



St. Luke's Lutheran Church



4801 Anderson Ave
Manhattan, KS 66503
www.stlukesmanhattan.org

Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.

Sunday, September 20, 2026 – 11:00 AM

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor
William Prann, Director of Christian Education
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music*

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

(Series A)

WELCOME

We are glad you are here to worship our Savior with us. Please remember to turn your cell phone to silence. Restrooms are on the west side of the sanctuary. Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office through email, office@stlukesmanhattan.org, or by calling 785-539-2604. On Communion Sundays, if you need non-gluten wafers at communion, or need to have communion brought to you, please notify the elder who is serving. We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

AS WE GATHER

In our minds, justice seems strong while mercy appears weak. In reality, mercy is stronger than justice and greater in every way. While justice may seem appealing to us, what we seek from God is not fairness or equity but mercy. Mercy is what must be taught to our sinful hearts, and for this reason, it remains the higher or greater path. Justice we can understand and reason, but mercy requires God to become flesh in His Son, to suffer and die as the Innocent One for our sins, and to rise to bestow upon us grace and mercy we neither earned nor deserve. Such mercy is a scandal to us and can often be an offense to those who do not realize the magnitude of its gift. Today, we ask the Lord to open our eyes so that we may acknowledge and rejoice in His great gift of mercy and pardon in Christ and walk worthy of this grace every day.

IMAGE ON THE COVER

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." And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house. . . . So the last will be first, and the first last. *Matthew 20:8–11, 16*

PRELUDE

(Please use this time to prayerfully prepare your hearts to enter into the presence of Jesus.)

✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠

WELCOME

OPENING SONG – “Everything to You” 1 Chronicles 29:24-28

1 Who am I? Nothing but a shadow
Cast by Your loving light, pure white
Search my heart, find the truth within me
All that I have I give to You for Your holy purpose

2, 4 I give everything to You, Lord, all I have
When I am empty how You fill me up
I give everything to You, Lord, all I am
With a joyful heart I give my life to You

3 Touch my soul, Spirit, live within me
Let my one desire be You, Lord, You
From Your hand, Father, You have given
All that I am I give to You, forever Your servant
(Used by permission CCLI #288089)

Stand

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.
C **Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous his thoughts.**
- P** For the Lord will have compassion, and He will abundantly pardon.
C **His thoughts are not our thoughts, nor His ways our ways.**
- P** The last will be first, and the first last,
C **for the Lord is generous and His mercy endures forever.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Beloved in the Lord, the Scriptures call us to “seek the Lord while He may be found” and to “call upon Him while He is near.” Yet His nearness exposes the truth about us: that our ways are not His ways, and our thoughts are not His thoughts. Standing before the God whose generosity exceeds all human fairness, let us confess both our sinful nature and the sins we have done in thought, word, and deed.

Lord, You created us to walk in Your ways, to trust Your promises, and to live lives worthy of the gospel of Christ. But by nature we are sinful and unclean—turned inward on ourselves, slow to trust, quick to judge, and eager to compare ourselves with others.

- C** **Forgive us, Lord.**

- P** Lord, You teach that Your generosity is not a reward for labor but a gift of grace. But we cling to our own ways, defend our own thoughts, begrudge Your mercy to others, and resent Your goodness when it does not match our sense of fairness.

- C** **Forgive us, Lord.**

- P** Lord, You invite us to trust that Your thoughts are higher than our thoughts and Your ways higher than our ways. But we doubt Your wisdom, question Your timing, shrink from suffering, and seek comfort more than faithfulness.

- C** **Forgive us, Lord.**

P Merciful Father, we confess that we have sinned against You and against one another. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor our neighbors as ourselves. We have done the evil You forbid and failed to do the good You desire. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ—who bore the burden of the day and the scorching heat for us—have mercy on us.

