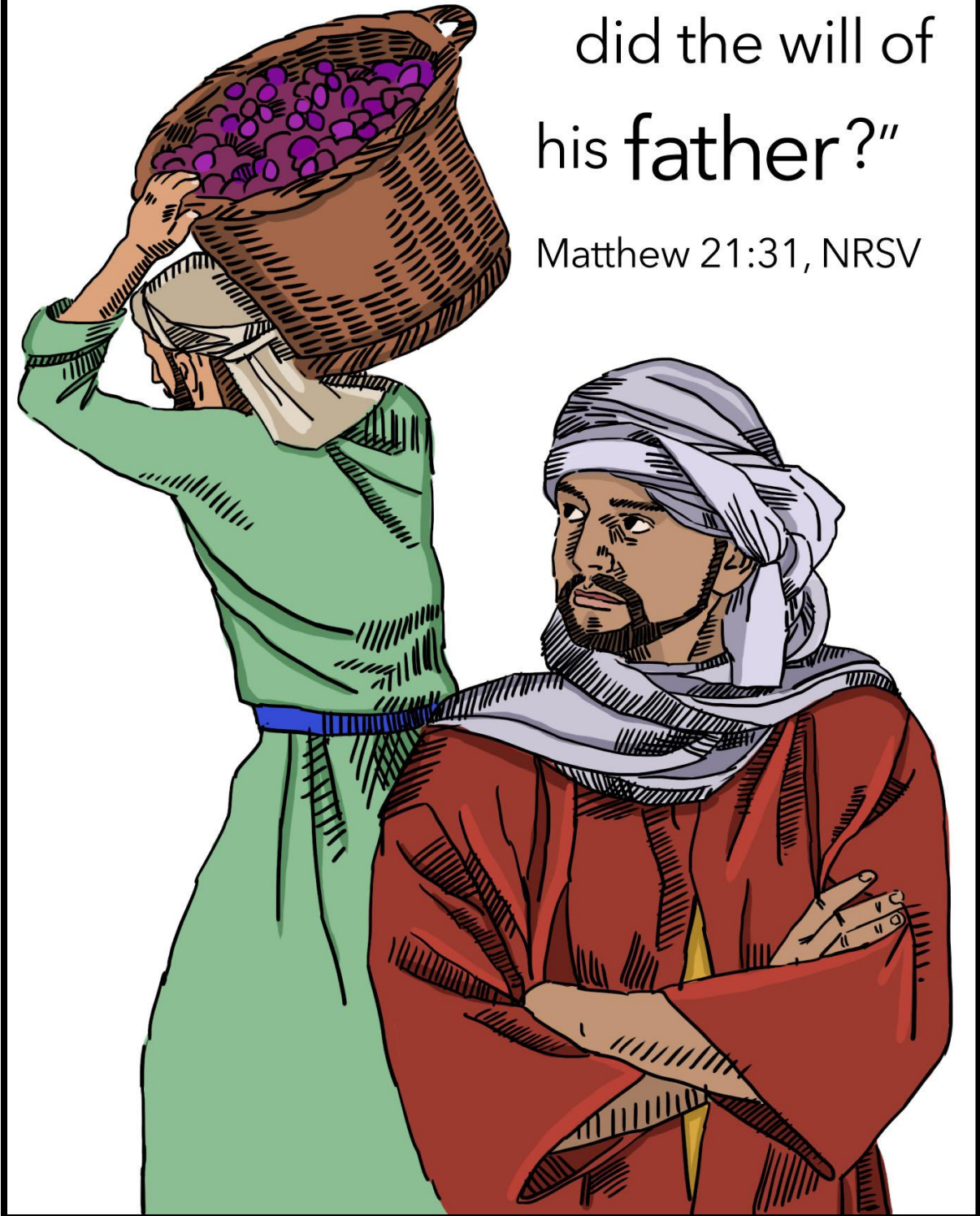


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

"Which of the two
did the will of
his father?"

Matthew 21:31, NRSV



Pentecost 18

October 1, 2023



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)

Bill Peters

(#590-0727 – cell; email pastorrandy@oneinchristlutheranparish.org)

Randy Baldwin

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

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

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

We ask you to please sign our guest register. God's Spirit has empowered us to be an united community of faith and encourages us to be a neighbor to all.

SPIRIT, SET OUR HEARTS ON FIRE!

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**

Our trust is in God,

in God alone.

We rejoice in God's love

for us and all people.

