

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



# To our Guests: Welcome!

## Worship Patterns in Pandemic Days

God be praised for every person here this morning and for all who are with us in spirit as they watch and pray at home. God strengthen us all through his word and promise in our Lord Jesus Christ.

The continued threat of coronavirus infection requires us to change our habits during the time we spend together. Please follow these rules to keep each other safe:

### **On entering—**

- Masks are required. Please be sure to wear one.
- Sit only in pews marked with a bow.
- Keep the spacing rod between you and your family and the person or family at the other end.
- Greet each from a distance.

### **During the service—**

- Refrain from singing. Instead, listen to the singers in the balcony and follow the words in the bulletin.
- When we share the Peace, do not hug or shake hands except with members of your own family. Wave or bow to the people around you.
- Offering plates will not be passed. If you missed the basket on your way in, place it there when you leave.

### **During communion—**

- Keep a safe distance from the person in front of you as you approach.
- Hold out your cupped hands for the host. The pastor will not place this in your mouth or extended fingers.
- For the wine, take a cup from the basket, remove it from its bag, and hold it steady as the pastor fills it. Deposit the cup and bag in the receptacle as you return to your place.

### **As you leave—**

- Unless you need the elevator, exit through front doors only.
- Feel free to gather on the front lawn for conversation, keeping safe distances.

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 8:30 & 10 am

*The congregation is invited to participate at the places marked with **bold** type*

Prelude

“O Christ, Our Hope,” J. S. Bach

Confession and Forgiveness

*Remain seated*

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P Hear the testimony of John, our Lord’s apostle: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

A Let us pray. Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

P Is this also your prayer? If so, say “Amen.”

**C Amen.**

P Then, as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

*Stand as you are able*

# Gloria

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

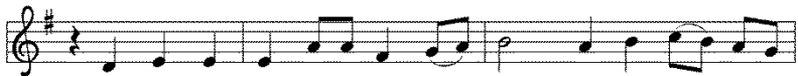


you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



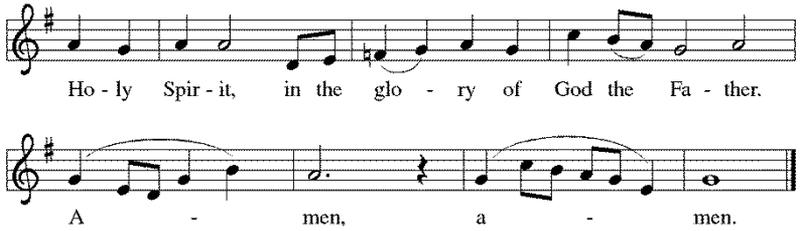
Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the



Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the



## Greeting

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

**C** **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to 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.

**C** **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# The Word of God

## First Reading

Jonah 3:10-4:11

<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



<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.

**C Thanks be to God.**

*Stand as you are able*

**Gospel Acclamation**

**#169**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*The proper verse may be sung, or all may sing this verse.* *Repeat alleluia*

Open | our hearts, O Lord,  
to give heed to what is said | by your Son.

**Gospel**

Matthew 20:1-16

*At the announcement of the Gospel:*

**C 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.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*You may be seated*

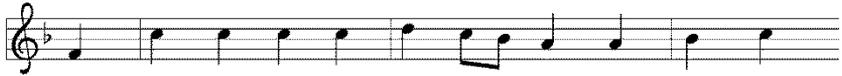
Sermon

Pastor Burce

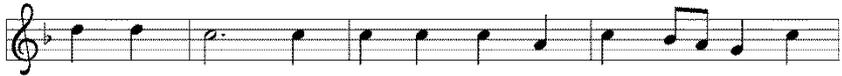
*Stand as you are able*

Song of the Day

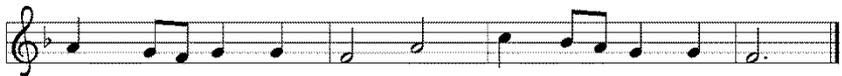
“O Christ, Our Hope,” #604



1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's  
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den  
 3 But now the bonds of death are burst, the ran - som  
 4 Oh, let your might - y love pre - vail to purge us  
 5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry



might-y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by  
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to  
 has been paid; you reign a - bove at God's right hand, in  
 of our pride, that we may stand be - fore your throne by  
 ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through



ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:  
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.  
 robes of light ar - rayed, in robes of light ar - rayed.  
 mer - cy pu - ri - fied, by mer - cy pu - ri - fied.  
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

## Confession of Faith

P With the Church of every time and every place, we confess our faith.