C **Forgive us, Lord.**

P Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you, and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Jesus Christ, the Lord-Come-Near, has stepped into your place, borne your wicked ways, carried your unrighteous thoughts, and taken your sins to His cross. By His death He has won your full and final pardon; by His resurrection He has opened the kingdom of heaven and made you heirs of His life. Therefore, as a called and ordained 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 The Lord who began His good work in you will bring it to completion on the day of Christ. Go in His peace.

C **Amen.**

INTROIT

Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16; antiphon: v. 17

P I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

C **and call on the name of the Lord.**

P What shall I render to the Lord

C **for all his benefits to me?**

P I will lift up the cup of salvation

C **and call on the name of the Lord.**

P Precious in the sight of the Lord

C **is the death of his saints.**

P O Lord, I am your servant;
C I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

C 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.

P I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
C and call on the name of the Lord.

KYRIE (*Greek for "Lord, [have mercy]"*)

P In peace let us pray to the Lord,
C Lord, have mercy.

P For hearts that seek the Lord who draws near, forsaking our ways and
trusting His abundant pardon, let us pray to the Lord,
C Lord, have mercy.

P For faith to rejoice in the Master's generosity, neither begrudging His
mercy nor measuring His grace by our fairness, let us pray to the Lord,
C Lord, have mercy.

P For courage to confess Christ in every vocation, honoring Him in
suffering and in fruitful labor, let us pray to the Lord,
C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, turn us from our own ways and make us rejoice in the salvation won by Your Son, who bore our sin and opened Your kingdom to us. Grant that, living in His abundant pardon, we may walk worthy of the gospel; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

HYMN OF PRAISE – “Who Am I”

1 Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth
Would care to know my name, would care to feel my hurt
Who am I, that the bright and morning star
Would choose to light the way for my ever wandering heart

2, 5, 7 Not because of who I am, but because of what You've done
Not because of what I've done, but because of who You are

3, 6, 8 I am a flower quickly fading, here today and gone tomorrow
A wave tossed in the ocean, a vapor in the wind
Still You hear me when I'm calling
Lord, You catch me when I'm falling
And You've told me who I am, I am Yours, I am Yours

4 Who am I, that the eyes that see my sin
Would look on me with love and watch me rise again
Who am I, that the voice that calmed the sea
Would call out through the rain and calm the storm in me

9, 10 Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear, I am Yours
(Mark Hall & Casting Crowns ©2003 Club Zoo Music)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

("Seek the Lord while He may be found.")

⁶"Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;

⁷let 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.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Psalms 34:9, 19, alt.

P Fear the LORD, you His saints,

C for those who fear Him lack nothing!

P Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

C but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

("Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.")

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

¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰as 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. ²¹For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷Only 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, ²⁸and 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. ²⁹For 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, ³⁰engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Ephesians 2:8

P Alleluia. By grace you have been saved through faith.

C And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

(Do you begrudge the Lord's generosity?)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹*[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And 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.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, '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.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."*

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

☩ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

LAMB'S MESSAGE

SERMON

VOTUM

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

OFFERING

There are several ways to give.

1. Please **send** your offerings to
St. Luke's Lutheran Church
4801 Anderson Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66503
2. **Electronic Funds Transfer** - Sign up through the church office.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE: Matthew 20:9 – “And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius.” Behold the generosity of God! He gives out of His grace, not what we deserve to receive. Living a godly life means living in imitation of God — and surely one of the foundations of God's being is His generosity .

OFFERTORY – “Make Me a Servant” John 13:14-16

1, 2, 3 Make me a servant, humble and meek
 Lord, let me lift up those who are weak
 And may the prayer of my heart always be
 Make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today
(Kelly Willard ©1982, arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music & Willing Heart Music CCLI #288089)

