

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW – Byron, MN

October 1, 2023: 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Pat Nelson

INTRODUCTION: *Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet 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.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice 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.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *You Servants of God* (ELW 825)

GREETING (ELW p. 138)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE (ELW p. 138)

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)

Let us pray.

God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

A reading from Ezekiel, chapter 18:

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their

righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

¹To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted
all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake
of your goodness, O LORD.

**⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

A reading from Philippians, chapter 2:

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,

¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he

answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: IT'S ON YOU

HYMN OF THE DAY Abide with Me (ELW 629)

CREED (ELW p. 104)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and
unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and
the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray
for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

...Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these
and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made
known through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

OFFERING (ELW p. 144)

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 144)

*After the table is set, the assisting minister may lead one of the
following or a similar prayer.*

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you
open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your
table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through
Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 144)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 145)

Blessed are you...

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

In the night ...the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.*

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

*Thank the Lord and sing his praise,
tell ev'ryone what he has done,*

Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord and proudly bear his name.

He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy

With shouts of thanksgiving! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)

Let us pray.

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING (ELW p. 146)

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *This Is My Father's World* (ELW 824)

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 146)

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.



WELCOME! WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE VISITING:

If you're visiting, please sign our guestbook (in narthex).
Worship times rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf.

OCTOBER WORSHIP TIMES



BOTH CHURCHES have communion on 1st & 4th Sundays

WEST 9:00 am worship / West coffee at 10am

FOR BOTH: 10:00 JAM Sunday school at West church

EAST 11:00 am worship / East coffee after church

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

Note: Anyone interested may join Altar Guild

Altar Guild: Oct. - Dawn Evjen

Deacon: Oct. - Jane Williams

East Acolytes: If none listed, then ushers are covering

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT INFO FOR CONFIRMANDS & PARENTS

- Photos of Confirmands will be taken **this Wed., October 4** at 6:30 pm, starting at EAST church first - then all moving over to the West Church.
- Confirmation Day is Sun., October 8 with communion.

>>> EMERGENCY PASTORAL NEEDS & PULPIT SUPPLY:

Pastor Shari Mason will be leading worship at East/West St.

Olaf **and covering emergencies (including funerals)** while

Pastor Paul is recuperating in October and November, her contact information is:

Rev. Shari Mason (507) 219-2384 shariannmason@gmail.com

PASTOR PAUL'S ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

Janna Thompson will be providing cake at both churches for the coffee hours on Sun., OCT. 15th, to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Pastor Paul's ordination (which falls on the 16th)

EAST OCTOBER WELCA MEETING & BAKING DAYS And EAST CIRCLE 4 MEETING

Sat., Oct. 7: 10:00 am East WELCA meeting, then at 11:00 am ALL East members are invited to help bake Norwegian goodies

Sat., Oct. 14: East Circle 4 meeting at 10:00 am, at church.

Sat., Oct. 28: 10:00 am ALL East members are invited help bake more Norwegian goodies

Sat., NOV. 4: *We will sell our lefse and baked goodies at our Baked Goods & Quilting Sale (10am-1pm for Norwegian goodies...but the quilting sale runs until 3:00 pm)*

EAST DONATIONS for TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS



September 1 thru October 1, our mission is to collect school supplies for students that cannot afford the basics. *Please consider donating (by Oct. 1):*

Wide lined notebooks Packs of No. 2 pencils

Packs of 24 Color Crayons Expo Markers (3-4 in a pack)

Safety Scissors, Pencil Boxes, Large Erasers,

Rulers (in inches and cm), and Solid Colored Folders

Financial donations can be made to “East Missions” and in the memo, write School Donations. These financial donations will be used by schools to purchase headphones. *Schools to receive these donations will be Byron, Kasson, Stewartville, and Hayfield.*

EAST CONTRIBUTIONS:

(09/17 and 09/24) Current \$1,270 and Sunday school \$41.

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

Deadline for bulletin information – Wednesdays by 7:30 pm.

Submit any newsletter info by the 20th of each month.

