

**St. John Lutheran Church of Prairie Hill**  
**Pentecost 17, Proper 20**  
**September 24, 2023**



**Worship Assistants**

**Pastor:** Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.

**Lay Reader:** Charles Gaskamp

**Worship Leader:** Steve Skrla

**Accompanist:** Linda Schulze

**Ushers:** Steve & Donna Skrla, Huckert Family

**Acolyte:** Reegan Huckert

**Ladies Aid:** Linda Schulze

**Communion Bread:** Donna Bentke

**Altar Preparations:** Carolyn Kessel, Laura Sulaica

**Church Ministers:** St John Members

**Screen Crew:** Anna Finke, Jennifer Schroeder

**Sanctuar Prep:** Cathie Klatte, Christin Seeker

**Council Members:** Rita Gaskamp, Stephanie Koehler

**Tellers:** Donna Skrla, Gary Schulze

**Memorial Committee:** Debra Westerfeld, Janet Wehring

Please tune to 87.9 FM for access to the service in the church parking lot on Sundays.

**Pentecost 17, Proper 20  
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**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Remember to fill out your attendance cards  
Photo directory sign-up sheets  
Bod4God sign-up sheets on the Narthex  
Thankful for the rain and prayers for more

**Monday, September 25th**

10:00AM Bible Study  
6:00PM Bod4God

**Tuesday, September 26th**

6:30AM Food Pantry  
9:00AM Quilting  
9:00AM Music Planning Team

**Wednesday, September 27th**

5:00PM Confirmation  
6:30PM Choir Practice

*Please stand as you are able.*

**THE PEACE**

*ELW Pg.152*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Peace be with you.                      R. Peace be with you.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*

*ELW #836*

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,  
praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.**
- 2 All thy works with joy surround thee,  
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,  
stars and angels sing around thee,  
center of unbroken praise.**

Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain  
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,  
all who live in love are thine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

### **INTROIT with Psalm 116:17**

I will offer to you the sacrifice of Thanksgiving  
and call on the name of the Lord.

### **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

*ELW Pg. 147*

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 Pg. 147*

*Please be seated.*

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**    *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

*ELW Pg. 774*

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

#### *Refrain*

Leaning, leaning, (*Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning, (*leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,*)  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;

**oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain***

**3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?**

**I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain***

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839-1929  
Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Direct our hearts, O Lord, by your merciful reign, because without your help it is impossible to please you. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:6-9**

R: The first reading is from Isaiah and it reads:

<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."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 27:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?

**<sup>2</sup>When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh,  
it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell.**

<sup>3</sup>Though an army should encamp against me,  
yet my heart shall not be afraid;

**<sup>4</sup>And though war should rise up against me,  
yet will I put my trust in him.**

<sup>5</sup>One thing have I asked of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

**<sup>6</sup>To behold the fair beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.**

<sup>7</sup>For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter;  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock.

**<sup>8</sup>Even now he lifts up my head  
above my enemies round about me.**

<sup>9</sup>Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness;  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

**SECOND READING:                   Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30**

R: The second reading is from Philippians and it reads:

<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>... {F}or 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Lord Be Glorified*

**SCREEN**

**In Your Word, Lord, be glorified;  
In Your Word, be glorified, today.**

**\*GOSPEL:                   Matthew 20:1-16**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>{Jesus said,} "For 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Rev. Norman Sulaica, Jr.

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*We Give Thee But Thine Own*

**ELW #686**

**1 We give thee but thine own,  
whate'er the gift may be;  
all that we have is thine alone,  
a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**2 May we thy bounties thus  
as stewards true receive,  
and gladly, as thou blessest us,  
to thee our first fruits give.**

**3 The captive to release,  
to God the lost to bring,  
to teach the way of life and peace—  
it is a Christlike thing.**

**4 And we believe thy word,  
though dim our faith may be:  
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,  
we do it unto thee.**

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.  
Music: L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantic Lauda*, 1850

## **CREED**

**\*Nicene Creed**

*ELW Pg. 104*

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **OFFERING HYMN**

*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

*ELW #184*

**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.  
Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

**ELW #884**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## OFFERING PRAYER

*Let us pray.*

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us offer our prayers for a world in need.

Heavenly Father, you have called us from among the peoples and nations of the world to be your own and to serve you with our lives. We pray that you would keep us steadfast in faith. May we sing your praises and confess Christ as Lord to all we meet so they would know your mercy and grace.

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

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the gift of the seasons. As we move into the season of Autumn, may we find delight in the changing landscapes around us that reveal the beauty of your creation. May we be reminded of your never-failing presence in all the seasons of our lives.

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

O Lord, source of all good things, make us respond to those around us with the same generosity that you have first shown to us. Let us put our complete trust in you alone.

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

Heavenly Father, pour out the healing grace of your presence on all those who are sick and suffering, particularly, **Mavis, Janice, Sydney, Florence, Gilbert, Helen, Cynthia, Verna Mae, Linda, Jerry, Mary Ann, Connie, Dorothy, Tom, Mark, Donald, Ruth, Milton, Earline, Emery & Helen, Mike, Dennis, Sandy, Jim, Diana, Lloyd, Evelyn and Mollie.** Restore wounded lives, hearts, and bodies by the holy anointing of your Spirit.

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



Those celebrating baptismal anniversaries: : Dorothy, Ellen, Patti, Russell, Cooper, David, Judi, Donna, Taurie and Dana

Those celebrating wedding anniversaries: Jimmie & Karen and Allen & Arlie  
Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer us, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

### **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.**

### **BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement  
grant you to live in harmony with one another,  
in accordance with Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

**ELW #834**

**1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**

**2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;**

**in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**

**4 Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render; oh, help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt.

Music: Welsh traditional; arr. John Roberts, 1807-1876

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**