

Our Saviour

Lutheran Church



Saturday Worship + 23 September 2023
The 17th Saturday after Pentecost + Lectionary 25 A

6194 Dumfries Rd. Warrenton, VA 20187 + 540.347.3224. + www.oslc-warrenton.org

GATHERING

Gathering Song

Take My Life That I May Be

ELW 583

Refrain:

Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain*

Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose. *Refrain*

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✚ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

The presiding minister may comment briefly upon the service of the day.

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

P Steadfast and faithful God,
C 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

Sharing the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L Let us pray.

L Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness 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.

C Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Jonah 3:10–4:11

L A reading from Jonah.

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] 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.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He 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. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then 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.

⁶The 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. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When 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.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then 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. ¹¹And 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?”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:1-8

L We will sing the Psalm today.

I will exalt you, God my king,
For ever praise, for ever sing

All glory to your treasured name:
All praise, all love, our hearts proclaim!

As parents to their children tell
How always God does all things well,
So I delight to meditate
How just you are, how good, how great.

Believers trust and pray and prove
The glories of your mighty love:
Our streets shall sing, our cities bloom,
Your everlasting kingdom come!

How happy those who come to know
Your love so full, your wrath so slow!
You give us life and health and food:
To all so near; for all so good.

As generations take their turn
And saints in each your glory learn,
Your name be praised, and praised again,
And praised forevermore: Amen!

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

L A reading from Philippians.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, 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, ²⁸and 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. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

The congregation remains seated during the multi-voice presentation of the lesson.

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

Jesus: The kingdom of heaven is like a wealthy landowner who got up early in the morning and went out, first thing, to hire workers to tend his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a day's wage for the day's work. The workers headed to the vineyard *while the landowner headed home to deal with some paperwork.* ³ About three hours later, he went back to the marketplace. He saw *some unemployed* men standing around with nothing to do.

Landowner: ⁴ *Do you need some work? Go over to my vineyard and join the crew there. I'll pay you well.*

Jesus: So off they went *to join the crew at the vineyard*. ⁵ About three hours later, and then three hours after that, *the landowner went back to the market and saw another crew of men and hired them, too, sending them off to his vineyard and promising to pay them well*. ⁶ Then finally late in the afternoon, *at the cusp of night*, the landowner walked again through *the marketplace*, and he saw other *workers* still standing around.

Landowner: Why have you been standing here all day, doing nothing?

Workers: ⁷ Because no one has hired us.

Landowner: Well, you should go over to my vineyard *and work*.

Jesus: *And off the workers went*. ⁸ When quitting time arrived, the landowner called to his foreman.

Landowner: Pay the workers their day's wages, beginning with the workers I hired most recently and ending with the workers who have been here all day.

Jesus: ⁹ So the workers who had been hired just a short while before came to the foreman, and he paid them each a day's wage. ¹⁰ *Then other workers who had arrived during the day were paid, each of them a day's wage*. Finally, the workers who'd been toiling since early morning came thinking they'd be paid more, but the foreman paid each of them a day's wage. ¹¹ As they received their pay, this last group of workers began to protest.

First Workers: ¹² *We've been here since the crack of dawn! And you're paying us the exact same wage you paid the crew that just showed up. We deserve more than they do. We've been slogging in the heat of the sun all day—these others haven't worked nearly as long as we have!*

Jesus: ¹³ *The landowner heard these protests.*

Landowner (to a worker): Friend, no one has been wronged here today. *This isn't about what you deserve.* You agreed to work for a day's wage, did you not? ¹⁴ So take your money and go home. *I can give my money to whomever I please, and it pleases me to pay everyone the same amount of money.* ¹⁵ Do you think I don't have the right to dispose of my money as I wish? Or does my generosity somehow prick at you?

Jesus: ¹⁶ *And that is your picture:* The last will be first and the first will be last.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Children come forward during "This Little Light of Mine".

