

West St. Olaf Lutheran Church

70640 260th Avenue – Hayfield, MN

September 24, 2023: 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

Rev. Jim Rushton Organist: Pat Nelson

INTRDOCUTION: *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 HYMN (LBW 520)

Give to Our God Immortal Praise!

*[1] Give to our God immortal praise;
mercy and truth are all his ways;
wonders of grace to God belong;
repeat his mercies in your song.*

*[2] He sent his Son with pow'r to save
from guilt and darkness and the grave:
wonders of grace to God belong;
repeat his mercies in your song.*

*[3] Give to the Lord of lords renown;
the King of kings with glory crown:
his mercies ever shall endure,
when lords and kings are known no more.*

Give to Our God Immortal Praise! (LBW 520)

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#A-741338 for Feb. 23, 2023-Feb. 22, 2024

GREETING (LBW p. 57)

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 (LBW p. 57)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE (LBW p. 58)

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:*

*Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW p. 62)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

A reading from Jonah, chapter 3:

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?"
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

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

A reading from Philippians, chapter 1:

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

VERSE (LBW p. 62)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (LBW 479)

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

[1] *My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!*

*Now hear me while I pray;
take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
be wholly thine!*

[2] *May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart;
my zeal inspire;
As thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!*

[3] *While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide.
Bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.*

[4] *When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream*

*shall o'er me roll,
blest Savior, then, in love,
fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!*

My Faith Looks Up to Thee LBW 479
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CREED (LBW p. 64)

**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 was made man.
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.**

THE PRAYERS

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 (LBW p. 66)

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, and give us
a foretaste of the feast to come.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care

and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

DIALOGUE (LBW p. 68)

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 him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

SANCTUS (LBW p. 69)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r 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.

THANKSGIVING (LBW p. 69)

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you

for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus
Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,

that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

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.

COMMUNION HYMN (LBW p. 72)

*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.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (LBW 439)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*[1] What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!*

*What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!*

O what peace we often forfeit,

*O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!*

*[2] Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!*

*[3] Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.*

What a Friend We Have in Jesus LBW 439
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POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (LBW p. 72)

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

Amen.

*Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has
done.*

*Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (LBW p. 74)

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 (LBW p. 74)

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.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN (LBW 409)

Praise and Thanksgiving

[1] *Praise and thanksgiving,*

Father we offer for all

the living, created good:

Harvest of sown fields,

Fruits of the orchard,

Hay from the mown fields,

Blossom and wood.

[2] *Bless, Lord, the labor*

We bring to serve you,

That with our neighbor,

We may be fed.

Sowing or tilling,

We would work with you,

Harvesting, milling,

For daily bread.

[3] *Father, providing*

Food for your children,

By your wise guiding

Teach us to share

One with another,

So that, rejoicing

with us, all others

May know your care.

*[4] Then will your blessing
Reach ev'ry people,
Freely confessing
Your gracious hand.
Where all obey you,
No one will hunger;
In your love's sway
You nourish the land.*

*Praise and Thanksgiving (LBW 409)
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.
Thanks be to God.

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.

Offering: You may place your offering in the offering plate as you leave (*the plates are not passed*).

OCTOBER WORSHIP TIMES



BOTH CHURCHES have communion on 1st & 4th 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

WELCA Chairperson(s): Sept. - Jane Estby

Altar Guild:

Sept. - Donna Larsen and Cindy Senjem

Acolytes: Ushers throughout summer

Reader: Sept. 24 - Deb Schuck

Ushers: Pete Danielson organizes

Deacon: Sept. - Debbie Schuck

Stewardship: Sept. - Jan Nordland

TODAY'S READINGS for SEPT. 24:

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.*

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?*

PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

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.*

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.*

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL EMERGENCIES OVER PASTOR'S VACATION:

September 16th – Sept. 27th, 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)

FOUND at WEST ST. OLAF: A zip-lock bag was found at West St. Olaf containing rings. Owner can claim with correct detailed description – call 507-273-7865 or 507-272-6670.

INSTRUCTION for Communion Elements: Each person please pick-up your own cup of communion wine or juice. Gluten-free bread will be given to everyone.

WEST Members, we would appreciate your support for the Lutheran World Relief mission projects for School Kit & Personal Care Supplies. There are lists of the needed supplies and containers to place your donations in the church and chapel (also in Sept. newsletter). Please bring your donations by October 1. **ALSO,** if any of you are willing to sew school bags, fabric and instructions are in the north kitchen. *This is a Thrivent Action Team mission project. West St. Olaf has been very generous in supporting these missions in the past years. Thank you!*

PASTOR PAUL’S ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

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

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

TODAY	<u>Pulpit Supply: Rev. Jim Rushton at BOTH</u>
	9:00 am East Worship / <u>Communion</u> <u>East Confirmation Recognition coffee</u>
	10:00 am JAM for BOTH at WEST!!
	10:00 am <u>West coffee for Confirmation</u> <u>Recognition – All welcome!</u>
	11:00 am West Worship / <u>Communion</u>
Monday	----- <u>OFFICE CLOSED- Pastor vacation</u>
Tuesday	9:00 am West quilting / sack lunch
	10:00 am East quilting / sack lunch
Wednesday	9:00 am West quilting / sack lunch
	----- <u>NO class for Conf (pastor gone)</u>
Thursday	9am-Noon <u>Pastor back at office</u> <u>NEWSLETTER DAY at office</u> <u>(9:10-print, 9:30-fold, 9:45-collate)</u>
Friday	----- Pastor’s day off-work
Saturday	----- BOTH: SEMN Conference at Red Wing, MN at First Lutheran- for the Women of the ELCA

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, Will Laxen: 507-208-5399

Vice President, Hans Estby: 507-365-8600 or 507-259-8843

Head Deacon, Sheryl Wohlers: 507-365-8816 or 507-259-5974