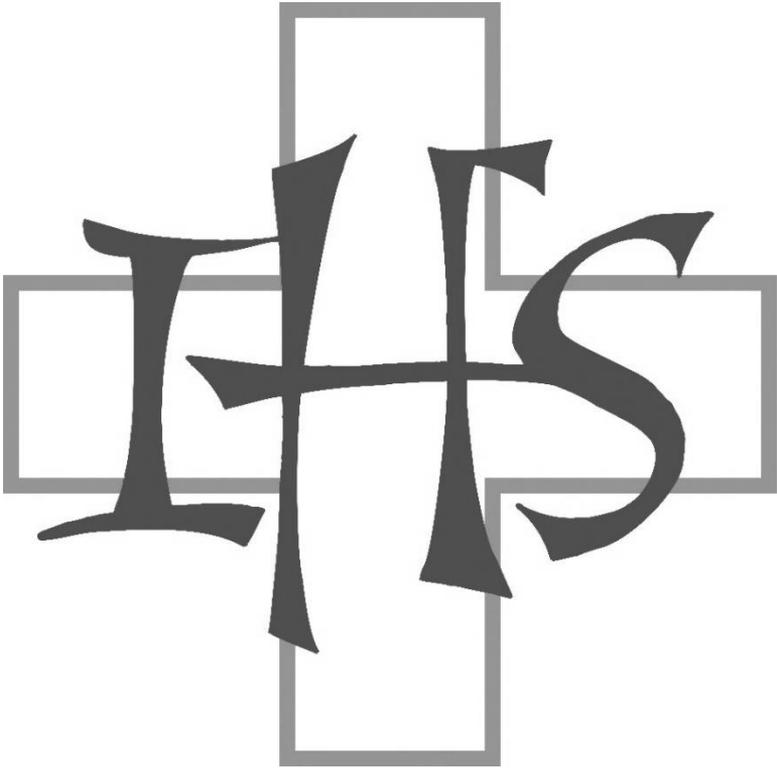


# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

**A Community of Faith:** *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

*Psalm 27:1*

## Order of Worship

*September 24, 2023 10:45 AM*

# The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

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781-275-6013

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## Introit

*Psalm 116:12–13, 15–17*

What shall I render to the LORD  
for all his benefits to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.

Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his saints.

O LORD, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my  
bonds.

I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call on the name of the LORD.

## Communion Theology and Practice

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is intended for those:

- who have been baptized in the name of the Triune God,
- who have faith in Jesus Christ as God the Son in the flesh and their personal Savior from sin, death, and the devil;
- who believe that they have sin that needs forgiving, hurt that needs healing, and faith that needs strengthening;
- who are committed to amending their sinful ways; and
- who believe that in, with, and under the bread and wine they receive the true body and blood of the risen Christ, together with the forgiveness of all their sins.

*If you are a visitor with us this morning and wish to receive the  
Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor before the service.*

*Thank you.*

# Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

## Divine Service

Welcome

### Invocation

**P** This is the day the Lord has made;

**C** Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

*Psalm 118:24*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19*

**C** Amen.

### Opening Song

I Will Dwell

*Neale & Neale*

*Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus, Verse 3, Chorus, Bridge x3, Chorus, Chorus*

1. You are my Shep - herd, I have all that I need;  
You lead me be - side the peace - ful wat - ers to  
rest in mea - dows green; 2. You re - new my  
strength, guide me in the right way;  
me, bring - ing com - fort and joy;  
You're bring - ing all glo - ry and all hon - or  
You wel - come me as a guest in - to Your house, a -  
*continued on next page*

9  
 to Your match - less Name; Ev - en though I  
 noint - ing me with oil; Ev - en though I

10  
 walk the dark - est val - ley, I will not be  
 walk the dark - est val - ley, I will not be

