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**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the Gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” *Philippians 1:12-13, 21*

**AS WE GATHER**

When Paul wrote to his co-worker Timothy that he was “bound with chains as a criminal” (2 Timothy 2:9), he knew well the situation he was in. Acts 16 relates the time that he was thrown in jail in Philippi without benefit of a trial. He was later jailed in Jerusalem and then Caesarea and finally at Rome, where he was under a type of house arrest for two years. The final chapter of Acts finds Paul as a captive one more time, accepting this imprisonment as a prelude to his death. He writes to Timothy “the time of my departure has come” (2 Timothy 4:6). In the centuries since Paul gave his prison witness, countless Christian men and women have been imprisoned for their Gospel witness. We are encouraged to be faithful witnesses in our time by Paul, who writes to his young associate Timothy: “Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Timothy 6:11–12a). Paul’s words from prison are good instruction for every situation!

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting One, pg. 151)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”* (*LSB* 811)

**KYRIE** (*LSB*, pg. 152-153)

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“This Is the Feast”*(*LSB*, pg. 155)

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 156)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 55:6-9 *(bulletin insert)*

**INTROIT** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 *(bulletin insert)*

**ALLELUIA and VERSE** (*LSB*, pg. 156)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 20:1-16 *(bulletin insert)*

**HYMN** *“Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling”* (*LSB* 827)

**SERMON *“Honored In My Body”***

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 158)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**OFFERTORY** *“What Shall I Render to the Lord”*(*LSB*, pg. 159)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 160-163)

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“What Wondrous Love Is This”* (*LSB* 543)

*“Seek Ye First”* (*LSB* 712)

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** *“Thank the Lord”*(*LSB*, pg. 164)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** (*LSB*, pg. 166)

### BENEDICTION (LSB, pg. 166)

**HYMN** *“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”* (*LSB* 924)

**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH,**

Rev. Curt Hoover, Rev. Alebachew Teshome,

Rev. Craig Fiebiger, Rev. Doug DeWitt

2640 Buckner Road, Thompson’s Station, TN 37179, (615) 791-1880

[www.faithlutheran-tn.org](http://www.faithlutheran-tn.org)

 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**