

and he will come 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**

Offering *(The children's offering basket will be on the front steps of the church,
so that they can in yet another way feel involved in Sunday worship)*



Offertory Hymn *Everybody's Got Something to Offer*

Insert

Prayers of the Church

Lord's Prayer

*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

Benediction

Closing Hymn *Step by Step*

Insert

Sending: P: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord
C: Thanks Be to God!

(CCLI License #1137749)

Beaver Valley Lutheran Church

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Welcome! We are glad you are with us today!!

*"If you do not have a church home, you are welcome here. If you would like to become
a member, contact any member or the church office."*

Sunday, September 24, 2023; 9:30 am Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Sharing of the Peace/Invocation

Call to Worship

L: Open your hearts to God's loving mercy.

P: Lord, come into our hearts this day.

L: Having received God's mercy, bring that love to others.

P: Lord, be with us as we reach out to others in compassion.

L: Feel your spirits filled with the goodness of God.

P: Lord, we thank you for the many blessings which you pour into our lives.

AMEN.

Opening Hymn *One Spirit* Insert

Prayer of the Day (All)

**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.
Amen.**

First Lesson *Jonah 3:10--4:11* Nancy Johnson

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways,
God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he
did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He 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 God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then 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.

⁶The 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. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When 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.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then 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. ¹¹And 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?”

Second Lesson

Philippians 1:21-30

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 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 for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, 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, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Alleluia Verse

The Lord Now Sends Us Forth (no repeats)

ELW #538

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

(Response after the announcement: Glory to you, O Lord.)

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And 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?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When 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.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, 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 the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

(Response after the conclusion: Praise to you, O Christ.)

Children’s Sermon

Pastor Greg Johnson

Sermon

“Beyond Fair”

Pastor Greg Johnson

Hymn of the Day

Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)

Insert

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**