



HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH

+ Time After Pentecost + September 18, 2022

+ Service of Holy Communion + 10:30 am

Rev. Herbert C. Dolich, Pastor

One Pastor, Many Ministers

Lenna Harris- Music Director/Organist

Tim Schomaker – Assisting Minister

Richard Peterson - Lector

Introduction

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

+ **GATHERING** +

Welcome & Announcements *(see the last page for additional announcements)*

Prelude **"Sabbath Morn"** J. Southbridge

Please Stand

Gathering Hymn **"Take My Life, That I May Be"** ELW 685

Greeting

P For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P In the beginning was the Word,

C and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P In the Word was life,

C and the life was the light of all people.

P The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C and we have seen His glory, full of grace and truth.

Kyrie – page 203

Canticle – page 204 (Glory be to God in heaven...)

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P God among us, we gather in the name of Your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to Your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Please be seated

+ **WORD** +

First Reading – Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

L The first reading is from the 8th Chapter of Amos

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;

and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 113 (Read responsively by full verse)

¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD;
praise the name of the LORD.

²**Let the name of the LORD be blessed,
from this time forth forevermore.**

³From the rising of the sun to its going down
let the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴**The LORD is high above all nations;
God's glory above the heavens.**

⁵Who is like the LORD our God,
who sits enthroned on high,

⁶**but stoops to behold
the heavens and the earth?**

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out of the dust
and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

⁸**enthroning them with the rulers,
with the rulers of the people.**

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

Second Reading – 1 Timothy 2:1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

L The second reading is from 1 Timothy the 2nd Chapter

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all
—this was attested at the right time.⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation - page 205 (Alleluia! Lord and Savior...)

Holy Gospel – Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 16th Chapter

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

P This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please be seated

Sermon

Time for Reflection

Please stand

Apostles Creed – Confession and Forgiveness

P In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

P Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C Pray in the Holy Spirit.

P Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

P God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

A As scattered grains of wheat are gathered together into one bread, so let us gather our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.

A brief silence.

A God our Savior, You keep Your church in faith and truth. Accompany those preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Enlighten preachers, teachers, seminarians, and all those who share Your good news with the world. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Divine teacher, You instruct Your children to be responsible stewards of Your creation. Show us how best to care for the earth and its resources, and guide those who work to develop sustainable practices. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Ruler of the nations, You direct those in authority. Give leaders wisdom and compassion so that all may live in peace. Inspire public servants to follow the example of courageous leaders and safeguard the dignity of each person. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Helper of the needy, You lift up those who are oppressed. Breathe justice into economic and social systems so as to help those who have less and those who hunger. Sustain food ministries, clothing banks, and emergency shelters. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Sustainer and giver of life, You bless this congregation with abundance. Instruct us in the proper and faithful use of wealth and resources, that we share generously. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Encouraging God, we pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety or who suffer in any way, *especially those we name before You now*. Send us as Your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God of glory, You gather your saints around Your throne. Keep us thankful for the witness of those who have gone before us (*especially*) and bring us with them to the heavenly feast that has no end. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Gathered together in the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit, gracious God, we offer these and all our prayers to You; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
C **Amen.**

Peace

P Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **And also with you.**

Please share our Lord's Peace with one another

Please be seated

Responding to God's Faithfulness with Giving

Offertory **"Episode in G Minor"** F. Ritter

Anthem **"Lord of the Wind and the Sea"** L. Larson

Please stand

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray.
A God of all creation, all You have made is good, and Your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C **Amen.**

+ MEAL +

Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface – page 207

P It is indeed right, ... we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

Thanksgiving at the table

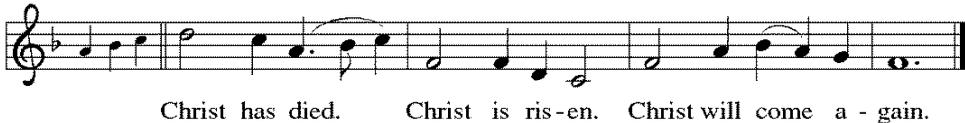
In the night in which He was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
We proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.



To You, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in Your holy church, now and forever.



Lord's Prayer – Page 208

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father, who art in Heaven.....

C Amen.

Invitation to Communion

P Come to the table. Feast on God's abundant life for you.

Please be seated

Communion (Communion up the aisle)

P The body of Christ, given for you.

P The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Please Stand

Communion Canticle "I Exalt Thee"

Verse 1 – I Exalt Thee (sing 3x)
End with – Oh, My Lord

Verse 2 – We Exalt Thee (sing 3x)
End with – Oh, My Lord

Verse 3 – Hallelujah (sing 3x)
End with – Oh, My Lord

Prayer after Communion

A Gracious God, in this meal You have drawn us to Your heart, and nourished us at Your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be Your people in the world, and to proclaim Your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

+ *SENDING* +

Blessing

P Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator strengthen you;

Jesus the beloved fill you;

and the Holy Spirit the comforter ☩ keep you in peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

ELW 669

Extinguishing of candles

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "The Master Has Called Us"

Welsh Melody / G. Peterson

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Welcome to All Visitors who worship with us this morning. Jesus came to make God's love known to our world. May your worship with us make God's love known in your heart and in your life this day and always. We invite you to sign our Guest Register and introduce yourselves to the pastor after worship.

