



Bethel
Lutheran Church WELS

**Twentieth Sunday
after Pentecost**



How Can We Thank God for All His Goodness?

Bethel Lutheran exists to serve all people with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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October 18, 2020

Opening Hymn

724

Voices Raised to You We Offer

1 Voices raised to you we offer; Tune them, God, for songs of praise.
Hearts and hands we bring in tribute For your gifts through all our days.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God, to you we sing!

2 All creation joins to praise you; Earth and sky your works display.
Art and music, gifts you lend us, We return to you today.
Alleluia! Alleluia! God, Creator, source of life!

3 Christ, the song of love incarnate, Touching earth with heaven's grace.
For your living, suff'ring, dying, For your rising, hear our praise!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ, Redeemer, Lord of life!

4 Spirit, flaming through creation, Kindle faith within each heart.
Lift our voices high in chorus; Through our hands your love impart.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Spirit, Helper, breath of life!

5 How can any praise we offer Measure all the thanks we owe!
Take our hearts and hands and voices-Gifts of love we can bestow.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Triune God, to you we sing!

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, For sins of habit and sins of choice, For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (spoken) Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

P: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

Glory Be to God

Sung by all: All glory be to God on high!

Your name, O Lord, we glorify;

We praise you for your peace and grace,

Your favor toward our fallen race.

You, Christ, are holy-Lord alone;

The Father's glory you made known.

We by your Spirit sing again:

"All glory be to God!" Amen.

The Word

Salutation

P: The Lord be with you. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Oh Lord, as you have allowed us to harvest crops from our fields, we are reminded that you want to receive a harvest of thankful obedience from our lives. Bless our time of worship in your house today. Feed us with your wisdom and nourish our love by your Word and Sacrament. Help us understand how you want us to serve you. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (spoken) Amen.

First Lesson Isaiah 5: 1-7

I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard:
My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines.

He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well.

Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit.

3 “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4 What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad?”

5 Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. 6 I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.”

7 The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 118

Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

The LORD is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation.

The LORD’S right hand is lifted high; the LORD’S right hand has done mighty things!

I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

Second Lesson Galatians 5: 19-25

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia.

C: (sung) Alleluia! Alleluia! Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 21 verses 33-43

C: (spoken) Glory be to you, O Lord.

“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. 34 When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

35 “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. 36 Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. 37 Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

38 “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ 39 So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

40 “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

41 “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

43 “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: (spoken) Praise be to you, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day 459 O God, My Faithful God

1 O God, my faithful God, O Fountain ever flowing,
Who good and perfect gifts In mercy are bestowing,
Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within
A conscience free from blame, A soul unhurt by sin.

2 Grant me the strength to do With ready heart and willing
Whatever you command, My calling here fulfilling,
That I do what I should While trusting you to bless
The outcome for my good, For you must give success.

3 Keep me from saying things That later need recalling;
Grant that no idle words May from my lips be falling,
But then, when in my place I must and ought to speak,
My words grant pow'r and grace Lest I offend the weak.

4 Lord, let me win my foes With kindly words and actions,
And let me find good friends For counsel and correction.
Help me, as you have taught, To love both great and small
And by your Spirit's might To live in peace with all.

Sermon Theme

Pastor Cox

We Are Tenants In God's Vineyard

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

During our in-person worship today, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be served.

The Blessing

P: Receive with believing hearts, the blessing of the Lord.

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.

C: (spoken) Amen.

Hymn

765: 2

Day by Day

Day by day, I know you will provide me
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
O'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow;
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow;
Till in glory I behold your face.