

# Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

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**Pastor Janine Shearer**

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## Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost † September 24, 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**    *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)* arr. Mark Hayes

### WELCOME AND GRATITUDE STORIES

**SPECIAL MUSIC**    *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* arr. Derek K. Hakes    -Bell Choir

### 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 # 688** - Red    *Lord of Light*

### 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** 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.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Ashokan Farewell* arr. Douglas Wagner -Bell Choir

### **FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11**

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God had second thoughts about the calamity that God said would be done to them, and God 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 and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <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?"

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 145:1-8**

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

<sup>2</sup>**Every day | will I bless you  
and praise your name forever 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 declare your power.**

<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 recount 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.**

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

<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, yet I cannot say which I will choose. <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, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me. <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 in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup>For God has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for Christ as well, <sup>30</sup>since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1-16**

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

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>1</sup>“The dominion 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 a denarius for the day, 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 a denarius. <sup>10</sup>Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. <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 the landowner replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ <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.”

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY ELW # 765** - Red *Lord of All Hopefulness*

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SPECIAL MUSIC** *Bells of St. Mary’s* arr. Ron Schink -Bell Choir

**\* 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** God who is gracious and merciful, teach your church to invite and welcome all. Lead us to be grateful for the blessing of community. Challenge your church to choose equity and compassion over judgment. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

A God who sends the wind and the sun, you know every worm and bush by name. Help us remember that even the humblest parts of creation are precious to you. Show us how best to care for the earth and its creatures. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God who is ready to relent from punishing, impart your compassionate wisdom to legislators, judges, members of the military, and law enforcement. Give them courage to serve their communities in times of uncertainty, stress, or exhaustion. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God who saves, direct your people who are tempted by evil ways. Protect your children from calamity and disaster. Strengthen all who are incarcerated. Encourage all who are in despair or pain of any kind especially those on our hearts and minds. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God who is slow to anger, may we boast about the goodness of Jesus with the confidence of Paul in prison. Inspire us to find abundance in whatever vocation we are called to in the world and in service to our congregation. Merciful God,

**C receive our prayer.**

A God who abounds in steadfast love, we give thanks for the saints called to the kingdom of heaven. United with them in spirit, hold us firm as we labor in this life and look to the life to come. 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)*

**Our Father, which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**SENDING HYMN ELW # 669** - Red *Rise Up, O Saints of God!*

**POSTLUDE** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You* by John Rutter

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## **Altar Flowers**

Flowers are given to the glory of God by Nate & Kaitlin Cordes in honor of their 7<sup>th</sup> 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 people who stop by the office. Sometimes that looks like important conversations while other times it's just to chat. It's always a joy when the task list can be set aside for a while to check in with each other and be community! Please continue to stop by and say hi! We love seeing you!

**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.

### **A Space to Grieve**

Carol Castello and Pastor Janine invite those of you who are grieving to a time to check in, hear scripture, and share stories on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Bible Study room (with dinner provided beforehand at 6:30). You do not need to RSVP but please let us know if you plan to attend and have any dietary restrictions. As the Honduran proverb goes, "Grief shared is half grief. Joy shared is double joy." Let us hold some of your grief for you.

### **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!

### **This Week**

Monday, September 25	7pm	Finding Our Way OD Support Group
Tuesday, September 26	7pm	A Space to Grieve
Wednesday, September 27	1:30-3pm	Open Office Hours at Pocket Park or Coffee Shop
	6pm	Brass Ensemble
	7pm	Choir
Thursday, September 28	9:30am	Bible Study
	5:30pm	Zoom Bible Study
	7pm	Worship
Sunday, October 1	9am	Worship with Communion in person or online
	10am	Sunday School
	6pm	Confirmation Food & Fellowship