

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper, believing communicants, with the bread and wine, also really receive Christ’s body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20 A)**  
**September 20, 2020**

**INTROIT**

*Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16; Antiphon: Psalm 116:17*

*I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call on the name of the LORD.*

*What shall I render to the LORD  
for all his benefits to me?*

*I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD,*

*Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his saints.*

*O LORD, I am your servant;*

*I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.*

*You have loosed my bonds.*

**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.**

*I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call on the name of the LORD.*

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** *Lord God, heavenly Father,  
since we cannot stand before You  
relying on anything we have done,  
help us trust in Your abiding grace  
and live according to Your Word;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.*

**C** *♪[Amen]♪*

**GRADUAL**

*Psalm 34:9, 19*

*Fear the LORD, you his saints,  
for those who fear him lack nothing!*

*Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.*

**RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS**

*After each petition:*

**P** let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy

## **Isaiah 55:6-9 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> “Seek the LORD while he may be found;

call upon him while he is near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD, that he  
may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will  
abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your  
thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,  
declares the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than  
the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## **Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers,  
that what has happened to me has  
really served to advance the gospel,  
<sup>13</sup>so that it has become known  
throughout the whole imperial guard  
and to all the rest that my  
imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And  
most of the brothers, having become  
confident in the Lord by my  
imprisonment, are much more bold to  
speak the word without fear.

<sup>19</sup> for I know that through your  
prayers and the help of the Spirit of  
Jesus Christ this will turn out for my  
deliverance, <sup>20</sup> as it is my eager  
expectation and hope that I will not be  
at all ashamed, but that with full  
courage now as always Christ will be  
honored in my body, whether by life  
or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me to live is  
Christ, and to die is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am to  
live in the flesh, that means fruitful  
labor for me. Yet which I shall choose  
I cannot tell. <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 on your account.  
<sup>25</sup> Convinced of this, I know that I will  
remain and continue with you all, for  
your progress and joy in the faith, <sup>26</sup>so  
that in me you may have ample cause  
to glory in Christ Jesus, because of  
my coming to you again.

<sup>27</sup> Only let your manner of life be  
worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that  
whether I come and see you or am  
absent, I may hear of you that you are  
standing firm in one spirit, with one  
mind striving side by side for the faith  
of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and not frightened in  
anything by your opponents. This is a  
clear sign to them of their destruction,  
but of your salvation, and that from  
God. <sup>29</sup> For it has been granted to you  
that for the sake of Christ you should  
not only believe in him but also suffer  
for his sake, <sup>30</sup> engaged in the same  
conflict that you saw I had and now  
hear that I still have.

## **Matthew 20:1-16 (ESV)**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like  
a master of a house who went out  
early in the morning to hire laborers  
for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with  
the laborers for a denarius a day, he  
sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> And  
going out about the third hour he saw  
others standing idle in the  
marketplace, <sup>4</sup> and to them he said,  
‘You go into the vineyard too, and  
whatever is right I will give you.’ <sup>5</sup> So  
they went. Going out again about the  
sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did  
the same. <sup>6</sup> And about the eleventh  
hour he went out and found others  
standing. And he said to them, ‘Why  
do you stand here idle all day?’ <sup>7</sup>

They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’<sup>8</sup> And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’<sup>9</sup> And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.<sup>10</sup> Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius.<sup>11</sup> And on receiving it they grumbled at the

master of the house,<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 he 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 worker as I give to you.<sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’<sup>16</sup> So the last will be first, and the first last.”

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Proper 20 (September 18—24)

Isaiah 55:6–9

Philippians 1:12–14, 19–30

Matthew 20:1–16

### *Disciples Live in Their Vocations by Grace through Faith in Christ*

Those who are sent as “*laborers for His vineyard*” (Matt. 20:1) depict the wide diversity of vocations to which the disciples of Christ Jesus are called. Whatever our particular stations in life may be, we are called to live and serve by faith in His promises. Our labors do not merit anything before Him, for He is already generous to one and all without partiality. In mercy He has chosen to bear “*the burden of the day and the scorching heat*” on our behalf, to make us equal to Himself, and to give us what belongs to Him, that is, the Kingdom of heaven (Matt. 20:12–15). This way of the Lord is foolishness to the world and foreign to our thoughts, but He draws near, so that “*He may be found*” (Is. 55:6), that “*He may have compassion*” and “*abundantly pardon*” (Is. 55:7). So it is that we are found in Christ Jesus, and He is honored in our bodies, “*whether by life or by death*” (Phil. 1:20), by “*fruitful labor*” (Phil. 1:22), or by suffering. It is by faith in His forgiveness that our works are “*worthy of the Gospel*” (Phil. 1:27).

### *Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:*

September 27 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-10 (v.4); Philippians 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18;

Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)