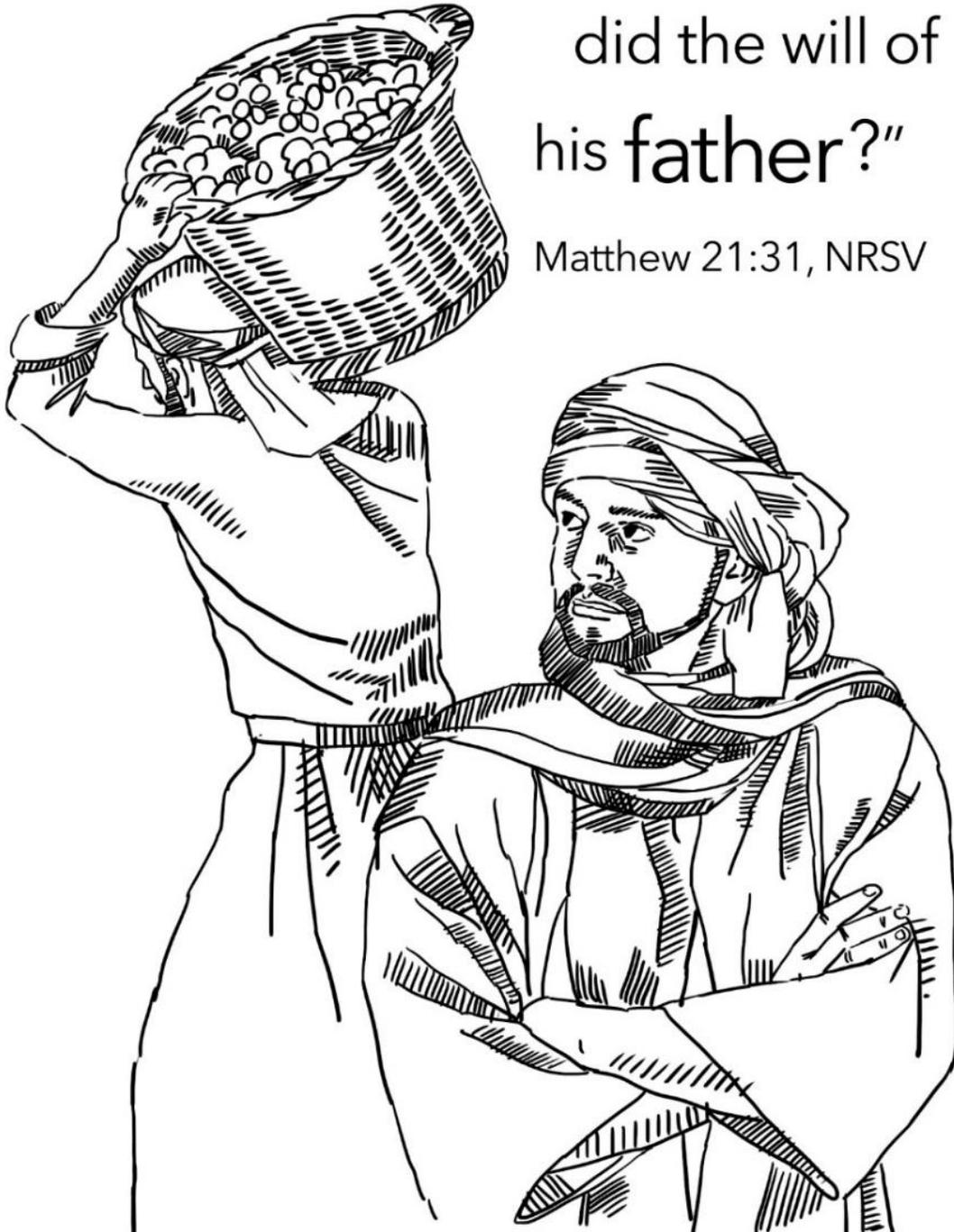


# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

"Which of the two  
did the will of  
his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV



**Pentecost 17**

**September 27, 2020**

# *One in Christ Lutheran Parish*

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

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Pentecost

Seventeenth Sunday after  
September 27, 2020

## **COME, HOLY SPIRIT!**

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshipping with us this morning.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who excites us with the mission of the church - to be witnesses and share the "good news" to all people.