11  
 CHORUS  
 a - fraid. 'Cause Your good - ness and Your mer - cy fol - low me all  
 a - fraid.

13  
 my days, and I will dwell in Your house, and I will dwell

15  
 in Your house, and I will dwell in Your house for -

17  
 ev - er. ev - er. My

21  
 3. You walk be - side

23  
 cup is run - ning o - ver; My cup is run - ning o - ver; My

25  
 cup is run - ning o - ver be - cause of You; My

27  
 cup is run - ning o - ver; My cup is run - ning o - ver; My

29  
 cup is run - ning o - ver be - cause of You. My

31  
 cup is run - ning o - ver; My cup is run - ning o - ver; My

31  
  
 cup is run - ning o - ver be-cause of You. Your good -

33  
  
 ness and Your mer - cy fol-low me all my days, and I will dwell

35  
  
 in Your house, and I will dwell in Your house, and I will dwell

37  
  
 in Your house for - ev - er. 'Cause Your good -

40  
  
 ness and Your mer - cy fol-low me all my days, and I will dwell

42  
  
 in Your house, and I will dwell in Your house, and I will dwell

44  
  
 in Your house for - ev - er.

## Prayer of Confession

- P** Holy Lord, as we stand in your presence, we are aware of our sins of thought, word, and action.
- C** **We have not always lived our lives according to your will.**
- P** We have often failed to live up to your expectations.
- C** **We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**
- P** But we know your promise, that if we confess our sins,
- C** **you will hear our cry, and grant us your forgiveness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O Lord, hear us now, as we confess our sins to You.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** Jesus has carried our sins to His own death. His sacrifice is complete and full – it is finished! The victory is won! Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{†}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Song

## White As Snow

*Olguin*

*Sing Twice Through*

White as snow, white as snow, Though my  
sins were as scar - let, Lord, I know, Lord, I know.  
That I'm clean and for - giv - en. Through the  
pow - er of Your blood, Through the won - der of Your love,  
Through. faith in You I know that I am  
now white as snow.

## Psalm

Psalm 27:1–9

*Spoken responsively*

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?

**<sup>2</sup>When evildoers assail me  
to eat up my flesh,  
my adversaries and foes,  
it is they who stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup>Though an army encamp against me,  
my heart shall not fear;  
though war arise against me,  
yet I will be confident.

**<sup>4</sup>One thing have I asked of the Lord,  
that will I seek after:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord  
and to inquire in his temple.**

<sup>5</sup>For he will hide me in his shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high upon a rock.

**<sup>6</sup>And now my head shall be lifted up  
above my enemies all around me,  
and I will offer in his tent  
sacrifices with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;  
be gracious to me and answer me!

**<sup>8</sup>You have said, "Seek my face."  
My heart says to you,  
"Your face, LORD, do I seek."**



<sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me.  
Turn not your servant away in anger,  
O you who have been my help.  
Cast me not off; forsake me not,  
O God of my salvation!

**Glorify be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## Prayer

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 55:6–9*

<sup>6</sup>“Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup>let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30*

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, <sup>13</sup>so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. . . .

<sup>19</sup>for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, <sup>20</sup>as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup>For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. <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 on your account. <sup>25</sup>Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

<sup>27</sup>Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, <sup>30</sup>engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**



## Holy Gospel

Matthew 20:1–16

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.  
**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, <sup>4</sup>and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup>So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. <sup>6</sup>And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ <sup>8</sup>And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ <sup>9</sup>And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. <sup>11</sup>And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, <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 worker as I give to you. <sup>15</sup>Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ <sup>16</sup>So the last will be first, and the first last.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**



## Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin  
Mary and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living  
and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and  
glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**



# Sermon Song

# Thy Word

Grant, Smith

Chorus x2, Verse 1, Chorus x2, Verse 2, Chorus x2

*Repeat after each verse (Fine)*



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



1. When I feel a-fraid, 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



side me. And noth-ing will I fear as long as You are near.  
wan - der-ing. Je - sus, be my guide and hold me to your side; and

*D.C.*



Please be near me to the end.  
I will love You to the end.

