

# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

GOD, be merciful to me, a sinner!

Luke 18:13



**Pentecost 20**

**October 23, 2022**



# ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany

◆ Immanuel

◆ Lunder

◆ Silver Lake

◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

Pastors (#590-2737 – cell; email [pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org](mailto:pastorbill@oneinchristlutheranparish.org))

Bill Peters

(#590-0727 – cell; email [pastorrandy@oneinchristlutheranparish.org](mailto:pastorrandy@oneinchristlutheranparish.org))

Randy Baldwin

web page - <http://www.oneinchristlutheranparish.org>

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 23, 2022**

## COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshipping with us this morning.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who excites us with the mission of the church - to be witnesses and share the "good news" to all people.

## EMPOWER AND SEND US!

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

*Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.*

*(\* Stand as you are able)*

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

## ✧ GATHERING ✧

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God*

### \*CONFESSION

We praise you, O God, for showering us with your goodness and grace.

**You answer our prayers and forgive our wrongdoings.**

We worship you O God, the hope of all the world.

**You enrich the earth with water, providing people with grain.**

The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills cover themselves with joy,

**the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,**

the valleys deck themselves with crops,

**they shout and sing together with joy.**

Let us shout and sing together with joy as we sing to the God of our salvation.

**God of all creation, we worship and adore you.**

You enrich the land with the blessings of your creative nature and you enrich our lives with the blessings of your creative Spirit.

**We rejoice O God, in the outpouring of such blessings upon us.**

We praise you for these signs of your presence among us, and especially for your presence in our midst in and through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

**We come to this time of worship in awe and with thanksgiving at such evidence of your grace towards us.**

Open our ears that we may hear you speaking to us anew; open our hearts that we may love as you love us and our world, and open our lips to proclaim your praise.

**This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen**

Jesus friend of us all, you told the parable to people who believed that they were truly righteous and who regarded others with contempt. We confess that there are times when we say and do things which leave us equally open to your judgment.

**Forgive us when we assume that our belief in you gives us a status which makes us superior to non-believers.**

Forgive us when we believe that our fasting or tithing enhances our importance in your eyes.

**Forgive us when we commend ourselves for sharing the humility of the tax collector.**

Forgive us when we place more confidence in our own goodness than in your amazing grace.

**Lord Jesus Christ, humility for you consisted of emptying yourself of all self-serving power and filling yourself with the desire to serve others.**

Forgive our reluctance to follow your example and replace any selfish or pious power-plays of ours with your love, your compassion and your humility.

**This we pray in your name and for your sake. Amen**

### **\*EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, God of our salvation; and perhaps the most awesome deed of all was the gift of your only Son to the world you so love, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**The great good news**

### **\*OPENING SONG**

*“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*

Blue # 21

*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;  
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.*

*Refrain      Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain*

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain*

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

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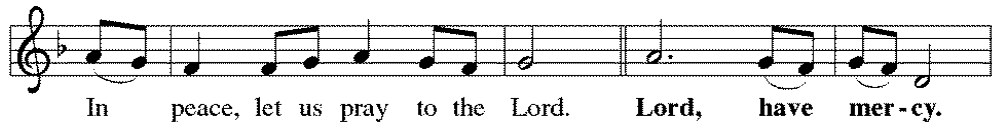
### **\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

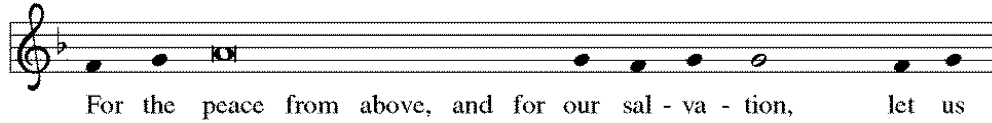
**And also with you.**

### **\*SHARING THE PEACE**

**\*KYRIE**



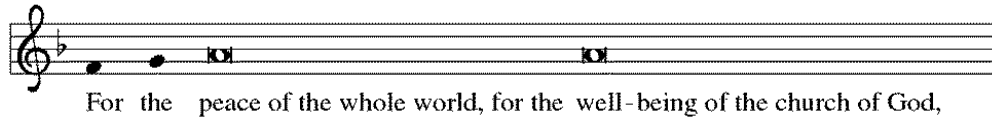
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



