

## Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16

<sup>1</sup>“For 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 a denarius for the day, 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 a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <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 a denarius?’ <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.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Children’s Sermon:** *Pastor Eric Hanson* (you may be seated)

**Choir Sings:** *“What Is The World Like”*

**Sermon:** *Pastor Eric Hanson*

**Hymn of the Day:** *“What A Friend”*

*Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit [www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving](http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving). Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world at the end of the Sunday School year.*

**Vs 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!**

**Vs 2: Have we trials & 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!**

**Vs 3: Are we weak & 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.**

**Offertory Response:** *“Give Thanks”*

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, “I am strong”.

Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.

**Offering Prayer:**

P: Let us pray.

**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.**

**Apostles’ Creed:** (please stand as you are able)

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven & 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 into hell. 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.

**The Prayers:** (call and response)

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors. *A briefs silence.* 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 especially; Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Judy Carpenter, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Marilyn O’Brien, Shawn Frederixon, Neil Stehr, and Dave Ryan. 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.**

**Sharing the Peace:**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**The Great Thanksgiving:**

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 & praise.**

**The Words of Institution**

**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.**

**The Meal & Hymns:** (you may be seated)

*All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.*

*Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.*

*"Blessed Assurance" sung by Calvin Ryan*

*"Let Us Break Bread Together" #471*

**Vs 1:** Let us break bread together on our knees; Let us break bread together on our knees.

**Refrain:** When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

**Vs 2:** Let us drink wine together on our knees; Let us drink wine together on our knees. (Refrain)

**Vs 3:** Let us praise God together on our knees; Let us praise God together on our knees. (Refrain)

*"Here Is Bread" #483*

**Vs 1:** Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, He is with us.  
Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.

**Refrain:** In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.  
In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

**Vs 2:** Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Jesus here. [Refrain]

**Vs 3:** Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.  
We'll proclaim till he comes Jesus crucified. [Refrain]

**Communion Prayer:** *(stand as you are able)*

P: Let us pray.

**C:** O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise & serve your earth & its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Blessing:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

**Sending Hymn:** *"Go To The World" (tune For All The Saints)*

**Vs 1:** Go to the world! Go into all the earth. Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth, baptizing as the sign of our rebirth. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Vs 2:** Go to the world! Go into ev'ry place. Go live the word of God's redeeming grace. Go seek God's presence in each time and space. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Vs 3:** Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray; the nights of tears give way to joyous day. As servant church, you follow Christ's own way. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Vs 4:** "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send, for I am with you till the age shall end, when all the hosts of glory cry, Amen!" Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Dismissal:** P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God!

**Postlude**

**St. Luke Lutheran Church · 308 First Ave. PO Box 276 Goodhue, MN 55027**

**Sunday Worship: 9:30AM · Thursday Zion Worship 7:00PM**

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**Organist: Debbi St. John · Administrative Assistant: Tara Marklevits · Treasurer: Sara Nolte**

**Sunday School Coordinator: Nicole Wananda · Faith Formation Facilitator: OPEN POSITION**

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

## St. Luke Lutheran Church · Pastor Eric Hanson

9:30AM · September 24, 2023

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Greeting:** *(please stand as you are able)*

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**C:** Come Holy Spirit, Come!

**Confession and Forgiveness:**

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

**C:** God of all Mercy, come to our aid. When we hide brokenness and only show you wholeness, forgive us. When we cover shame and guilt with pride and pretense, forgive us. When we point out the speck in our neighbor's eye but ignore the log in our own eye, forgive us. When we choose old, harmful ways of living over new, life-giving ways, forgive us. Transform us by the power of your Spirit, Lord God, and make us New.

P: Children of God, God loved us even when we were dead in sin, & makes us new through Jesus Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Live as people set free.

**C:** Amen.

**Gathering Hymn:** *"God We Gather As Your People"*

**Vs 1:** God, we gather as your people to raise our song above, and we dare to claim the promise of your love. Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be, when your children will be free.

**Refrain:** Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened, fling the church doors open wide.

May there be room enough for ev'ryone inside. For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong. May that welcome be our song.

**Vs 2:** Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be free; and we sing for generations yet to be, that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest. [Refrain]

**Vs 3:** Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear & shame, so afraid of who they are & whom they love. May the message now be banished that your love is for the few; may their faith in you renew. [Refrain]

**Vs 4:** God, we're working for the future when children far & wide can live their lives with dignity and pride. As they grow in strength & stature, may they join us hand in hand, as against all hate we stand. [Refrain]

**Prayer of the Day:**

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.

**The First Reading: Philippians 1:21-30**

<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, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <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, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. <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 in no way frightened by those opposing you. 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.