

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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Pastor Janine Shearer

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Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost † September 17, 2023

P - Pastor ♦ C - Congregation ♦ A - Assisting Minister

LBW-Lutheran Book of Worship-Green ♦ **WOV**-With One Voice-Blue

ELW-Evangelical Lutheran Worship-Red

*** Please stand as you are able**

PRELUDE *Jesus, Lead Thou On* by Paul Manz

WELCOME AND GRATITUDE STORIES

SPECIAL MUSIC *Footsteps of Jesus* by Asa B. Everett -Peggy Snyder, violin

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C Amen.

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.
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.

GATHERING HYMN ELW # 533 - Red *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

GREETING

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.

KYRIE

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P 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.

C Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *I Am Thine, O Lord* arr. Stephanie Immordino -Peggy Snyder, violin

FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing 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?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'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. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him,

and said, "We are here as your slaves."

¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as God is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way Joseph reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

A The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:1-13

¹Bless the Lord, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.

²**Bless the Lord, | O my soul,
and forget not | all God's benefits—**

³who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;

⁴**who redeems your life | from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;**
⁵who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
⁶**O Lord, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**
⁷You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the children of Israel.
⁸**Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**
⁹you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
¹⁰**You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**
¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹²**As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**
¹³As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those 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. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on slaves 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. ⁵Some 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. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give

thanks to God. ⁷For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your sibling? Or you, why do you despise your sibling? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

* **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  (please stand as you are able)

I love to tell the story: 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

*** GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Peter 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?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the dominion of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸"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.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵"So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive each other from your heart."

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW # 359 - Red *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL MUSIC *Jesus Loves Me* -Children singing

*** APOSTLES' CREED** *(please stand as you are able)*

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.

PRAYERS *(you may be seated)*

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

A brief silence.

A We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy especially those on our hearts and minds.. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A We give thanks for the saints who died in faith. Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

* **LORD'S PRAYER** *(please stand as you are able)*

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

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

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN ELW # 864 - Red *Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven*

POSTLUDE *Menuet Gothique* by Léon Boëllman

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Altar Flowers

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Lee & Sandi Weirauch in honor of their 56th wedding anniversary.

This week please hold in prayer: Mary Lou Zwiebel, Paul Long, Ed & Betty Panning, Garrick Walker, Ronald Hoops brother of Mary Lou Streicher, Lee Weirauch, Bob Lulfs, Nancy & Ken Lange, Terry Lacy, Matt Von Seggern, Dezarea Harshman, for all those on our hearts and minds, and for peace in our nation and the whole world.

Thursday Bible Study: Please join us weekly on Thursday at 9:30am in the adult Sunday school room.

Year of Gratitude: This week we give thanks for folks who visit. It is so important for us to remain connected to each other in whatever ways we can for a given season. It is great to stop by when you can and brighten someone's day. A special thanks to Joan and Kathy for their visits with our dear ones each month! Thank you to everyone who visits our dear ones and reminds them that they are loved by God and by us!

Caring Corner for September - We are collecting size 5 diapers and all sizes of pull-ups to be distributed at "Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives" in recognition of Diaper Need Awareness Week. September 19-24.

Devotionals

The new devotionals are available at both entrances. We have *Portals of Prayer* and *Christ in Our Home* in both regular and large print editions. They will be available in the mailbox by the back doors. Please help yourself to your favorite devotional book.

Flower Chart

The new flower chart for 2024 is hanging in the narthex. Pick your special day and sign up early!

Chairs Available

Some of our old metal folding chairs are available for you to take for a free will donation to Emanuel.

This Week

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| Monday, September 18 | 12pm | Newsletter deadline |
| | 6:30pm | Church Council Meeting |
| Tuesday, September 19 | 7pm | Dartball here vs St. John, Defiance |
| Wednesday, September 20 | 1:30-3pm | Open Office Hours at Pocket Park or Coffee Shop |
| | 4-5pm | Puzzles & People led by Jen |
| | 5pm | Soul Food Café |
| | 6pm | Soaring Arts Class by Jen |
| | 6pm | Brass Ensemble |
| | 7pm | Choir |
| Thursday, September 21 | 9:30am | Bible Study |
| | 5:30pm | Zoom Bible Study |
| | 7pm | Worship with Communion |
| Sunday, September 24 | 9am | Worship in person or online |
| | 10am | Sunday School |