## Sermon "A Theology of Glory and a Theology of the Cross"

### Prayers of the Church Family and the Lord's Prayer

- P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Response after each petition*

- P** Lord, in your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**

- P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** **Amen.**

**P** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**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.**

## Blessing

**P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **Amen.**

## Song

By Faith

Getty, Getty, Townend

Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus, Verse 3, Verse 4, Chorus, Verse 5, Chorus x2, Tag

VERSE

1. By faith we see the hand of God in the  
2. By faith our fa - thers roamed the earth with the  
light of cre - a - tion's grand de - sign, in the  
pow'r of His pro - mise in their hearts, of a  
lives of those who prove His faith - ful - ness,  
ho - ly cit - y built by God's own hand,  
who walk by faith and not by sight. reign. We will  
a place where peace and jus - tice

*continued on next page*

10 CHORUS 



stand as chil-dren of the pro-mise; we will fix our eyes on Him, our

13  2nd X to Coda 



soul's re-ward. 'Til the race is fin-ished and the work is done,

16



we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

19 VERSE



3. By faith the pro-phets saw the day when the  
4. By faith the church was called to go in the

21



longed-for Mes-si-ah would ap-pear with the  
pow'r of the Spir-it to the lost to de-

23



pow'r to break the chains of sin and death  
liv-er cap-tives and to preach good news

25 1. 2. D.S. al Coda 



and rise tri-um-phant from the grave. earth. We will  
in ev'ry cor-ner of the

28  Coda  (3)



we'll walk by faith and not by sight.

31 VERSE



5. By faith this moun-tain shall be moved and the

33



pow'r of the gos-pel shall pre-vail, for we

35   
know in Christ all things are pos-si-ble for all who call up-on His

38   
name. We will stand as chil-dren of the pro-mise; we will

41   
fix our eyes on Him, our soul's re-ward. 'Til the

43   
race is fin-ished and the work is done,

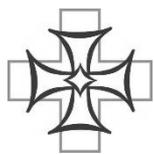
45   
we'll walk by faith and not by sight. Oh, we will

47   
stand as chil-dren of the pro-mise; we will fix our eyes on Him, our

50   
soul's re-ward. 'Til the race is fin-ished and the

52   
work is done, we'll walk by faith and not by

55   
sight. we'll walk by faith and not by sight.



## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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# Resources for Meditation this Week

## SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

24 September 2023

### Readings

Isaiah 55:6–9

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

Matthew 20:1–16

### ***Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ***

Those who are sent as *“laborers for his vineyard”* (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy, He has chosen to bear *“the burden of the day and the scorching heat”* on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that *“he may be found”* (Is. 55:6), *“have compassion”* and *“abundantly pardon”* (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, *“whether by life or by death”* (Phil. 1:20), by *“fruitful labor”* (Phil. 1:22) or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are *“worthy of the gospel”* (Phil. 1:27).



**Readings**

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

Philippians 2:1–4 (5–13) 14–18

Matthew 21:23–27 (28–32)

***The Cross of Christ Opens to Us the Way of Repentance to Life with God***

The way of the Lord is righteous and just: *"The soul who sins shall die"* (Ezek. 18:4). However, because the Lord has *"no pleasure in the death of anyone"* (Ezek. 18:32), He calls sinners to repentance and faith in His gracious forgiveness of sins. The man who is thus turned away from his wickedness, who henceforth lives by the grace of God, *"shall surely live; he shall not die"* (Ezek. 18:28). This way of repentance has been opened for us by the cross of Christ. In the righteousness of faith and love, *"he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death"* (Phil. 2:8), and He was vindicated in His resurrection from the dead. Indeed, *"God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name"* (Phil. 2:9). He has given us this name in our Baptism into Christ, in whom we now *"shine as lights in the world"* (Phil. 2:15). He uses the authority that He has received from His Father (Matt. 21:23–27) to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, by which even *"the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God"* (Matt. 21:31–32).