Flowers and Bulletins are given to the Glory of God.

~ Please keep the following people in your daily prayers ~

Rosie Lichner, Rhonda (Millheim) Fries, Bernadette Roeder (Anna Herb's sister),
Linda Spangler, Jack Weasner, Patty Hager, Cathy Clark, Garry Dorney and Shelby
Knox (Charlet Baboski's friend)

Please, take a few minutes to read through the prayer list and let Diane in the office know if any names should be added or removed.

This Week at Hope

Today - 09/18 -

09/19 - Monday -

09/20 - Tuesday -

09/21 - Wednesday-

09/22 - Thursday -

09/23 - Friday -

09/24 - Saturday -

09/25 - Sunday -

Time after Pentecost - 15

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study - 9:00 AM

Service of Holy Communion - 10:30 AM

Al-A-Non group 11:00 AM - Social Hall

AA 8:00 PM Social Hall

Sr. Choir - 7:00 PM

AA 10:00 AM - Social Hall

AA Tatamy Women's Group 6:30 PM

Forks of the Delaware Bottlers Club 6:30 PM

AA, Al-A-Non 7:30 PM

Time after Pentecost - 16

Sunday School and Adult Bible Study - 9:00 AM

Service of Word & Prayer 10:30 AM

Blessing of Pets - Pavilion (rain date Oct. 9th)

Birthdays this week

- 09/19 – Stan Smith, Jr.
- 09/20 – Diane Hewett
- 09/22 – Emersyn Hammerstone
- 09/23 – Ashley Camps, Bart Wagner, David Weasner
- 09/24 – Rodney Kessler
- 09/25 – Paighton Wagner

Anniversaries this week

- 09/20 – David & Cindy Vough
- 09/23 – Diane & Bruce Hewett
 Brian & Kristin Wage
- 09/25 – Matt & Kama Mengel



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **September 25th** – we will have our annual **Pet Blessing** outside with a rain date of October 9th.
- **October 2nd** – we will be receiving **new members**. If you are interested in joining our Hope Lutheran Church family, please see Pastor after the service.
- Hope Lutheran Church’s **WELCA** will be collecting **175 each of Soap and Washcloths** for the Easton / Bethlehem Mission District Christmas Ingathering. The following will benefit from their efforts – New Bethany Ministries, Safe Harbor Shelter, Hellertown Food Bank, Bright Hope, Turning Point, Victory House, and ProJeCt. Please place items in the box by the front door **by November 27th**.

Also appreciated would be donations of **new or slightly used** towels, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, caps, gloves, mittens, scarves, baby clothes, toys, puzzles, and playing cards. A few organizations have also expressed a need for cleaning supplies, socks, and sweatshirts.

- We need volunteers to sign up for **Safe Harbor in Easton** – pick up food donations at Wegman’s on the first Saturday of each month and deliver to Safe Harbor. Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board – for more information, see Bill Kiefer. October and November dates are open.
- We could use sponsors for **Donut Sunday** for the months of November and December.
- A **“Congregational Challenge”** – The Evangelism Committee has come up with a challenge for every church member – ask a non-member friend, family member, or a neighbor to come to church with you. Each member who brings a (non-member) visitor, will be eligible to a quarterly drawing in our **“Each One – Reach One”**. Place your name and the visitor’s name in the fishbowl located on the table in the Narthex. Prizes will be gift certificates for Giant Food Store. Each One – Reach One slips are located by the fishbowl. For more information, see Brenda Knowles.

“Hope -- An Anchor for the Soul”

Hebrews 6:19

September 18, 2022

LECTIONARY 25

The Grace of Confusion

In today's gospel, Jesus tells a challenging parable about a dishonest steward that ends with an unsettling moral: "And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes" (Luke 16:9).

Is Jesus being ironic or sincere? Do the characters in the story somehow represent our relationship with God? Are we supposed to emulate the dishonest steward? This text is filled with questions. If you find Jesus' words today perplexing, even baffling, don't worry—you are in good company. Both the details of the parable itself and the lesson Jesus is drawing from it have vexed and puzzled generations of the best interpreters, theologians, and preachers.

There are many plausible ways to explain what is happening and what it means for our lives as Christians that might be explored in your assembly today. At the same time, scriptures like this are a reminder that the life of discipleship does not always come with easy answers and neatly packaged meanings. The gospels frequently report moments when Jesus' disciples simply could not understand what he was saying to them or profoundly misinterpreted his meaning.

The value of the community you join today does not come from the perfect understandings of either the assembly or its leaders. It comes from the one who continues to speak even when we do not understand, who daily affirms God's love for us through the waters of baptism, who offers his own body and blood at the table each week for those who are still struggling and learning what it means to be his disciples—and that includes all of us. In short, the value of the community you join today comes from a Lord committed to leading us as disciples, even when we are unclear of the way.