A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

C **Amen.**

A I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

C **Amen.**

A 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.

C **Amen.**

## Prayer of the Church

*After each portion of the prayers:*

Lord in your mercy. . . . **Hear our prayer.**

## Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

*Greet those around you with these or similar words, after which you may be seated in prayerful silence as the altar is prepared. Stand again as you are able at the pastor's invitation*

## Presentation of the Offering

“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love,”

Jayne Southwick Coole

A Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, you adorn our lives with neighbors to love, bread to share, and good news to tell. Help us embrace our work with joy, and use what we have gathered to glorify your holy name, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

C **Amen.**

# The Lord's Supper

## Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

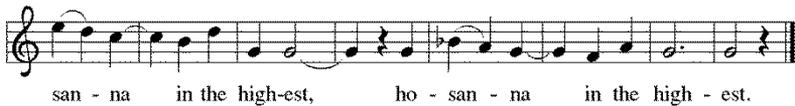
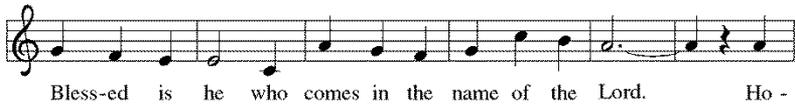
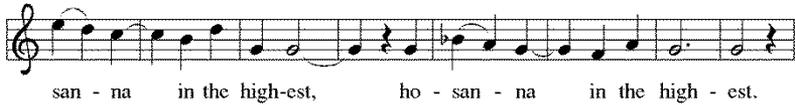
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*By the singers—*



P It is certainly right to thank and praise you ... we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ risen. Christ will come again.**

P Gracious Father, fill us with your Holy Spirit ... now and forever.

C **Amen.**

**C** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

*You may be seated*

## Communion

*By the singers—*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*When all have communed, stand as you are able*

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

**C** Amen.

**A** Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

# Sending

## 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 Song

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!” #669 stanzas 1-3



- 1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
- 2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
- 3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
- 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
- 5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.  
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.  
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.  
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.  
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

“Great God, Your Love Has Called Us,” Stephen Folkemer

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“Gospel Acclamation,” Music: © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!” Text © Norman O. Fornes, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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# Serving Today

*Preaching Minister* – Pastor Burce

*Presiding Minister* – Pastor Bridger

*Assisting Minister/Lector* – Tim Rosenberger (8:30); Mike Thiel (10)

*Acolytes* – Gavin Jennings (8:30); Antonio Medina (10)

*Instrumentalist* – Martha Trapp, Violin

*Singers* – Ruth King, Brad Paton (8:30);  
John Hayduk, Priscilla Hinsch (10)

*Organist* – Connie Triplett

*Deacons* – Bob Trapp (8:30); Amy & Mark Hunger (10)

*Sound Technician* – Jared Waugaman

*Altar Guild* – Diane Paton, Martha Trapp

## In Our Prayers

- The Church in its celebration of God's unstinting generosity
- Our country in its quest for fairness and justice
- People battling the West Coast wildfires, and the countless others uprooted by them
- The Norris family, laying Jodi to rest
- Kendall McGreal and Lillian Stover, baptized this weekend
- People struggling to find jobs and pay bills
- In need of healing: \_\_\_\_\_ (to be supplied by Thursday a.m.)

## Altar Flowers Are Given

In memory of Raymond & Marabelle Keine by Nancy & Richard Cause

## This Week's Commemorations

*Sept. 20*—NELSON WELEY TROUT, d. 1996, the first African American to serve as a bishop in the American Lutheran Church, a predecessor of the ELCA.

*Sept. 21*—ST. MATTHEW, the apostle and evangelist.

*Sept. 25*—SERGIUS, d. 1392, renewer of monastic life in Russia. He also ended four wars between Russian princes.

## God's Word for Next Week Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32  
*We encourage you to read the lessons as part of your preparation for divine services.*



## **Messiah Lutheran Church**

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*Servants and Missionaries* – All MLC members

*Senior Pastor* – Jerome Burce

*Associate Pastor* – Seth Bridger

*Minister of Youth* – Adonai Henderson

*Pastoral Assistant* – Ruth Mortensen

*Music Director* – Connie Triplett

*Messiah School Principal* – Helen Casselberry

*Administrator & Pierstorff Memorial Fund Director* – Darlene Waugh



**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*Drawing in to Christ. Building up in Christ. Sending out for Christ.*

*To the glory of God, through the strength of the Spirit.*