

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

*Love Joy Faithfulness
Goodness Peace Self Control
Gentleness Patience Kindness*



"The kingdom of God will
be ... given to a people that
produces the fruits of the kingdom."

Matthew 21:43, NRSV

Pentecost 19

October 8, 2023



ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆ Bethany ◆ Immanuel ◆ Lunder ◆ Silver Lake ◆ Winnebago

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

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Randy Baldwin

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

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshipping 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

ANTHEM “*This Little Light of Mine*” *Sunday School Choir*

***CONFESSION**

For God's law is perfect,
reviving the soul;
and the decrees of God
are sure and trustworthy,
giving wisdom to all.

The principles of God are right and true,
rejoicing the heart;
and God's commandments are clear,
enlightening our eyes and our minds;
The holiness of God fills us with awe
and endures forever;
God's laws are truly just
and altogether righteous .
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.
Let the words of our mouths
and the meditations of our hearts
be acceptable to you, O God,
our rock and our redeemer.

We worship you, O God as Creator and Liberator.

You led the captives out of Egypt, delivering them from the oppression of slavery.

You gave laws which enabled people to relate to you, to one another, and to the whole creation.

You implored people to worship only you, knowing that whatever was put in your place would all too easily become the object of idolatry, and the priority of people's hearts.

You showered us with blessings by revealing in Jesus just how precious we are to you and through him you delivered

us into a new and living relationship with you and with one another - with a new commandment - a commandment of love.

May we reveal the depth of our love as we praise and adore you, O God, in Jesus' name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Forgive us, O God, when we believe that righteous behavior means performing perfect deeds and that is what is required to secure your love. Yet Jesus has shown us that we can neither earn or deserve all that you have done for us - all that we need to do is to accept your love as gift.

Forgive us, O God, when we find this hard to do because yours is a love so contrary to the values of the world.

Help us therefore to surrender any worldly attitudes and values so that, like Paul, we can celebrate anew lives totally centered in Christ.

Silent reflection

Paul acknowledges a desire to participate in the death and resurrection of Christ so that he can die and rise also. He urges others to do likewise.

Forgive us, O God, when we lose sight of the goal of our lives as Christians - that of following Jesus;

Even when that means sharing in the sufferings and struggles of others.

Silent reflection

In his life and his agonizing death Jesus, demonstrated above all his desire to give true meaning to the depth of divine love

So that we could fully understand his commandment that we love one another as he loved us.

May that commandment be so imprinted on our lives that, like Paul we regard whatever gains we may have experienced in our lives as loss compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus as our Lord,

In whose name we pray. Amen

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

Our righteousness comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are accepted, we are loved, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

*We plow the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God’s almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.*

*Refrain All good gifts around us
are sent from heav’n above.
Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord
for all his love.*

*He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star.
The winds and waves obey him;
by him the birds are fed.
Much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread. Refrain*

*We thank you, our creator,
for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer
for all your love imparts,
but what you most would treasure--
our humble, thankful hearts. Refrain*

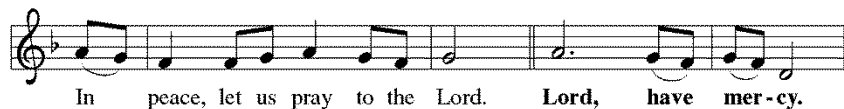
Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

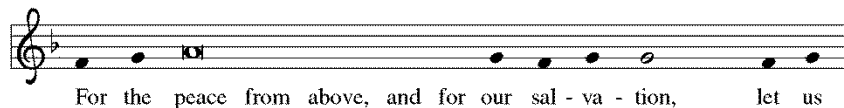
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

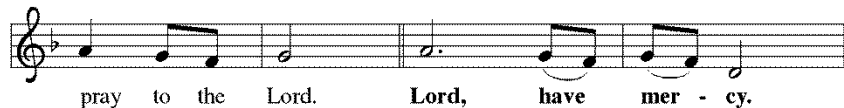
***KYRIE**



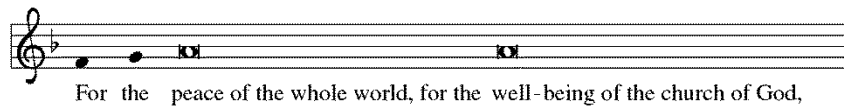
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



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



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



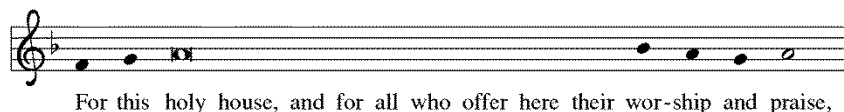
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



