

Sunday, October 11, 2020
19th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS *To the Glory of God in celebration of Janice's birthday.*

Howard Harmsen

PRELUDE

"The Love of God"

arr. Mark Hayes

Sharon Gray, piano

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!

WELCOMING SONG

"I'm A-Goin'-A Eat at the Welcome Table"

Welcome Table

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
I'm goin'-a eat at the welcome table,
some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey,
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey,
some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk and honey,
I'm goin'-a feast on milk and honey,
some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
I'm goin'-a wade 'cross Jordan's river,
some of these days.

GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Glory

pg. 204

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

**Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P *Lord of the feast,*

C **you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance.
Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and
transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Softly and Tenderly"

Dave Newman, tenor

Will L. Thompson

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.
³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
⁸he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reflection

The first five verses of this text is a psalm of praise. Why does the prophet/psalmist praise the Lord? (verse 1) Why does God do what God does? Are God's actions random or according to a plan? What has happened (or perhaps will happen) to the city of the ruthless oppressors? (verse 2) Who are the "strong peoples"? (verse 3) Why will they glorify God? (verses 4-5) For whatever reason, I tend to assume that what is will always be. The cities will stand, the armies will fight for their generals and leaders. What do God's plans have to do with this? What is God's plan for "all peoples"? (verse 6) What will be destroyed? (verses 7-8) Why will there be

*no more crying? What can we count on God to do, even if we have to wait for it? (verse 9)
How does this text speak to us in this time?*

Psalm 23 – read together with Phil Lewis

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Reflection

Why is this very familiar psalm chosen as the psalm for this day? What are God's plans for the people (here the metaphor of "sheep" is used)? Will God abandon God's people? The Isaiah text spoke of the banquet God will prepare for all peoples. Where is God preparing the banquet in this psalm? (verse 5) To be anointed with oil is to be chosen and blessed. Presumably the enemies would rather curse than bless. How do you understand God's blessing in this banquet? When is the banquet over? (verse 6) Often we don't feel particularly blessed. But this psalm reminds us that no matter how we feel, God has chosen us, has blessed us, and that blessing is God's plan for our whole lives and "forever." (verse 6)

SECOND READING – Marilyn Hunt, reading

Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is

anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Reflection

If we are blessed by God, how will we act? (verse 1) Paul's desire to be with the people of God is a sign of God's love for them. Verses 2-3 addresses a disagreement in the community. If we are blessed by God (as Euodia and Syntyche, as members of the community, have been, how will we act? (verse 2) I wonder if this verse might refer to Paul's desire and prayer that all of the members of the community might share the mind of Christ Jesus. (See Philippians 2:5) What are the members of the community of Christ to do, perhaps rather than quarrel? (verse 4) How are we to be known? (verse 5) What is gentleness a sign of? It's really difficult to be gentle when you are worried. Rather than worry, what should we do about things we might worry about? (verse 6) What will God's gift be to us when we "let our requests be known to God"? (verse 7) What will be the signs of the Lord's presence with us in our behaviors? (verse 8) Paul encourages the community to follow the teachings (both words and actions) he has given them. Paul may not have had us in mind when he wrote this (I think he knew he was writing a letter, not necessarily Scripture), but we know he is also speaking to us. Which of these things that Paul is writing to us mean the most to you?

GOSEPL ACCLAMATION

"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah"

ELW 172

☒ **Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

Reflection

This text is another parable, another banquet. To what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven? (verses 1-2) The banquet doesn't begin well. What happens when those chosen are invited? (verses 3-5) What happens to the slaves who the king sent out with the invitations? (verse 6) What was the king's response? (verse 7) What made the people who refused to come not worthy? (verse 8) Who does the king instruct the slaves to invite instead? (verses 9-10) What do you make of the guest who refused to put on a wedding robe? (verses 11-12) What happens to that guest? (verses 13-14) Why do you think few are chosen? I think it may have something to do with the fact that they didn't think the king's invitation is worth it. What do you think?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SONG OF THE DAY

"We Are Called"