Let us worship God,

who is our refuge and strength

and the source of justice and peace.

God of all time and space, we worship and adore you.

You could have remained far beyond our understanding, yet you chose to reveal yourself in the person of Jesus, your Son, our Savior.

He widened the horizons of minds and hearts when he made your love and your wisdom known through his gentleness, compassion and humility.

And you empower us with your Holy Spirit so that we can live with Christ's mind in us, giving shape to all our words and actions, making us gentle, compassionate and humble.

We offer our thanks and praise, in response to all your gifts to us O God, especially the gift of Jesus,

In whose name we pray. Amen

Merciful God, when we fail to work towards establishing conditions which allow justice to flower and mercy to flourish in people's lives;

forgive us.

When our satisfaction with the status quo dulls our capacity to grieve over the injustices suffered by so many people in our society;

forgive us.

When we collaborate with those who exploit workers in sweatshops by buying their products;

forgive us.

When we become so deeply attached to the quest for wealth and power that we do not hear Jesus' words about the impossibility of serving both God and wealth addressed to us;

forgive us.

When achieving prosperity becomes a higher priority than tackling the causes of poverty;

forgive us

Strengthen us, O God, to withstand the seduction of a society which seems obsessed with the acquisition of wealth and power, too often at the expense of the poor and powerless. Help us to live as Jesus did, in solidarity with

those who have lost hope of anything good or just happening in their lives.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

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

We believe that Jesus was sent by God into the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned.

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

364

*Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrong, and help our need.*

*As you, Lord, have lived for others,
so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted;
freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver,
yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty
held in solemn trust will be.*

*Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of peace;
hush the storm of strife and passion,
bid its cruel discords cease.
By your patient years of toiling,
by your silent hours of pain,
quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
stem our selfish greed of gain.*

*Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race:
by your praying, by your willing
that your people should be one,
grant, oh, grant our hope's fruition:
here on earth your will be done.*

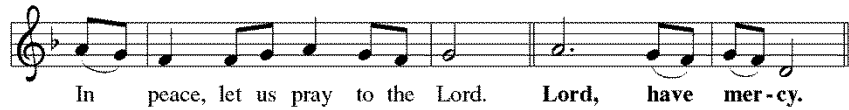
***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

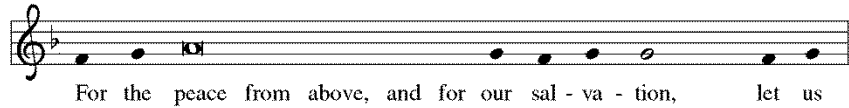
And also with you.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

***KYRIE**



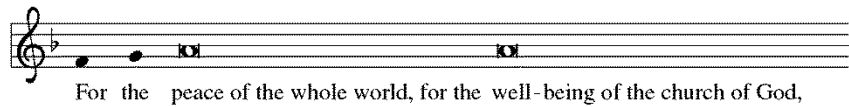
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



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



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



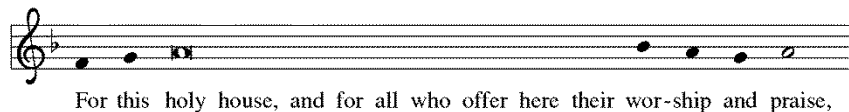
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



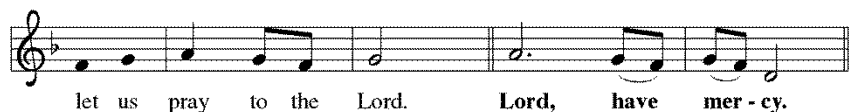
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



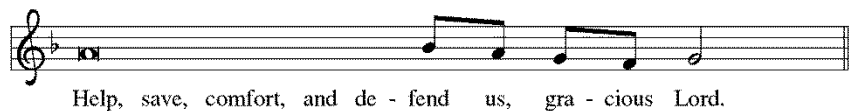
Lord, have mer - cy.



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**

“This is the feast...”