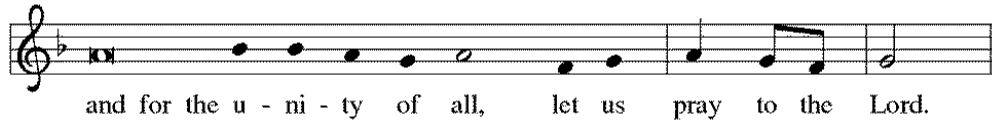
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



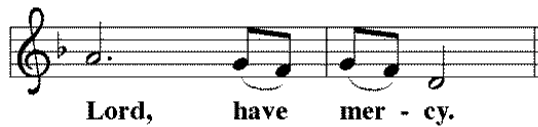
pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



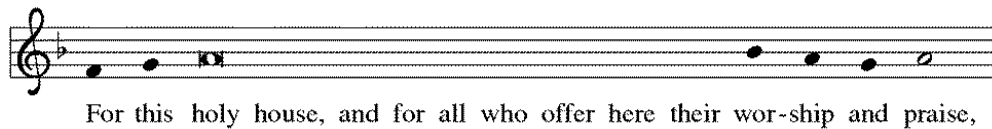
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



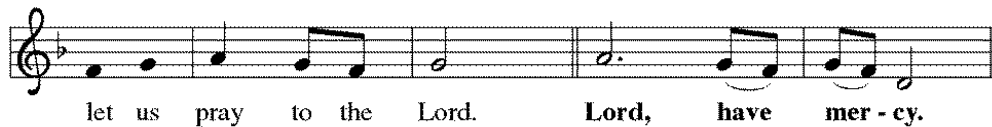
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



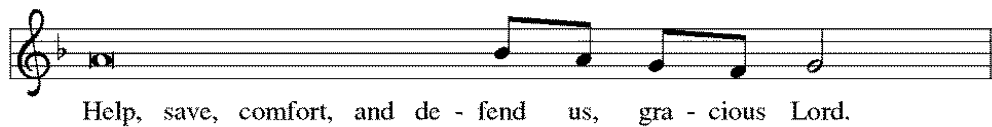
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE** "Glory to God..."



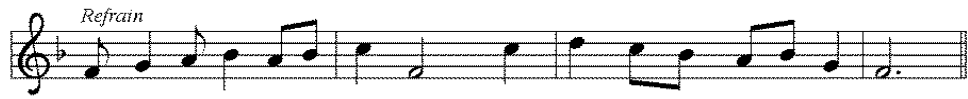
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### *God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song*

*Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For this we worship and glorify God forever.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

## Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22

*In a time of drought, the people pray for mercy, repenting of their sins and the sins of their ancestors. They appeal to God to remember the covenant, to show forth God's power, and to heal their land by sending life-giving rain.*

<sup>7</sup>Although our iniquities testify against us,  
act, O LORD, for your name's sake;  
our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you.

<sup>8</sup>O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble,  
why should you be like a stranger in the land,  
like a traveler turning aside for the night?

<sup>9</sup>Why should you be like someone confused,  
like a mighty warrior who cannot give help?

Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us,  
and we are called by your name; do not forsake us!

<sup>10</sup>Thus says the LORD concerning this people:  
Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet;  
therefore the LORD does not accept them,  
now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

<sup>19</sup>Have you completely rejected Judah?  
Does your heart loathe Zion?

Why have you struck us down  
so that there is no healing for us?  
We look for peace, but find no good;  
for a time of healing, but there is terror instead.

<sup>20</sup>We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD,  
the iniquity of our ancestors,  
for we have sinned against you.

<sup>21</sup>Do not spurn us, for your name's sake;  
do not dishonor your glorious throne;  
remember and do not break your covenant with us.

<sup>22</sup>Can any idols of the nations bring rain?  
Or can the heavens give showers?