TODAY	9:00 am	West Worship / <u>Communion</u>
	10:00 am	<i>West coffee</i>
	10:00 am	JAM for BOTH at WEST!!
	11:00 am	East Worship / <u>Communion</u>
		<i>East coffee always after church</i>
Oct. 2 (Mon.)	9:00-Noon	Pastor at office
Oct. 3 (Tue.)	10:00 am	East quilting/sack lunch

	6:00 pm	<u>East church council meeting</u>
Oct. 4 (Wed.)	6:30 pm	<u>PHOTO SESSION for all</u> <u>East/West fall confirmands, start at EAST, then all move to WEST</u>
	7:00 pm	BOTH: Confirmation class @ West
Oct. 5 (Thur.)	9:00-Noon	Pastor at office
Oct. 6 (Fri.)	-----	Pastor's day off-work
Oct. 7 (Sat.)	10:00 am	<u>EAST Baking Day (Rosettes, etc.)</u>
Oct. 8 (Sun.)	9:00 am	West Worship / <u>Communion and Confirmation Day!</u>
	10:00 am	<i>West coffee</i>
	10:00 am	JAM for BOTH at WEST!!
	11:00 am	East Worship / <u>Communion and Confirmation Day!</u> <i>East coffee always after church</i>

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

Oct. 9 (Mon.)	9:00-Noon	Pastor at office
	7:00 pm	<u>West church council meeting</u>
Oct. 10 (Tue.)	9:00 am	West quilting/sack lunch
	10:00 am	East quilting/sack lunch
Oct. 11 (Wed.)	9:00 am	West quilting/sack lunch
	1:00 pm	West WELCA meeting, <i>hosted by Wilma Kyllö</i>
	7:00 pm	BOTH: Confirmation at West (<i>then</i> <u>NO classes until late November</u>)
Oct. 12 (Thur.)	9:00-Noon	Pastor at office
Oct. 13 (Fri.)	-----	Pastor's day off-work
Oct. 14 (Sat.)	10:00 am	<u>East Circle 4 meeting at church</u>
Oct. 15 (Sun.)	9:00 am	West Worship
	10:00 am	<u>West coffee with cake to celebrate Pastor Paul's 35th ordination anniv!</u>
	10:00 am	JAM for BOTH at WEST!!
	11:00 am	East Worship <u>East coffee with cake to celebrate Pastor Paul's 35th ordination anniv!</u>

Oct. 16 (Mon.) -----

Pastor Paul has surgery *and begins*
his medical leave thru Nov. 12th

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

East Prayers: Scott Kittleson (*son-in-law of Paul Jordan*), Cody Hegna, Alan Hovey, Jean (*Sandy Dahle's daughter*), Verla Holtan (*friend of Marilyn Carlson*), Dawn Hugeback, Debra Moekel (*daughter of Audrey Carlson*), Keith Roeder (*son-in-law of Paul Jordan*), Dalton Mansfield (*-serving in our military*), John (*cousin of Pat Nelson*), Bill Fritts, Sylvia Torstenson, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky Brakke*), David Distad, and John Heydt (*brother of Pat Nelson*).

West Prayers: Cody Hegna, Rick Boyum, Karen Hanson, Gloria Pew, Loretta Himle, Gloria Brown, Aloma Eastlee, Dawn Hugeback, Martha Beaver, Darlene Hanson, Kelly Keckhafer, Boyd Pew, Cindy Senjem, Philip Senjem, and Matt Miller (*nephew of Carma Bjornson*). Those serving in our military: Jack Kenyon (*nephew of Will & Gail Laxen*), Patrick Reynolds (*grandson of Sue Hyland*), Erika Smith (*granddaughter of Carma & Ardean Bjornson*), and Tully Hovda (*son of Todd & Cathy Hovda*).

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR Paul Thompson: (*Please call before driving to office*)

Cell Phone: 507-273-8504 **Email:** pthomp821@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday and Thursday

9:00 am–Noon... OR by appointment (*Day off-work is Friday*)

SECRETARY Gina Moser: (*Please call before driving to office*)

Office Phone: 507-365-8222 **Cell Phone:** 507-951-4964

Emails: eastwest@kmtel.com AND certainty@kmtel.com

Send all emails for Gina to both of her email addresses.

Office Hours: Tues. & Thursdays 10:00 am–Noon

OUR WEBSITES: eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org

JANITORIAL SERVICE: Becky Wilbourne 507-923-5845

COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION:

President, Bruce Peterson: 507-254-1822

Gary Kearns: 507-206-3158 or 507- 254-5285

Bryan DeCook: 507-208-1590

EAST: VISITS FOR OUR MEMBERS

If you know of anyone who may like a call or visit from Pastor Paul or from another member, please contact an East deacon: Jane Williams: 507-271-2272.