

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Generous and Ready to Share

October 7 & 8, 2023

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

"We give Thee but Thine own, whate'er the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee." (LSB #781:1) This truth is often spoken as we bring our offerings forward. Yet, sometimes we get so used to hearing it we forget the profound truth it proclaims! This is the truth: Everything we call "ours" is really God's. Everything is a trust from Him. As Paul writes in Romans: "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" (Romans 11:35). We owe everything to God. We are to use His resources entrusted to us *for His purposes!* We are to be generous and ready to share. We bring offerings to support the mission of Christ. We give meals to people to help in time of need. We provide for those we love. As faithful participants in God's mission, It's really just using God's resources for His will to be done!

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

MINISTRY MOMENT – Faithful Participants in God's Mission

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil,
but living as servants of God.

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2:16-17

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #909 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ, our head and cornerstone,
Chosen of the Lord and precious, Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Zion's help forever And our confidence alone.

To this temple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of hosts, and stay;
Come with all Your loving-kindness, Hear Your people as they pray;
And Your fullest benediction Shed within these walls today.

Grant, we pray, to all Your faithful All the gifts they ask to gain;
What they gain from You, forever With the blessed to retain;
And here after in Your glory Evermore with You to reign.

(Rise) Praise and honor to the Father, Praise and honor to the Son,
Praise and honor to the Spirit, Ever three and ever one;
One in might and one in glory While unending ages run!

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Pastor: Then we shall not turn back from you;

People: give us life, and we will call upon your name!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father, in your abundant love you redeemed us from our sin and restored us as your own children in Christ. As you have crowned us with love and mercy, keep us in this grace and favor that we may strive to complete the race and receive from your hand the crown of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 5:1–7* (The Lord planted His people to be His vineyard, but they produced wild grapes worthy only of judgment.) Let 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; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.³ And now,

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O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for 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 briars and thorns shall grow up; 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 men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Timothy 6:17-21*

¹⁷As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. ¹⁸They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, ¹⁹thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

²⁰O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called "knowledge," ²¹for by professing it some have swerved from the faith. Grace be with you.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

STEWARDSHIP LITANY: (Genesis 1:26; Luke 19:10)

Pastor: Heavenly Father, you created the stars in the heavens and the mountains and lakes on the earth.

People: Every animal in the forest is yours as well as the cattle on a thousand hills.

Pastor: By your grace, you made us in your image, and we are the masterpieces of your marvelous creation. You have honored us with the privilege of being the stewards of your creation. You have honored us to be your ambassadors and fellow workers.

People: Lord, from your hand come boundless riches. For all our blessings, you are to be praised.

Pastor: Lord, help us to show proper gratitude for who you are and what you do for us especially through your Son, Jesus.

People: Help us, dear Heavenly Father, to be giving people who seek to thank and honor you through our offerings. Help us to understand that an important purpose for the money that you entrust to us needs to be given to help seek and save the lost.

Pastor: Lord, help us to be faithful with all the blessings that you entrust to us.

All: Lord, grant us faith so that we seek to do your will and want to please you. Thank you, Lord, for calling and equipping us to be Faithful Participants in God's Mission.

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:33–46 (The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

³³ "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴ When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵ And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" ⁴¹ They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." ⁴² Jesus 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 marvelous in our eyes'?" ⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴ And the one who falls on this stone will

be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."⁴ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in.
Yes Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

SERMON HYMN #842 "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

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 wrongs 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, O grant our hope's fruition: Here on earth Your will be done.

SERMON "Generous and Ready to Share" 1 Timothy 6:17-21

(Rise)

LWML PLEDGE *Spoken By All*

In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love and His blood-bought gift of redemption we dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have; and in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields, we pledge Him our willing service wherever and whenever He has need of us. We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him, our feet to go on His errands, our voice to sing His praises, our lips to proclaim His redeeming love, our silver and our gold to extend His kingdom, our will to do His will, and every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.

(Be seated)

BRINGING FORTH OF COMMITMENT CARDS

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord of all creation, you have blessed us with every earthly blessing we enjoy, entrusted us with your resources, and given us eternal salvation in Christ Jesus.

People: Help us to be faithful participants in Christ's mission, that we would be generous and ready to share at all times and in all ways.

Pastor: O Lord, you have planted, nurtured and placed a hedge around your vineyard, the Church. You sent your dear Son to give His life for her.

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People: Inspire us all by your Holy Spirit to yield much fruit for your kingdom and grant that many find shelter in the refuge of your loving arms.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, bless all pastors, missionaries, teachers and servants in your church. We pray especially for our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family.

People: Strengthen them, equip them, and give them success as they share the gifts of Word and Sacrament and proclaim the love and salvation found in Christ alone.

Pastor: Almighty God, we give you thanks and praise for the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League as they gather their mites, do service projects, and fellowship together in Christ.

People: Bless their efforts and fill their hearts with joy as they serve their living Lord.

Pastor: Merciful Father, since your Son has made us His own by His death, grant that we may share in His sufferings with confidence.

People: Sustain us in our trials, strengthen our faith, and grant us to know the power of His resurrection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, bless our families to abound in love and grace and grant all orphans a safe place in which to grow and thrive.

People: Bring into the lives of orphans generous couples, people who will open their hearts to give them permanent homes through adoption.

Pastor: Shine your light upon us, O Lord, that we may do what is good and right and live as faithful citizens in our nation. Bless Joseph, our president; Tony, our governor; and all those elected and appointed to make, administer and judge our laws.

People: Endow them with wisdom and grant them to serve with integrity to be a blessing to all.

Pastor: God of all grace, every good and perfect gift comes from you. This day we rejoice with Nancy and Tony Mysliwski celebrating their 47th anniversary and Tony and Cindy Albrecht celebrating their birthdays.

People: Grant us to rejoice in your good gifts and treasure the people you place in our lives.

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Pastor: God of healing and compassion, we pray for all those facing difficult days of affliction, especially Tom, Janice, Bill, Marga, Nadia, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Jill, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, June, Shirley and Sarah. Grant them to look to you in their time of need.

People: Strengthen their faith and give them healing, hope, and peace through faith in Christ.

Pastor: O Lord, prepare our hearts to receive the Lord’s body and blood in this Holy Supper. Strengthen us in faith and renew us in love by this Holy Communion.

People: Bring us at last with all the saints to dwell in your everlasting presence.

Pastor: Merciful Lord, you sing the song of your love over the vineyard of your Church. Lift her united voice through your Spirit, that she in turn would freely praise your lavish grace and proclaim your salvation beyond her walls; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

People: 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #702 “My Faith Looks Up To Thee”

My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away:
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!

May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!

While life’s dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow’s tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside!

When ends life’s transient dream, When death’s cold, sullen stream Shall o’er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

HYMN #691 “Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing”

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing, May we ripen and increase,
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self control.

Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending, May we grow till harvests cease;
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven’s love and joy and peace.

HYMN #783 “Take My Life and Let It Be”

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use Ev’ry pow’r as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #643 “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”

Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended. O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

Preacher
Liturgists
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Nathan Meador
Pastor Harold Bender & Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
John Gieschen, Debbie Nier
JoLynn Bender