

September 17, 2023
16th Sunday after Pentecost



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Virginia, MN
Pastor Liz Cheney

PRELUDE

Mark Ongalo

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG *Awake O Sleeper, Rise from Death*

ELW 452

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,
you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

KYRIE & THIS IS THE FEAST

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: GENESIS 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and

said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 103:8-13

LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love; **you will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever.**

You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities. **For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

As far as the east is from the west, so far have you removed our transgressions from us. **As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD.**

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God. Word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL MATTHEW 18:21-35

The Holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney

HYMN OF THE DAY

Change My Heart O God

ELW 801

APOSTLES CREED

pg. 105

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.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.

We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
 est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION
LORD'S PRAYER**

pg. 191

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live. All are welcome!

LAMB OF GOD

pg. 191

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, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Let us Break Bread Together
In The Singing

ELW 471
ELW 466

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus'
name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING SONG

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me

ELW 860

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Mark Ongalo

We hold in our prayers

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Theodore (newborn baby) & family, Fred, Tedd, Diane, Adam, Chuck, Sue, Mike, Avery, Kate, Matt, Ken, Janet H., Ruth T., Hermine, Deb L., Marilee, Nancy, Diane, Matt, Ethan, Ross-(needs transplant of kidneys & pancreas), Brandon, Jessica, Breanna, Jeremy, Richard, Shari, Rodney, Dave C., Lee, Kathy, Mary, Wally C., Marlene, Cliff, Gerilyn & family, Bonnie M.(MS), Victoria. Call Ginny Ahrlin, prayer leader for this month, at 218-749-0056 for prayer needs.

**If you are in need of any pastoral care or if you or someone you know would like a visit, please call
Pastor Liz Cheney at 218-780-8907 or the church office at 218-741-6207.**

CONTACT US

Church Office: 218-741-6207

office@oslcmn.com www.oslcmn.com www.facebook.com/oslcmn

YouTube Page ~ Our Savior's Lutheran Church Virginia MN Office

OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 – 5:00

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Variable for now – please make an appointment and office hours will be posted
once Pastor Liz is settled in. Monday is her day off.

Pastor Liz – 218-780-8907 or lizcheney44@gmail.com

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Liz Cheney

Church Secretary: Colleen Brown Jacobson **Bookkeeper:** Carol Rutka

Musicians: Kristen Weikum, Mark Ongalo, Ginny Ahrlin

Custodian: Steve Gagnon



ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

THANK YOU for joining us for Rally Sunday & our first “Be the Light Sunday” last week ~ We welcomed our new Pastor and ate a wonderful meal together. Kid’s created their own backpack tags and many Lutheran World Relief School Kits were assembled from the school supplies we have all been collecting in the narthex. Our next intergenerational **“Be the Light Sunday” will take place October 8th** be sure to join us!

WELCA LAURENTIAN CONFERENCE FALL GATHERING Ladies of the congregation, the **Laurentian WELCA Fall Gathering** is being held in Babbitt this year @ the Evangelical Lutheran Church, **Oct. 7th**. Come see what it’s all about! See Marcia Aluni, WELCA President, for times & information.

SAVE THE DATE OSLC’s WELCA will host a **Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 14th 9am – 2pm**. This event includes activities for all ages and helps WELCA raise funds for local and global missions. You may donate gently used/clean items for the sale (think of kitchen gadgets, decorating items, household tools, but nothing broken). Please leave items at a table in the back of the Fellowship Hall on the left. You may bake items for the sale, provide a pie, and/or help during the festival – *contact Board Members for info: Marcia Aluni, Nancy Fisher, Judy Peliska, Gloria Gagnon, Jackie Witty.*

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

- Bake and Sweet Shop
- House Treasures
- Pie and Coffee Social
- Quilts for Sale
- Silent Auction
- Youth Activities

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF *There are donors who are matching your funds.* LWR is helping, through you, to meet the needs of people in crisis. You can send donations to: *Lutheran World Relief, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061, or call LWR @ 800-638-3522.* Your help brings needed medical supplies, health services, shelter, food, etc. **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY** – And visit **LWR.ORG/UKRAINE-CRISIS**.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEXT WEEK The sign-up sheet is on the narthex round table – see if there are open dates you may be available to serve. ***If you have signed up already, look at the sheet on the narthex table to reconfirm your dates to serve! We really need Coffee Servers as well for Fellowship time after worship!***



RADIO SPONSORSHIP **Don Hansen & Hansen’s Country Harvest stand is sponsoring today in thankfulness to OSLC - Thank you for sponsoring!** If you are interested in sponsoring a Sunday worship in honor of someone or a special event (wedding anniversary, birth of children, baptism date) or in memory of a loved one who has passed, you may do so in full for \$90 or shared/partial at \$45. Just call the church office, **and/or sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board by the fountain.** Those in nursing homes, assisted living communities, or at home and unable to attend in person, thank you for considering. Our live worship can be heard on KRBT 1340AM & 104.9FM at 9:30 am Sundays.

OSLC INFORMATION: Thank you for being here today. Parents: As you enter the Sanctuary, to the left, there is an activity tree holding canvas bags with toys & books for your children to use during worship - feel free to use them! Bathrooms are located to the left and down the hall as you exit the sanctuary. You are also welcome to utilize the "Youth Room" down the hall (past the bathrooms) with your little ones if needed. During the week, Church Office hours are 10am – 5:00 Mon., Tues., Wed., and Friday. Lunches are usually taken by staff between 12-12:30/12:30-1:00. If you would like to know more about OSLC, call the church office at 218-741-6207 (if we do not answer, leave us a voice message so we can get back to you promptly).

THIS WEEK:

WELCA BIBLE STUDY: Tuesday, Sept. 19, 1pm in the Fireside Room

QUILTING: Wednesdays, 9:30am – 2/3pm in the Fellowship Hall

