

Service of Worship

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 24, 2017

10:30 am



Ebenezer
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to Ebenezer!

We hope you are blessed by your time in worship today. Please complete the "Welcome" insert and place it in the offering plate as it is passed.

Restrooms are located in the Education Building.

Devices for the hearing impaired are located on designated pews. For assistance, please see an usher.

A nursery for children three-years old and younger is available, beginning 9:15 am, for Sunday school and worship. The nursery is located across from the library in the Education Building. Our attendants are trained and willing to help. Parents are welcome to use the nursery for part or all of the worship service.

As you enter the worship space, please be sure to silence your cell phones.

+ GATHERING +
We gather to learn love for one another.

Preservice Music

We stand as able.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the † holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us, the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

We kneel as able or remain standing. Silence is kept for reflection.

Source of all life,

we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.

We fear that we are not good enough.

**We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.**

**We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.**

Forgive us. Stir us.

**Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation.**

Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven, † God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

All stand and face the processional cross.

Gathering Hymn *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

Hymn 853

Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

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.**

We welcome one another to worship and then we sit.

Welcome and Announcements

+ WORD +

God speaks to us in Bible readings.

Children's Message

Hymn *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil* Hymn 512

First Reading

Jonah 3:10--4:11
(Pew Bible pages 845-846)

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:21-30
(Pew Bible page 1071)

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16
(Pew Bible page 899)

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading:

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

Sermon

*Silence is kept for reflection.
We stand.*

Pastor Amundson

Hymn of the Day

Lord of All Hopefulness

Hymn 765

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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,
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.

Prayers of the People

*After the assisting minister introduces the prayers, we stand or kneel
as able, for the petitions.*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.
All stand.*

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

We sit.

+ MEAL +

Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven."

An offering is collected to support the mission of the church.

Reception of the Offering

Musical Offering *What a Beautiful Name* Ben Fielding
Ebenezer Musicians

We stand.

Offertory Song *Holy Ground* Geron Davis

We are standing on holy ground,
and I know that there are angels all around.

Let us praise Jesus now.

We are standing in his presence on holy ground.

Offering Prayer

After the gifts have been presented, the prayer is said:

Let us pray...**Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

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.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season; We respond: *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

What is Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is our participation in the meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. As Jesus' disciples now this meal is a participation in our Lord's life: he feeds us, forgives us, and unites us.

This meal, sometimes called "Eucharist" (meaning "thanksgiving"), connects us to our Lord and to all his people across time and space.

Jesus' Words About Communion

Lord's Prayer

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - low - ed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial and de -
liv - er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the pow'r and the
glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er.

Invitation to Communion

Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

We sit.

Communion

Distribution Music

Lamb of God...

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

How we Commune
Welcome to the table of the Risen Christ!

All baptized worshipers are invited to partake of the Eucharist, regardless of denominational affiliation. Come down the center aisle and either kneel or stand at the rail in front of the altar. Take the bread and dip it into the cup of wine.

If you require gluten-free wafers or grape juice, please let the ministers know. Return to your seat by way of the side aisles.

If you are unable to come forward please come down the side aisles on either side after the "Invitation" and communion will be brought to you. If you need to remain in your seat please notify an usher.

Any who do not wish to receive communion may fold their arms across their chest to receive a blessing at the altar.

(Distribution Music continues)

*O Come to the Altar
10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*

See Insert
See Insert

When all have returned to their places, we stand or kneel.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray...**Amen.**

All stand.

+ SENDING +

We are blessed to go and serve God in the world.

All turn and face the processional cross.

Sending Song *Crown Him with Many Crowns* Hymn 855

Blessing

Dismissal

Go in peace. Sound the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Serving in Worship Today

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| The Rev. Melvin E. Amundson | <i>Presiding/Preaching</i> |
| Marcia Lucius | <i>Assisting</i> |
| Brenda Argoe | <i>Lector</i> |
| Brenda Argoe | <i>Element Bearer</i> |
| Susan Peeples, Colleen Siniard | <i>Communion Assistants</i> |

“Reaching out to draw others to Christ.”

- We place Jesus first in all that we do ·
- We share Christ wherever we are ·
- We welcome a diversity of believers and skeptics to experience Christ with us ·
- We seek to deepen our faith and discipleship ·
- We embrace the gifts of each and all ·

Strategic Directions

- We will offer worship opportunities with Biblically based, doctrinally sound preaching and inspiring music, energizing ourselves to do God’s work.
- We will welcome our neighbors and invite them to participate in all church programs.
- We will respond to the needs of all God’s people, seeking justice and peace, locally and globally.
- We will commit our time and resources to support God’s work through the South Carolina Synod and the ecumenical community.
- We will provide dynamic Christian education, immersing ourselves in God’s word.
- We will foster a sense of congregational community and genuine concern for the well-being of our members.



Ebenezer Lutheran Church

1301 Richland Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Office hours 8:30 am - 4:30 pm Monday-Friday Phone 803.765.9430

Website: <http://www.ebenezerlutheran.org>

The Rev. Melvin E. Amundson, Interim Senior Pastor

The Rev. Gary Dreier, Pastoral Associate

David E. Turner, Director of Music and Worship

Diane M. Oliver, Administrative Associate

Wendy Isgett, Accountant