aid.

## **HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK**

**TODAY**      **Pulpit Supply: Rev. Jim Rushton at BOTH**  
9:00 am      East Worship / Communion

		<i>East coffee always after church</i>
	10:00 am	JAM for BOTH at WEST!!
	10:00 am	<u>West coffee for Confirmation Recognition – All welcome!</u>
	11:00 am	West Worship / <u>Communion</u>
<b>Monday</b>	-----	<u>OFFICE CLOSED- Pastor vacation</u>
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 am	West quilting / sack lunch
	10:00 am	East quilting / sack lunch
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:00 am	West quilting / sack lunch
	-----	<u>NO class for Conf (pastor gone)</u>
<b>Thursday</b>	9am-Noon	<u>Pastor back at office</u>
	_____	<u>NEWSLETTER DAY at office</u> <i>(9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:45-collate)</i>
<b>Friday</b>	-----	Pastor's day off-work
<b>Saturday</b>	-----	<b>BOTH: SEMN Conference at Red Wing, MN at First Lutheran- for the Women of the ELCA (should have Registered by mid-September)</b>
<b>Sun. 10/01</b>	9:00 am	West Worship / <u>Communion</u>
	10:00 am	<i>West coffee</i>
	10:00 am	JAM for BOTH at WEST!!
	11:00 am	East Worship / <u>Communion</u> <i>East coffee always after church</i>

## COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

<b>Oct. 2 (Mon.)</b>	9:00-Noon	Pastor at office
<b>Oct. 3 (Tue.)</b>	10:00 am	East quilting/sack lunch
	6:00 pm	<u>East church council meeting</u>
<b>Oct. 4 (Wed.)</b>	7:00 pm	BOTH: Confirmation at WEST
<b>Oct. 5 (Thur.)</b>	9:00-Noon	Pastor at office
<b>Oct. 6 (Fri.)</b>	-----	Pastor's day off-work
<b>Oct. 7 (Sat.)</b>	10:00 am	<b><u>EAST Baking Day (Rosettes, etc.)</u></b>
<b>Oct. 8 (Sun.)</b>	9:00 am	West Worship / <b><u>Communion and Confirmation Day!</u></b>
	10:00 am	<i>West coffee</i>
	10:00 am	JAM for BOTH at WEST!!
	11:00 am	East Worship / <b><u>Communion and</u></b>

## Confirmation Day!

*East coffee always after church*

Oct. 9 (Mon.) 9:00-Noon  
7:00 pm

Pastor at office

West church council meeting

Oct. 10 (Tue.) 9:00 am  
10:00 am

West quilting/sack lunch

East quilting/sack lunch

Oct. 11 (Wed.) 9:00 am  
1:00 pm

West quilting/sack lunch

West WELCA meeting, *hosted by Wilma Kyllö*

7:00 pm

BOTH: Confirmation at West (*then NO classes until late November*)

Oct. 12 (Thur.) 9:00-Noon

Pastor at office

Oct. 13 (Fri.) -----

Pastor's day off-work

Oct. 14 (Sat.) 10:00 am

East Circle 4 meeting at church

Oct. 15 (Sun.) 9:00 am  
10:00 am

West Worship

*West coffee with cake to celebrate*

*Pastor Paul's 35<sup>th</sup> ordination anniv!*

10:00 am

JAM for BOTH at WEST!!

11:00 am

East Worship

*East coffee with cake to celebrate*

*Pastor Paul's 35<sup>th</sup> ordination anniv!*

## TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER: EAST

Scott Kittleson (*son-in-law of Paul Jordan*), Cody Hegna, Alan Hovey, Jean (*Sandy Dahle's daughter*), Verla Holtan (*friend of Marilyn Carlson*), Dawn Hugeback, Debra Moekel (*daughter of Audrey Carlson*), Keith Roeder (*son-in-law of Paul Jordan*), Dalton Mansfield (*serving in our military*), John (*cousin of Pat Nelson*), Bill Fritts, Sylvia Torstenson, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky Brakke*), David Distad, and John Heydt (*brother of Pat Nelson*).

## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

**PASTORAL EMERGENCIES OVER PASTOR'S VACATION: September 16<sup>th</sup> – Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Paul is on vacation, so for all PASTORAL EMERGENCIES during this time, CALL: Pastor Steve Rheingans: (612) 250-9724 (of Byron Christ**



Lutheran Church)

**SECRETARY Gina Moser:** *(Please call before driving to office)*

**Office Phone:** 507-365-8222 **Cell Phone:** 507-951-4964

**Emails:** eastwest@kmtel.com AND certainty@kmtel.com

Send all emails for Gina to both of her email addresses.

**Office Hours:** Tues. & Thursdays 10:00 am-Noon

**OUR WEBSITES:** eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

**JANITORIAL SERVICE:** Becky Wilbourne 507-923-5845

**COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:**

President, Bruce Peterson: 507-254-1822

Gary Kearns: 507-206-3158 or 507- 254-5285

Bryan DeCook: 507-208-1590

**EAST: VISITS FOR OUR MEMBERS**

If you know of anyone who may like a call or visit from Pastor Paul or from another member, please contact an East deacon: Jane Williams: 507-271-2272.