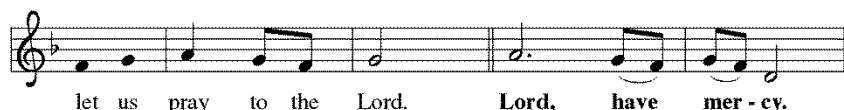
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



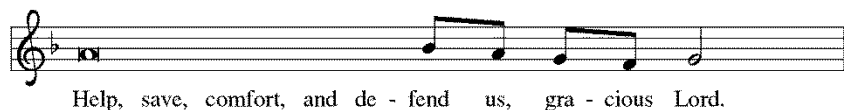
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



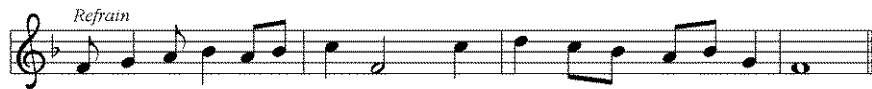
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



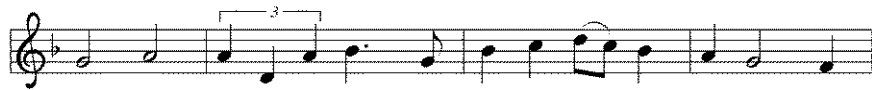
A - men.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** “Glory to God...”

Refrain



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

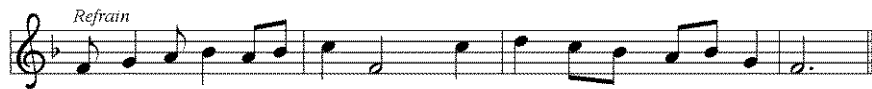


1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



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

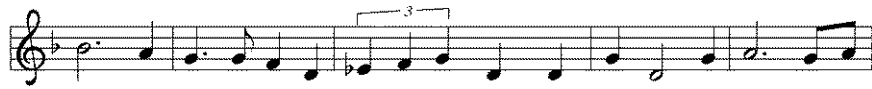
Refrain



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.

Refrain



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.

Refrain



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

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

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

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected.

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?
⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.
⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

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

SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

Paul reviews some of his supposed credentials, which no longer have any bearing in comparison to the right relationship he has been given through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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 21:33-46

Jesus tells a parable to the religious leaders who are plotting his death, revealing that their plans will, ironically, bring about the fulfillment of scripture.

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

[Jesus said to the people:] ^{33a}Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

⁴²Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes?'

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
SERMON**

Pastor Randy Baldwin

SONG OF THE DAY

"The Church of Christ"

vss. 1-4 # 433

*The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.*

*Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.*

*Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.*

*For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.*

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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***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**

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

***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**

***SENDING SONG**

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

463

*God, who stretched the spangled heavens
infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space:
we, your children in your likeness,
share inventive pow'rs with you;
great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.*

*We have ventured worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging
through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined pow'r,
facing us with life's destruction
or our most triumphant hour.*

*As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew:
children of creative purpose,
serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise;
each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.*

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

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*DISMISSAL

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

Postlude



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Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

Solidarity in Rejection

People face rejection for all kinds of reasons: race, nationality, gender, native language, political beliefs. Rejection is a painful experience that can wound the soul and crush the ego. Anyone who has faced it for one reason or another knows the deep hurt of rejection.

Jesus faced rejection. He faced people with power who rejected his teachings, his ministry, his identity, and ultimately, his whole self. Even many of his followers had a hard time accepting his teaching and walked away. Matthew tells us Jesus understood his rejection in a significant way: “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?’” (Matthew 21:42).

Jesus saw that his rejection could be used for God’s purposes, shocking as it sounds. The Rejected One becomes God’s means of transformation by turning that rejection into an offer of mercy for all, even for those who rejected him. His rejection shows all who face similar fates that even when all others abandon them, God claims them as beloved. Jesus’ rejection becomes the opposite: God’s acceptance of us.

All who face rejection in this life can trust that Jesus lives in solidarity with them. They can even come to see that God can use their pain and hurt to create something new. Baptized, we live in an unbreakable covenant of acceptance. We are invited to the table of inclusion. This doesn’t eliminate the pain or justify the rejection, but it does open up new possibilities for healing and empowerment. Living as siblings of Christ the rejected one, we come to have such bold faith, and it is amazing in our eyes.