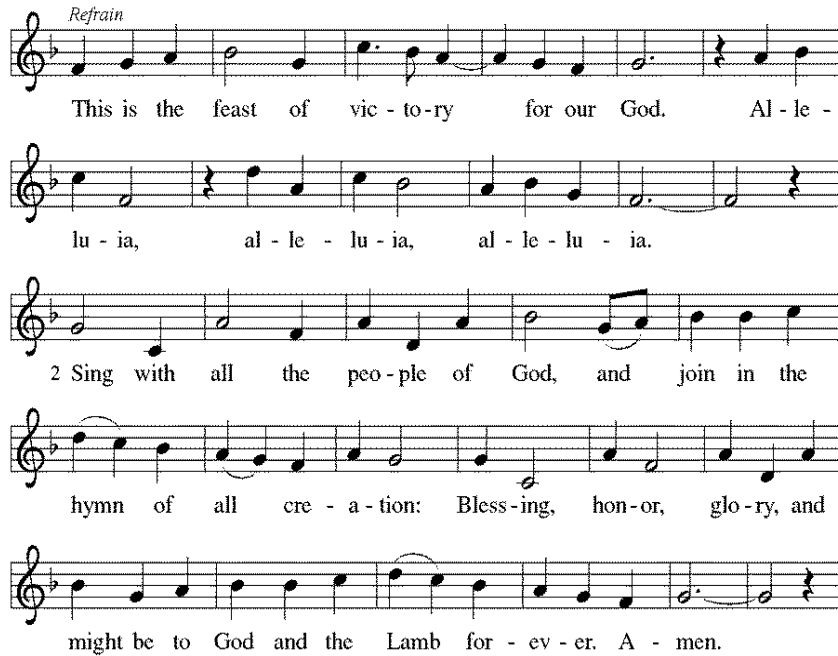
Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

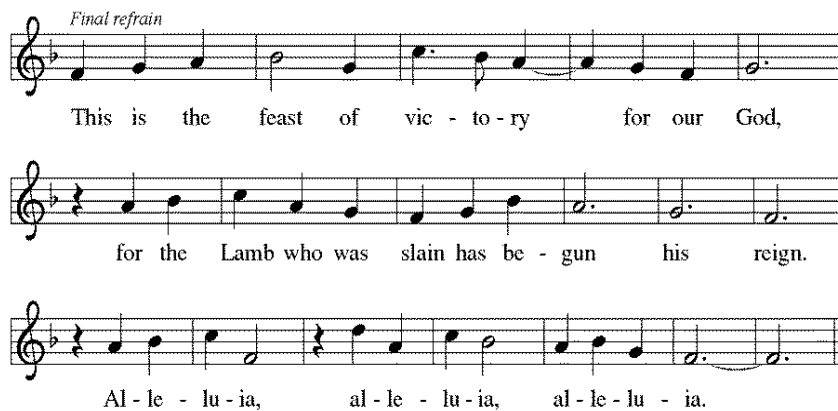
Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

✠ WORD ✠

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

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.

SCRIPTURE 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.

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.

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

SCRIPTURE 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.

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,

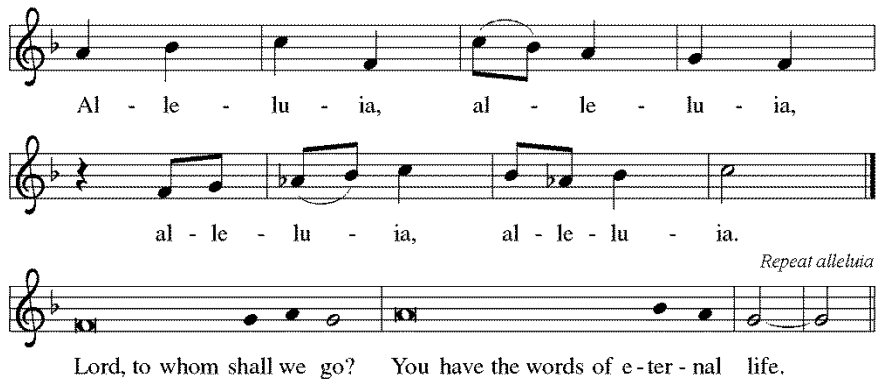
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

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.

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

Matthew 21:23-32

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.

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

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Bill Peters

SONG OF THE DAY

"The Church's One Foundation"

369

*The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.*

*Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.*

*Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.*

*Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.*

*Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.*

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

***NICENE CREED**

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 THE COMMUNITY**

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.