Is it not you, O LORD our God?  
We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

## 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

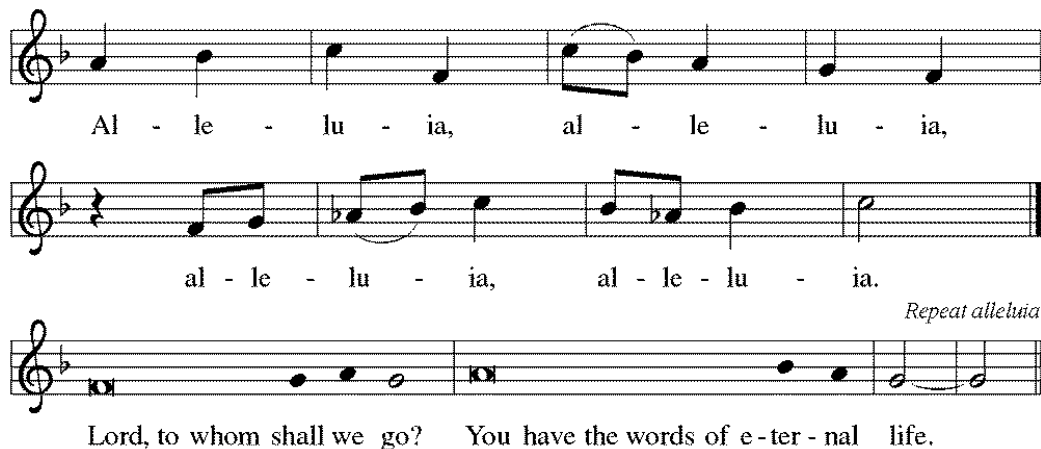
*The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who faced death. Though others let him down, Paul was sure of his faith in the Lord, who stood by him and lent him strength.*

<sup>6</sup>As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

<sup>16</sup>At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! <sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. <sup>18</sup>The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## \*GOSPEL READING

**Luke 18:9-14**

*The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.*

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:<sup>10</sup>“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. <sup>11</sup>The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. <sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ <sup>13</sup>But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ <sup>14</sup>I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

### SONG OF THE DAY

*“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”*

# 290

*There’s a wideness in God’s mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there’s a kindness in his justice which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth’s sorrows are more felt than up in heav’n.  
There is no place where earth’s failings have such kindly judgment giv’n.*

*There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.*

*For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the head.*

*’Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.  
If our love were but more simple, we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would be all sunshine in the sweetness of our Lord.*

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

**\*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,  
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 COMMUNITY**

In gratitude and humility, let us join together in prayer on behalf of all of God's creation.

...Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**✠ THANKSGIVING ✠**

*God invites us to respond to His grace*

**OFFERING**

**\*OFFERTORY SONG**    *"Create in Me..."*

**ELW # 186**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.*

**✠ SENDING ✠**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world*

**\*BLESSING**

**\*THREE-FOLD AMEN**

**\*RINGING OF THE BELL**



*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev’ry trembling heart.*

*Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev’ry troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav’n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!*

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**



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Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 23, 2022

# Fractured Hearts

At first glance, the Pharisee in Jesus’ parable seems to be doing everything right. He attends worship faithfully, he offers thankful prayers to God, he tithes 10 percent of his income, and he even fasts regularly. That’s an impressive list! However, it’s not the state of his spiritual habits that Jesus reproaches, but the state of his heart. The Pharisee is diligent and observant, but he is putting trust in himself and his own piety rather than in God.

Martin Luther interpreted the first commandment, “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3), to mean that we should put our whole confidence in God alone, trusting in God above all else. Our hearts should cling to God, Luther said. When our hearts start clinging to other things, as the Pharisee’s did to his religious routine, we turn those things into idols.

In one version of the communal confession we use in worship, we admit to God: “We have not loved you with our whole heart” (*ELW*, p. 95). Despite our best intentions, our hearts can become fractured, clinging to all kinds of things before they cling to God. Sometimes all that’s left for God is a tiny portion of our hearts. The words of the confession reorient us by reminding us of our dependence on God and our need for God’s grace. We echo the prayer of the tax collector in Jesus’ parable: “God, be merciful to us sinners!”

No matter how fractured our hearts become, though, God’s response to our prayers will always be the same. God overflows with mercy and compassion toward us. At the end of our confession, we receive the assurance of forgiveness in Christ. That good news is for everyone—Pharisees and tax collectors alike. We are all God’s beloved children, freed and forgiven by the radical grace of God.