



For to me,  
and to LIVE is  
to die is Christ,  
GAIN.

Philippians 1:21

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost ~ October 3 / 4, 2020

# St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

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**Today's service is televised locally**

Channel 14 - Comcast: Monday at 6:00 p.m. & Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.  
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# ***Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

## **October 3/4, 2020**

**Prayer before worship:** Almighty God, you have prepared for us the glories of heaven. For this we look ahead with eager anticipation. At the same time, many of us have friends, family and loved ones who need to be ministered to by us. May we fulfill our task as your instruments who you have appointed to this service. And then, when the day shall come, may we not only look forward to a blessed end, but with deepest joy share heaven with those to whom we have ministered. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Saturday: The cantor will sing all hymns and musical notations (♬).*

**OPENING HYMN**                      ***Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose***                      **CW 466**

1. Though thoughtless thousands choose the road That leads the soul away from God,  
This happiness, dear Lord, be mine: To live and die entirely thine.
2. In Christ, by faith, I wish to live, From him my life, my all, receive,  
To him devote my fleeting hours, Serve him alone with all my pow'rs.
3. Christ is my everlasting all. To him I look; on him I call.  
He will my ev'ry want supply In time and through eternity.
4. Soon will the Lord, my life, appear; Soon shall I end my trials here,  
Leave sin and sorrow, death and pain. To live is Christ; to die is gain.
5. Soon will the saints in glory meet, Soon walk through ev'ry golden street  
And sing on ev'ry blissful plain, "To live is Christ; to die is gain."

*Please stand*

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

**C: Amen.**

P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

♪: **O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

**Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love.**

**You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit; you make us pure and holy in your sight.**

**You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all.**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

**O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us;**

**you made your Father known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood.**

**You are the King of glory; you are the Lord!**

**O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

P: Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## FIRST LESSON

**Isaiah 55:6-9**

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the

LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,"

declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

## PSALM of the DAY

**Psalms 27**

See page 8

## SECOND LESSON

**Philippians 1:18-27**

But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always

Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue

with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel.

**VERSE of the DAY**

♪: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Please stand*

**GOSPEL**

**Matthew 20:1-16**

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing. About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all

day long doing nothing?' 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These men who

were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Please be seated*

**HYMN of the DAY**

***Take My Life and Let It Be***

**CW 469**

1. Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. 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.
3. Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from thee.
4. 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.
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.

**TO LIVE IS CHRIST; TO DIE IS GAIN**

1. WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE
2. WHAT IT MEANS TO DIE

*Please stand*

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT****PRAYER of the CHURCH**

**P:** Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

**C:** **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

P: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

**C: Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

P: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing.

He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak.

Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

♪: **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.**

**You are my God, and I will exalt you.**

**I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen.**

♪: **O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

***What Is This Bread?***

**CWS 742**

1. What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead: This bread we break. This life we take  
Was crushed to pay for our release. Oh, taste and see—the Lord is peace.
2. What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine; The cup of grace Brings his embrace  
Of life and love until I sing! Oh, taste and see—the Lord is King.
3. So who am I, That I should live and he should die Under the rod? My God, my God,  
Why have you not forsaken me? Oh, taste and see—the Lord is free.
4. Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear. In mouth and soul He makes us whole—  
Christ, truly present in this meal. Oh, taste and see—the Lord is real.
5. Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free! I do believe That I receive  
His very body and his blood. Oh, taste and see—the Lord is good.

*Please stand*

♪: **Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev'ryone what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.  
He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

P: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you  
in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming  
again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness  
may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

† † †

**PREACHER  
PRESIDING MINISTER  
ORGANIST  
CANTOR**

Pastor Jeffrey Bovee  
Pastor Rob Guenther  
Darrell Berg  
Jon Hermanson

*Saturday: cantor will sing the refrain; congregation will speak the verses*

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion — of whom shall I  
 be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?  
 be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;\*  
 be merciful to me and answer me.

Do not hide your face from me,\*  
 do not turn your servant away in anger;  
 you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,\*  
 O God my Savior.

### **Refrain**

Though my father and mother forsake me,\*  
 the LORD will receive me.

I am still confident of this:\*  
 I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;\*  
 be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **Refrain**