

*Welcome, visitors! Welcome members and friends of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church.  
Thank you for joining us in church and on our online service today.*

17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SERVICE OF THE WORD - ELW pg. 213 #2

September 20, 2026

Prelude – “How Wondrous And Great” – setting, David Johnson

## WELCOME

(Please rise)

## GATHERING HYMN – ELW 688 LORD OF LIGHT

### GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

Cong – And also with you.

### KYRIE – (ELW 157)

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

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

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

Text: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, adapt. Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen  
 Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

## HYMN OF PRAISE – (ACS 1089) HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

San - to, san - to, san - to, oh Dios del u - ni - ver - so:  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of might and mer - cy,

... lle-nos es-tán el cie-lo y la tie-rra de tu glo-ria.  
 your glo-ry fills all heav-en and earth. ... You are ho-ly, God.

Ben - di - to el que vie-ne, en nom-bre del Se-ñor. ...  
 ... Bless-ed be the Sav-ior, the one who comes in your name.

Ho - san - na en el cie - lo. San - to e-res, oh Dios.  
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. You are ho - ly, God.

Text: Traditional; English text, hymnal version  
 Music: Argentine traditional  
 English text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

ARGENTINE SANTO  
 Irregular

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual loving kindness to us 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.

**Cong – Amen.**

**(Please be seated)**

## FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10—4:11

**Kathy Conley, Worship Assistant**

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what [the people of Nineveh] 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 appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." <sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." <sup>10</sup>Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. <sup>11</sup>And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

Leader – The Word of the Lord.

**Cong – Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: Psalm 145:1-8

*The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)*

(Choir will sing before and at the R)

(The Psalm will be sung alternatively, beginning with Choir)

<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my | God and king,  
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

<sup>2</sup>Every day | will I bless you  
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

<sup>3</sup>Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!  
There is no end | to your greatness.

**<sup>4</sup>One generation shall praise your works | to another  
and shall de- | clare your power. R**

**<sup>5</sup>I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty  
and all your | marvelous works.**

**<sup>6</sup>They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,  
and I will re- | count your greatness.**

**<sup>7</sup>They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;  
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.**

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love. R**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30**

**Kathy Conley, Worship Assistant**

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

<sup>21</sup>For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup>If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. <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 for you. <sup>25</sup>Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>26</sup>so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. <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.

Leader – The Word of the Lord.

Cong – Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – (ELW 174)**

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

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

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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Pastor – The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter.

Cong – Glory to you, O Lord.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16****Pastor Kelly Reagan**

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

[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."

Pastor – The Gospel of the Lord.

**Cong – Praise to you, O Christ.**

**(Please be seated)**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON - "The Generous Master"**

**Pastor Kelly Reagan**

**(Please rise)**

**HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 685 TAKE MY LIFE, THAT I MAY BE**

**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**

Pastor – Hear us, O God.

**Cong – Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Cong – Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Cong – And also with you.**

## **PEACE**

**(Please be seated)**

**OFFERING** – “Take My Life That I Might Be” – setting, Kristina Langlois

**(Please rise)**

**OFFERTORY HYMN – (ELW 695) AS SAINTS OF OLD v. 1**

As saints of old their first-fruits brought of orchard, flock, and field  
To God, the giver of all good, the source of bounteous yield,  
So we today first-fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
Of farm and market, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Cong – Amen.**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and +give you peace.

**Cong - Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN – ELW 845 VOICES RAISED TO YOU**

**(Please be seated)**

Postlude

Pastor - Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Cong – Thanks be to God.**

1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may  
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent

suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance  
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,  
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing

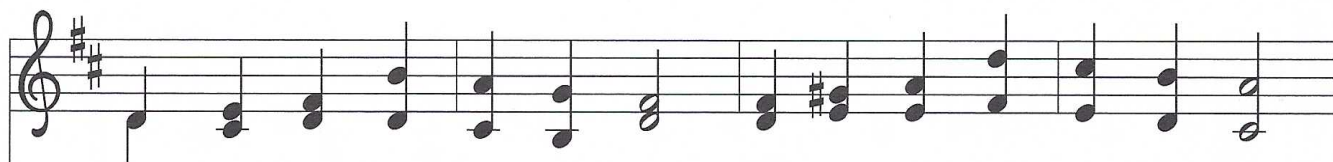
as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions  
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that

fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:  
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:  
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

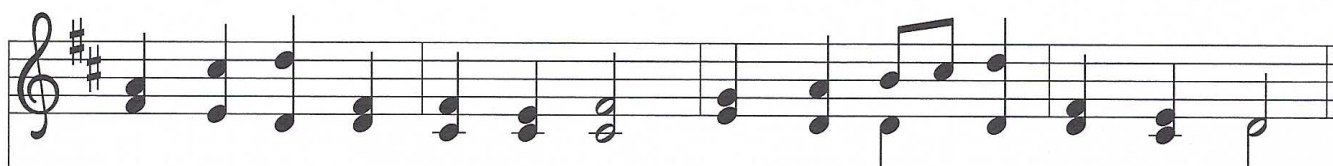
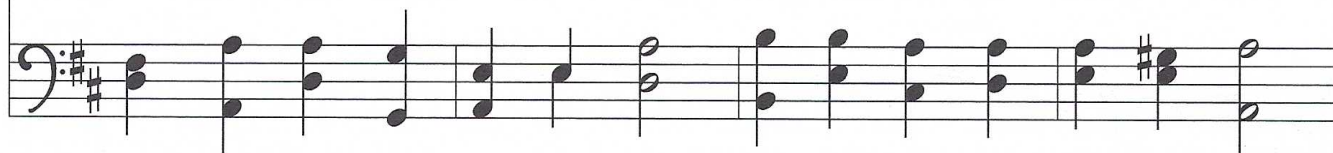
*Refrain*

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

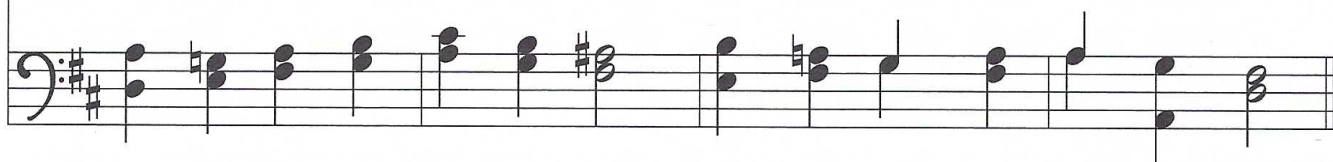
## Take My Life, That I May Be



- 1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



- take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.



- 5 Take my will and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure store;  
 take myself, and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee.

# Voices Raised to You

845

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for  
 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your  
 3 Christ, the song of love in - car - nate, touch - ing earth with  
 4 Spir - it, flam - ing through cre - a - tion, kin - dle faith with -  
 5 How can an - y praise we of - fer mea - sure all the

songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute  
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,  
 heav - en's grace, for your liv - ing, suf - f'ring, dy - ing,  
 in each heart. Lift our voic - es high in cho - rus;  
 thanks we owe? Take our hearts and hands and voic - es—

for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 we re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 for your ris - ing, hear our praise! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 through our hands your love im - part. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 gifts of love we can be - stow. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, re - deem - er, Lord of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Spir - it, help - er, breath of life!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923  
 Music: Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936  
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 Music © 1996 Carolyn Jennings

SONG OF PRAISE  
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