**EMPOWER AND SEND US!**

## **ORDER OF WORSHIP**

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **✠ GATHERING ✠**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Merciful God, when we fail to work towards establishing conditions which allow justice to flower and mercy to flourish in people's lives;

**forgive us.**

When our satisfaction with the status quo dulls our capacity to grieve over the injustices suffered by so many people in our society;

**forgive us.**

When we collaborate with those who exploit workers in sweatshops by buying their products;

**forgive us.**

When we become so deeply attached to the quest for wealth and power that we do not hear Jesus' words about the impossibility of serving both God and wealth addressed to us;

**forgive us.**

When achieving prosperity becomes a higher priority than tackling the causes of poverty;

**forgive us**

Strengthen us, O God, to withstand the seduction of a society which seems obsessed with the acquisition of wealth and power, too often at the expense of the poor and powerless. Help us to live as Jesus did, in solidarity with those who have lost hope of anything good or just happening in their lives.

**This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen**

## **EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

We believe that Jesus was sent by God into the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **OPENING SONG** “*Earth and All Stars!*”

*Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain*

*Refrain            God has done marvelous things.  
I too sing praises with a new song!*

*Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain*

*Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain*

*Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain*

*Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!  
Sing to the Lord a new song!  
Daughter and son! Loud praying members!  
Sing to the Lord a new song! Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

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## **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**

## **SHARING THE PEACE** – *Give somebody a call today.*

## **KYRIE**

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.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*“Glory to God...”*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God’s people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God’s people on earth.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God’s people on earth.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the  
Father. Amen.*

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God’s people on earth.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **✠ WORD ✠**

***God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song***

*Jesus’ parable about two sons who don’t do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

## Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. <sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

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

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

## Philippians 2:1-13

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ’s selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*“Alleluia”  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 21:23-32**

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN SERMON**

### **SERMON**

Pastor Bill Peters

### **SONG OF THE DAY** *“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”*

*O Master, let me walk with you  
in lowly paths of service true;  
tell me your secret; help me bear  
the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*Help me the slow of heart to move  
by some clear, winning word of love;  
teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
and guide them in the homeward way.*

*Teach me your patience; share with me  
a closer, dearer company,  
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,  
in trust that triumphs over wrong,*

*In hope that sends a shining ray  
far down the future's broad'ning way,  
in peace that only you can give;  
with you, O Master, let me live.*

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and 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 to the dead.  
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.

## **PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

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

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **✠ SENDING ✠**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world*

## **BLESSING**

## **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

## **SENDING SONG**    *"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*

*My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,  
oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!*

*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!*

*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.*

*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;  
oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!*

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

*God invites us to respond to His grace*

### OFFERING

*Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).*

### Postlude



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Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020

# I BELIEVE in you

Today's gospel questions what it means to believe in something. Belief can be exhibited by actions or in words, but true belief is displayed when the two contradict each other. We may say we do not believe in monsters under our bed. However, if upon hearing a noise underneath us at night, we clutch the blanket a little tighter around us, do we still claim to not believe in monsters? Believing in something or someone does more than affect our mind. It influences our behavior. It informs our actions and changes our character.

Believing in Jesus is not a cognitive experience alone. If it were, we'd be like the second son who professes to do the will of the father, but doesn't. Rather, our actions are the mirrors of our belief, reflecting our faith outward. This is why worship is structured to rehearse our patterns of behavior for the world. In worship, we gather to practice accountability, interdependence, passing the peace, and turning toward God. Our faith shapes us to live in the world according to God's principles of justice, mercy, and kindness.

When we believe in something, we give authority to it, whether the belief is spoken or enacted. This is why the words "I believe in you" before a feat of courage are often so powerfully effective. Knowing that someone believes in you bestows authority and strength. It moves you from thought to action, making it possible to boldly live into whatever is believed of you.

God believes in you. This does not mean there is a divine being out there who merely believes that you exist. This is not a passive form of believing. God believes in you and gives you authority to live boldly as a disciple of Jesus. Just as Jesus' authority came from God, so does your authority to do what you have been sent to do. "You can do it," God encourages. "I believe in you!"