ELW 720

**Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.**

Refrain

**We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

**Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain***

**Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain***

PRAYER SONG

"Hear Our Prayer"

ELW 178

**Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all people, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – led by Debbie & Bruce Taylor

We remember in our prayers

Bonnie Hall, Sarah and Tim Sedlacek, Janet, Marge, Roy, Pamma Williams, Sonny Thompson, Tom Farrell, Marlene Hebb, Ann Newman, Scott Correa, Savannah Rousch, Lynn Ann Flora, Kira & Kaitlyn Wall, Andy Wilson, Reed Nelson, Ashley Sollars, Nancy Reder, Dorothy Masteller, Phil Lewis, David Bezona, Dee Rasmussen, the family of Gilda Jones, the family of Cathy Michaelis, those affected by wildfires in the western United States and those affected by storms in the Gulf

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious host, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality. We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God as they invite others to your table of boundless grace.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious host, as creation waits with eager longing for redemption, protect your creatures that are mistreated. Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious host, as you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of diplomats, international peace workers, and world leaders who navigate conflict. May they proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevails. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious host, let your gentleness be known among those who are weary or ill. Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: Bonnie, Sarah and Tim, Janet, Marge, Roy, Pamma, Sonny, Tom, Marlene, Ann, Scott, Savannah, Lynn Ann, Kira & Kaitlyn, Andy, Reed, Ashley, Nancy, Dorothy, Phil, David, Dee, the family of Gilda Jones, the family of Cathy Michaelis, those affected by wildfires in the western United States and those affected by storms in the Gulf and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious host, when we are quick to judge outward appearance, remind us how you clothe all in your mercy. We pray for ministries that provide needed clothing and other personal care assistance in this community. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Gracious host, as we remember those who have died and are gathered at the heavenly banquet, comfort us with your presence. Assure us of your peace at all times. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.*

C **Amen!**

P *Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Faithful God,*

C **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!

P *God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.*

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

*Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.*

C **Amen!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

C **And also with you!**

DIALOGUE

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
C **And also with you.**
- P** *Lift up your hearts.*
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

- P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW 190

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- P** *In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread
and gave thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.*
- Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.*

LORD'S PRAYER

☩ Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☩ *Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION

BLESSING

☩ *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

☩ Amen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☩ *We give you thanks, gracious God,*

☩ *that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!*

BENEDICTION

☩ *Mothering God,*

Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

☩ Amen!

Thine the amen thine the praise
alleluias angels raise
thine the everlasting head
thine the breaking of the bread
thine the glory thine the story
thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup
is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally
thine the promise let there be
thine the vision thine the tree
all the earth on bended knee
gone the nailing gone the railing
gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying
what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly thine the yes
thine the table we the guest
thine the mercy all from thee
thine the glory yet to be
then the ringing and the singing
then the end of all the war
thine the living thine the loving
evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom thine the prize
thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise
then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story
then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing
at thy feast at thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night
no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree
then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy
celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness
only thee only thee.

DISMISSAL – Jeff Langdon

☞ *Go in peace. Serve the Lord.*

☞ **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

“I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

Sharon Gray, organ

Alice Jordan

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Rev. Keith Hohly, Interim Pastor

Instruments: Drums – Bruce Taylor | Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Jim Pierce

Song leaders and vocal talents: Sharmyn Thompson, Rev. Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge
and Carol Bunge

Reflections on Today's Readings written by Rev. Juel Pierce

Music and Liturgy:

*"I'm A-Goin'-A Eat at the Welcome Table" TFF #263 | Text: African Spiritual
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*ELW Setting 10 Glory ELW pg. 204 | From sundaysandseasons.com
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*"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172 | Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
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*"We Are Called" ELW #720 | Text: David Haas, b. 1957
Text © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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*"Hear Our Prayer" ELW #178 | Text: Paul Andress, b. 1956
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*"Holy, Holy, Holy" ELW #190 | Text: Franz Schubert, 1797 - 1828
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*"Thine the Amen" | CCLI Song # 20670 | Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
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