PRESENTATION OF BILBES

*Brantley Dagestad, Kaylee Nyguard,
Thane Sandquist, Brinley Storby, Sutton Storby*

✠ **MEAL** ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

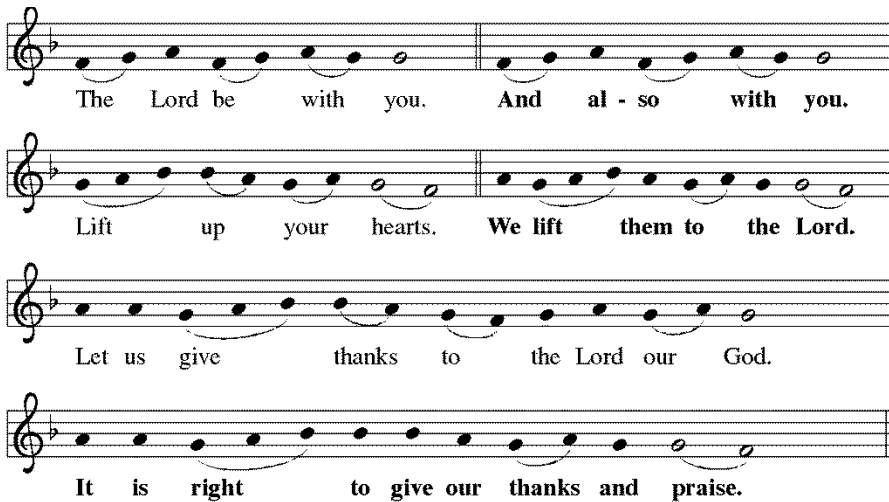
***OFFERTORY SONG**

"Let the Vineyards"

ELW # 184

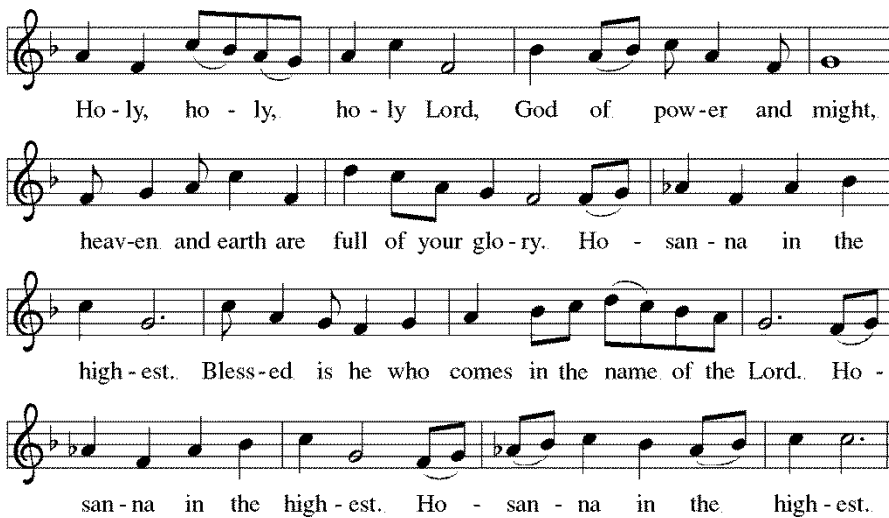
*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste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

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

DISTRIBUTION

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

***SENDING SONG** *“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”*

294

*My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.*

*Refrain On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

*When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. Refrain*

*His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. Refrain*

*When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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Change for the Better

Public officials routinely get drilled about changing their minds, especially around reelection time. One's past pledges as a political candidate are not easily left behind or forgotten. Earlier promises are often used to measure one's moral character in light of one's actual voting record. A change in opinion can be viewed with suspicion or lead to accusations of hypocrisy. We want consistency. Above all, we want to know that we can trust others to follow through on their word. This is understandable.

Unfortunately, such political norms don't often allow for the power of changing one's mind. Jesus' parable of the two sons suggests that a change in heart can in fact be a sign of deeper listening and transformation. Conversely, a refusal to change can leave us stalled on our spiritual journeys. In this way, "flip-flopping" might not always be a bad thing but rather might indicate our faithfulness to God's ongoing role in our lives.

God's promises in baptism make such change possible. Martin Luther encouraged that we daily return to our baptism. Every day God's grace frees us to admit the possibility that we have previously been or done wrong, or perhaps simply haven't been able to see the whole picture before. Grace also affords us the chance to allow that anyone can be transformed in ways previously thought impossible or unexpected. The promises that God makes in baptism open the door not only for us but for everyone else too. We can learn perhaps to trust not in consistency but in the endless possibilities for change and growth. Sometimes a change in opinion goes only as far as what we think will be most popular. But changing our mind, when done in a spirit of authentic discernment and from the heart, can be transformative. It might even open us to the kingdom of God in ways unknown before.