

WELCOME

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SAT. SEPT. 23/SUN. SEPT. 24, 2023



“MY IMPRISONMENT IS FOR CHRIST”

AS WE GATHER

When Paul wrote to his co-worker Timothy that he was “bound with chains as a criminal” (2 Timothy 2:9), he knew well the situation he was in. Acts 16 relates the time that he was thrown in jail in Philippi without benefit of a trial. He was later jailed in Jerusalem and then Caesarea and finally at Rome, where he was under a type of house arrest for two years. The final chapter of Acts finds Paul as a captive one more time, accepting this imprisonment as a prelude to his death. He writes to Timothy “the time of my departure has come” (2 Timothy 4:6). In the centuries since Paul gave his prison witness, countless Christian men and women have been imprisoned for their Gospel witness. We are encouraged to be faithful witnesses in our time by Paul, who writes to his young associate Timothy: “Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Timothy 6:11–12a). Paul’s words from prison are good instruction for every situation!

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “Fight the Good Fight”

LSB 664

**1. Fight the good fight with all your might;
Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Your joy and crown eternally.**

**2. Run the straight race through God's good grace;
Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies;
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.**

**3. Cast care aside, lean on your guide;
His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove
Christ is your life and Christ your love.**

**4. Faint not nor fear, His arms are near;
He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see
That Christ is all eternally.**

**John S. B. Monsell, 1811–75, alt. Public domain MENDON L M
1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Cor. 9:24–27; 1 Peter 5:7; Ps. 55:22**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalms 67:1–5, 7*

Pastor: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us,
People: that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.

Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!
People: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!
People: God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,
People: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved

Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE



☐ Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE “The Lord, My God, Be Praised” (*LSB 794 St. 1 & 4*)

**The Lord, my God, be praised, my light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield and keep me day by day
And make each moment yield new blessings on my way.**

**The Lord, my God, be praised, my God, the everliving,
To whom the heav’nly host their laud and praise are giving,
The Lord, my God, be praised, in whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, our strength and support in all situations, grant us the power and presence of Your Holy Spirit that we may be strong and steadfast in all situations, joyfully witnessing to the power of Your love and continually learning of You in every season; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 55:6–9 (The prophet encourages God’s people.)*

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

⁷let 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.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: “With the Lord Begin Your Task”

Waldenburg/Frank

EPISTLE *Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30* (*Paul writes that to live is Christ.*)

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

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ 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. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ 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, ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ 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, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

(LSB p. 205)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 20:1–16 (The parable of the laborers in the vineyard.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

20 “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. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ 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?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸ 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.’ ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² 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.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”

LSB 827

**1. Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,
“Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—
Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth;
Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying,
“Here am I, send me, send me”?**

**2. Some take up His task in morning,
To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday,
Others late in afternoon;
Even as the sun is setting,
Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty
That God's Word so richly yields.**

**3. For as rain and snow from heaven
Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower,
Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth His promise,
Words of life and joy and peace—
Never void to Him returning,
Bearing fruit with great increase.**

**4. Hearken to the Lord whose coming
Marks the time when grace shall end,
When with His angelic reapers
He in glory shall descend.
Soon the night, the final harvest;
Soon the time for work shall cease.
Then the souls His grace has garnered
Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.**

Daniel March, 1816–1909, st. 1, alt.; Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955, sts. 2–4 St. 1:
Public domain; sts. 2–4: © 2001 Stephen P. Starke; admin.
Concordia Publishing House GALILEAN 87 87 D Is. 6:8; 55:10–11; Luke 10:2

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald

CATECHISM *The Third Article*

Pastor: The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed outlines the work of the Holy Spirit and presents the ways in which the Spirit commends the love of God to us and for us and in us in this world and in the one that is to come.

