

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020

9:30 am

Gathering

Welcome to Worship! I'm glad you're here and the Bible tells me that God is glad that you are here.

Announcements

1. We're recording! Let me know if you're not ok with your face on YouTube. We post the worship later in the day.
2. Zoom Choir! We will gather each Wednesday at 7:30pm over Zoom for music, fun and fellowship. All are welcome!
3. You should be getting e-mails. Let Pastor Jess know if you're not. Make sure you are subscribed to the LCMM YouTube channel, Miss Ann's Lambs Kid's Time channel, and that you like and follow our Facebook page. The more you like/comment/and share these things, the most people will come to know Jesus through LCMM.

Centering and Quietening Time

Let's take a deep breath and move ourselves into a worshipful space while we listen to the prelude.

Prelude

Instrumental Music

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.

Opening Hymn: How Great Thou Art (ELW #856)

- 1 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed; *Refrain*

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!

- 3 But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain*

- 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" *Refrain*

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.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray. God of love, giver of life,

**C: 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.**

First Reading: Ezekiel 18: 1-4, 25-32

The 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.

Psalm 25: 1-9

A: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

C: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

A: Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

C: Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

A: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

C: Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

A: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

C: You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

A: You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

Music: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (ELW #172)

Halle, halle, halle-lujah,
Halle, halle, halle-lujah,
Halle, halle, halle-lujah,
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Gospel: Matthew 21: 23 - 32

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

When [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?" Jesus 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. Did 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?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So 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.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which 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. For 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."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Miss Ann's Lambs Children's Time

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: My Faith Looks Up to Thee (ELW #759)

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine! | 3 | 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. |
| 2 | 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! | 4 | 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;
oh, bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul! |

Prayers

A: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. (*A brief silence.*)

A: In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions (*especially*), change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Turn this congregation away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community (*especially*); make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Sharing of Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Moment of Generosity

You can use this time to click on the online giving link in the chat, or to write a check and prepare an envelope to mail to the church. The council is accepting applications from our mutual aid fund. We are also collecting for live streaming equipment for when we gather again in person, and online tools for connecting now. You can use the other box in the online giving form, or the memo line of your check to write “Mutual Aid Fund” or “Tech Special Offering”.

[If you have a story of generosity to share next week, let Pastor know.]

Music: Build Us Up, Lord (ELW #670)

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up;
set in us a strong foundation.
Lead us to do your holy will;
form and shape your new creation.
Build us up, Lord, build us up;
as we guide and teach each other,
help us to share your love with the world:
ev'ry sibling, ev'ry person. *Refrain*

2 Build us up, Lord, build us up;
let our lives reflect your glory.
Cast away all our doubts and fears;
help us tell the world your story.
Build us up, Lord, build us up;
help us bear good fruit for you,
Lord, give us vision and keep us sure.
Grant us faith that's steadfast and true.

Refrain

Refrain

Growing in Christ, we plant seeds for the kingdom;
we follow in faith what's begun!
Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your word
to spread the news of your Son!

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: 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.**

Music: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (ELW #859)

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the God of creation!
My heart is longing to offer up sweet adoration.
Melody make; dulcimer, harp, now awake.
Sound forth your praise, ev'ry nation.

2 Praise the Almighty, o'er all life so wondrously reigning,
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.

Have you not seen? All that is needful has been
sent by God's gracious ordaining.

- 3 Praise the Almighty, who prospers your work and defends you;
see from the heavens the showers of mercy God sends you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do;
Infinite Love here befriends you.
- 4 Praise the Almighty! In wonder my spirit is soaring!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises outpouring.
Let the amen sound from God's people again,
gladly forever adoring.

Invitation to Discipleship Practice

Blessing

P: Mothering God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.
C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.
C: Amen.

Postlude

Instrumental Music

Coffee Hour

We will be together in a large group.

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How Great Thou Art

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Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

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