Sermon

Song of the Day

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,

The wrath of God was satisfied.
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny,
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

Prayers of the People

When prompted, everyone is encouraged to call out names of people, places or organizations for which they are thankful or that are in need of God's care.

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Hear now the names we speak before you and each other.

P Into your hands, O God, we commend those for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

C Amen.

Blessing of the Lutheran World Relief Quilts

MEAL

Sharing Our Gifts

L Let us offer back to God what God has first given us: ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of his gracious love.

Our offerings support the work of the church here and around the world. Please pass the baskets from front to back. You may also make an offering online at www.oslc-warrenton.org by clicking the "DONATE" tab on the homepage. Thank you!

Offertory Song

Great is the Lord

W&P 53

Great is the Lord, He is holy and just,
By His power we trust in His love.
Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true,
By His mercy He proves He is love.

Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory.
Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord.
Now lift up your voice,
Now lift up your voice.
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

Offering Prayer

L Let us pray together. *[A brief pause]*

God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Dialogue

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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

**P Holy God, mighty and merciful, your people praise you, saying:
Your mercy endures forever.**

C Your mercy endures forever.

**P By your promise
you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,
setting the sign of your bow in the clouds,
the colors of your love and faithfulness.**

C Your mercy endures forever.

**P By your promise
you bound yourself to your people of old,
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars
and calling them to be a blessing to others,
showing them steadfast love in every generation
and calling them to be a light to the nations.**

C Your mercy endures forever.

**P By your promise
you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved,
grafting us into your living Vine,
and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.**

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.

With this bread and cup
we remember his life laid down and lifted up
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

**P Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and these gifts of bread and wine.
Make us a sign of your faithfulness to the world.**

C Your mercy sends us out.

With all the saints in light,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,
in your Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Let us pray as our Savior taught us.

**C 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.**

Sharing Holy Communion

All baptized Christians are invited to share Christ's Body as bread and His blood as wine. If you wish to receive Holy Communion, please come forward and stand or kneel around the altar. You may drink from the cup or instinct into the cup.

Communion Song

Oh Give Thanks

We were wand'ring in the desert with our souls so starved and weak.
We were hungry for a homeland we did not know how to seek.
But we lifted up our voices to the only One who hears,
And the God of mercy came and brought us near.

Chorus:

Oh, give thanks to the Lord for His love endures forever!
We were wandering and lost, and our Father brought us home
To a safe dwelling place, to a feast of joy and laughter.
Oh, give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

We were locked out of the garden and our backs bend down with pain;
In the shadow of death's darkness we were slaves to sin and blame.
Then we cried out in our labor to the only One who hears,
And the God of mercy wiped away our tears.

(Chorus)

We were fools in our rebellion with our hunger strike of pride;
We were sick and growing closer to the death we should have died.
Then He heard of our condition, and He called us by our names.
And the God of glory took away our shame.

(Chorus)

We were far out on the ocean making wealth and chasing dreams,
But the waves of great destruction brought us trembling to our knees.
And we cried like drunken sailors to the only One who hears,
And the God of comfort took away our fears.

(Chorus)

Prayer After Communion

L Let us pray. *[A brief pause]*

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.

C Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Song

Days of Elijah

These are the days of Elijah,
Declaring the Word of the Lord;
And these are the days Of Your servant, Moses,
Righteousness being restored;
And though these are days of great trials,
Of famine and darkness and sword;
Still we are the voice in the desert crying,
“Prepare ye the way of the Lord.”

Chorus:

Behold He comes,
Riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
So lift your voice,

It's the year of Jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill Salvation comes.

And these are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh;
And these are the days of Your servant, David,
Rebuilding a temple of praise;
And these are the days of the harvest,
The fields are as white in the world;
And we are the labourers in Your vineyard,
Declaring the Word of the Lord.

(Chorus)

There is no god like Jehovah,
There is no god like Jehovah,
There is no god like Jehovah,
There is no god like Jehovah.

(Repeat 4 times)

(Chorus 2 times)

Dismissal

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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Songs

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