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. Confident of His compassion for us, faithfully and continually learning of Him, and rejoicing in the company of the saints on earth and those above, we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” (Sts. 1 & 5: *LSB* 940)

**Holy God, we praise Thy name;
Lord of all, we bow before Thee,**

**All on earth Thy scepter claim,
All in heav'n above adore Thee,
Infinite Thy vast domain,
Everlasting is Thy reign.**

**Holy Father, Holy Son,
Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one,
Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee
While we own the mystery.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: **“Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”**

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: **“Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: 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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

(Tune: LSB 702)

**O Lamb of God, we pray:
Take all our sins away—
Our faith increase.
Have mercy on us all,
Strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call
And grant us peace.**

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Tune: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872. Public domain

+DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION+

By communing, a person says publicly that they -

- are baptized and confirmed*
- believe Christ's words*
- repent of their sins*
- fully agree with all that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teaches.*

How to receive –

- anyone may come to the altar but keep hands folded if not receiving Communion*
- the center of the tray has a cup with just a drop of wine for those who must minimize alcohol*
- smile, exude your joy, but keep a reverent demeanor as others commune*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Just As I Am, Without One Plea”

LSB 570

**1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**2. Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;

**Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**5. Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**6. Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Public domain
WOODWORTH L M John 1:29; 6:37; Rev. 3:17**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

(LSB, p. 181)

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise;
Tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord
Rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises
And leads His people forth in joy
With shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank You for having fed us with Your life-giving food. Strengthen us through the same, especially in times of challenge or persecution, and grant us a portion with the saints in light eternal. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our everlasting High Priest, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, world without end.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”
LSB 924

**1. Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav’ling through this wilderness.**

**2. Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel’s joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation**

**In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found.**

**3. Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.**

attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Public domain REGENT SQUARE 87 87 87 Num. 6:24–26; John 8:31; Phil. 1:21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.

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- **A Special Voters' Meeting will be held today immediately following worship.**
- **CHURCH PICNIC:** Our Church Picnic will be on Sunday, October 8, at 11:30am. The RJ's BBQ Food Truck will be serving many delicious items, and we will play BINGO. See you there!
- **BIBLICAL APOLOGETICS:** Dr. Gary Locklair, Professor at Concordia Mequon, will present seminars on Creation Apologetics and Signs of the Creator in Technology here at Hope on Saturday, October 21, beginning at 11:30am. Lunch will be served between sessions. See you there!

- **PLASTIC RECYCLING:** Hope is collecting clean plastic bags of all types by the mailboxes. When we reach our goal, we will receive a free park bench. Any questions, please see Mary Ann.
- **SHARING CENTER:** Current Fall needs for The Sharing Center are gym shoes, Fall clothing (babies, children/teens and adults), warm sleeping bags, and blankets. They are also stocking up on foods for holiday meals - beans, sweet potatoes, gravies, cranberry sauce, boxed potatoes, etc. - non-perishables only. Dog and cat food are also needed. Everything helps, and they are SO grateful! Any questions, please see Gail.
- Please call (757-831-6948) or e-mail Pastor Oswald (oswald1@charter.net) with your prayer requests or any other concerns.
- **Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald
- **Liturgist (Sun.)** Rev. Maurice Lind, Pastor Emeritus
- **Sat. Organist:** Lina Schaal
- **Sun. Organist:** Gail Feick
- **Choir Director:** Gail Feick
- **Ensemble Coordinator:** Tabra Gonski
- **A/V Team:** Stan & Cheryl Grey, Josh Walton
Brian & Amanda Larie

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

Reader: Brian Larie
Communion: Paul Schneider
Acolyte: Grace Urban

Ushers: Dave Peschke & Ron Magolski
Fellowship: Peggy Tueting

NEXT WEEK

Reader: Gail Feick
Communion: Mike Gomski
Acolyte: Amanda Siemers
Ushers: Peggy & Jaclyn Tueting
Fellowship: Tami Voigt

BIRTHDAYS

9/24 Beth Schneider
9/24 Ed Snell
9/25 Kim Bergstrom

Opportunities to Serve the Lord This Week

9/25/23 – 10/1/23

Wednesday: 6:30pm Bible Study “II Timothy”
Saturday: 9:30am Worship Service
Sunday: 8:15am Choir Rehearsal
9:00am Worship-LWML Sunday
10:20am Children’s Sunday School