



" AND SHOULD NOT  
YOU HAVE HAD  
*mercy*  
ON YOUR FELLOW SERVANT,  
AS I HAD  
*mercy*  
ON YOU? "

MATTHEW 18:33, ESV

***Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church  
Sixteenth Weekend after Pentecost  
Saturday, September 16, 2023***

16th Weekend after Pentecost

Saturday, Sept 16, 2023

***Welcome Pastor Bob Noble, Calvary Lutheran Church***

**PRELUDE**

*Tami Tailford, Organist*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OPENING SONG**

*As We Gather*

As we gather may Your spirit work within.. us.  
As we gather may we glorify Your name.  
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship.  
We'll be blessed because we came.

As we gather may Your spirit work within.. us.  
As we gather may we glorify Your name.  
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship.  
We'll be blessed because we came....we'll be blessed because we came.

*(Interlude)*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceas..es.  
His mer-cies nev-er come to an end.  
They are new ev'ry morning...new ev'ry morning...  
Great is Thy faith..ful..ness Oh Lord.  
Great is Thy faith..ful..ness Oh Lord.  
We'll be blessed because we came...we'll be blessed because we came.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Steadfast and faithful God,

**C: you have revealed the ways of justice,  
but 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 righteousness 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**

## **FIRST READING**

**Genesis 50:15-21**

Realizing 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?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, '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. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

## **SECOND READING**

**Romans 14:1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those 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. Who are you to pass judgment on servants 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.

Some 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. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If 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. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."  
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

## **GOSPEL**

## **Matthew 18:21-35**

Peter 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?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

## **SERMON**

*Pastor Bob Noble*

## **PRAYERS**

P: Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: God of power, God of plenty,

**C: all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## OFFERING SONG

*I Believe in Jesus*

I believe in Jesus, I believe He is the Son of God.  
I believe He died and rose again,  
I believe He paid for us all.

### **Chorus**

I believe He's here now standing in our midst.  
Here with the power to heal now  
and the grace to forgive.

I believe in You Lord,  
I believe You are the Son of God.  
I believe You died and rose again,  
I believe You paid for us all. **Chorus**

I believe in You Lord,  
I believe You are the Son of God.  
I believe You died and rose again,  
I believe You paid for us all. **Chorus 2x**

## HOLY COMMUNION

P: Welcome to the celebration! God supplies for our every need and gives us this meal to share.

**All: God, we thank you for the bread of life.**

P: We come to the table, acknowledging our shortcomings and our need to experience God's presence in bread and wine.

**All: God, we thank you for the cup of salvation.**

P: In the night in which Jesus was betrayed...

P: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**All: Jesus, give us faith to receive you in this holy meal.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

## THE DISTRIBUTION

Welcome!

St. John practices "open communion". All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, the pastor will distribute the bread and the communion assistant will serve the wine. We will also have pre-sealed elements available for those who would prefer the more hygienic option (or those who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine). Indicate to the pastor that you would like pre-sealed elements and skip the wine server. Those who wish to receive a blessing should indicate their wishes to the pastor by crossing their arms over their chest.

## BLESSING

P: The God of glory, Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Firm Foundation*

Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion... I know I can stand secure.  
Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion... I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word.  
I put my hope in Your Ho-ly Word.

(Leader) I have a living hope (Congregation echo)  
(Leader) I have a fu-ture (Congregation echo)  
(Leader) God has a plan for me (Congregation echo)  
(Leader) Of this I'm sure (Congregation echo)

Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion... I know I can stand secure.  
Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion...I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word.  
I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word.

(Leader) Your Word is faithful (congregation echo)  
(Leader) Mighty in pow-er (congregation echo)  
(Leader) God will deliver me (congregation echo)  
(Leader) Of this I'm sure (congregation echo)

Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion...I know I can stand secure.  
Je-sus, You're my firm foun-da-tion...I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word.  
I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word...I put my hope in Your ho-ly Word...  
I put my hope in Your ho--ly Word.

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

*A special thank you to Pastor Noble for filling in for Pastor O'Brien while he is away.*



“Forgive your  
brother or sister  
from your heart.”

MATTHEW 18:35, NRSV



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***We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church.  
We are... "creating and nurturing life changing relationships  
based on the love of God in Jesus Christ,  
so that we may grow in faith, serve God,  
and serve our neighbor."***

Contemporary Worship: Saturday 5:00 pm  
Confirmation Class: Sunday 8:30 am  
Sunday School for all ages returns...  
1st Sunday of the month, October-May at 8:30 am  
Traditional Worship: Sunday 9:45 am

[stjohnwilliston.org](http://stjohnwilliston.org)



Welcome to join

[St. John Lutheran Church - Williston](http://stjohnwilliston.org)