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, whose thoughts are higher than our thoughts and whose ways overflow with unthinkable grace, teach Your Church to rejoice in Your generosity. Drive far from us every spirit of grumbling or comparison, that we may delight in Your mercy and proclaim Your goodness in a world that longs only for fairness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of the vineyard, You have planted Your Church in this world and called each of us to labor in the vocations You have given. Strengthen pastors, teachers, missionaries, and all servants of Your Word, that their work may bear fruit and honor Christ “whether by life or by death.” Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Father, bless our congregation as we prepare to begin the **Capital Stewardship Campaign** later this weekend. Grant us unity of purpose, joy in giving, and confidence in Your provision. Teach us to see this effort not as a burden but as a grateful response to Your generosity, that all we undertake may serve Your kingdom and strengthen Your Church for years to come. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, You order all things by Your wisdom. Bless our nation, its leaders, and all who serve in public office. Grant humility, justice, and protection for the weak, the unborn, the elderly, and all who cannot defend themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Compassionate Lord, draw near to all who suffer in body or spirit—those who are sick, recovering, depressed, lonely, shut in, or in hospice care, *[especially ...]*. Grant them steadfast faith, relief according to Your will, and the comfort of knowing that to live is Christ and to die is gain. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful Lord, as we prepare to receive the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood, grant us true repentance, firm faith, and grateful hearts. Strengthen all who commune today with the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation You bestow. Bless those still being instructed, that they may soon join us at Your table with joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord of all compassion, bless those who protect and serve: police officers, firefighters, medical workers, first responders, and all who labor for the good of their neighbors. Preserve them in safety and strengthen them for their tasks. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, You do not forget the work of Your hands. Provide for us each day with grace sufficient for every need of body and soul, and keep us content in Your mercy as we await the eternal feast You have prepared for all Your saints. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and each 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

LAMB OF GOD

DISTRIBUTION

The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first. They then distribute the body and blood of Christ to those in the pews who are unable to come forward, and then finally to those who come forward.

Distribution and dismissal will be done by half tables.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

“Sweetly Broken”

- 1 To the cross I look, to the cross I cling
 Of its suffering I do drink
 Of its work I do sing
 On it my Savior, both bruised and crushed
 Showed that God is love
 And God is just
- 2, 4, 5 At the cross You beckon me
7, 8 Draw me gently to my knees
 And I am lost for words
 So lost in love I'm
 Sweetly broken, wholly surrendered
- 3 What a priceless gift, undeserved life
 Have I been given
 Through Christ crucified
 You called me out of death, You've called me into life
 I was under Your wrath
 Now through the cross I'm reconciled
- 6 In awe of the cross I must confess
 How wondrous Your redeeming love
 And how great is Your faithfulness

“Come Just as You Are” John 4:14

- 1, 2 Come just as you are
 Hear the Spirit call
 Come just as you are
 Come and see (come and see)
 Come, receive (come, receive)
 Come and live (come and live) forever
- 3, 5, 6 Life everlasting and strength for today
 Taste the Living Water and never thirst again
- 4, 7 Come just as you are
 Hear the Spirit call
 Come just as you are
 Come receive (come receive)
 Christ the King (Christ the King)
 Come and live (come and live) forever
 (Joseph Sabolick ©1994, arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

Stand

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we praise You for the unthinkable grace You have shown in Your Son, who bore the burden of the day for us and opened Your kingdom to those who could never earn it. As You have fed us with His body and blood, grant that His abundant pardon strengthen us in faith toward You and in steadfast hope, so that we may honor Christ in our vocations and rejoice in Your generosity toward all. Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever..

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

GREET ONE ANOTHER

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "The Lord be with you,"
"Peace be with you," or "The peace of the Lord be with you".*

CLOSING SONG - "My Lighthouse"

- 1 In my wrestling and in my doubts
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea
- 2 In the silence You won't let go
In the questions Your truth will hold
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea
- 3, 5, 10 My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
I will trust the promise
You will carry me safe to shore
Safe to shore
Safe to shore, safe to shore
- 4 I won't fear what tomorrow brings
With each morning I'll rise and sing
My God's love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea, oh
You are the peace in my troubled sea
- 6, 7, 8, 9 Fire before us, You're the brightest
You will lead us through the storms

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4. Copyright © 2026 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

