

CHRISTIAN LOVE PRODUCES GOOD FRUIT

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | Seward, Nebraska

October 18, 2020

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and personal assisted listening devices are available on request. The service can be heard throughout the building so that you can participate even if you have to take your child out for a while. Restrooms are in the hall between the chapel and fellowship area. If you have any questions please feel free to ask an usher.

CONNECTION CARDS: Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at www.gracesewar.org the member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Worship Materials

The order of service and the hymns for today are printed for you in this folder. "Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal" which is normally in the hymnal rack on the back of each pew has been temporarily removed to help protect against passing the Corona Virus. Watching the theme and passage on the screen may help you prepare for worship.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister
Pianist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner
Cori Humann

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Cover: www.corissanelsonart.org

SERVICE OF THE WORD

This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

OPENING HYMN

Christ Is with Me | 761

761

Christ Is With Me



1 We were bur - ied with him in - to death,
2 I have now been graft - ed to the vine,
3 I have now been cru - ci - fied with Christ.



That as he was raised by God's glo - ry,
Draw - ing life from roots rich in mer - cy,
I no long - er live; Christ lives in me.



We might walk in life made new by grace.
Bear - ing fruit as I a - bide in him:
Now I live by faith in God's own Son,



Hav - ing died with Christ, we shall live with
Fruit for - ev - er fresh, glo - ri - fy - ing
One who loved me so— gave him - self for



him.
God. Christ is with me
me.

ev - 'ry - where I go. Nev - er to
leave me, this I know.

Tune: CHRIST IS WITH ME (9 9 9 10 and Refrain)
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INVOCATION

please stand

M The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

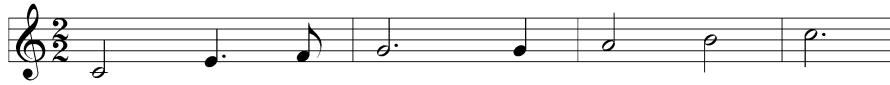
C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

ABSOLUTION

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



1 All glo - ry be to God on high!
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring,
3 O Lamb of God, to you we pray.
4 You, Christ, are ho - ly— Lord a - lone;



Your name, O Lord, we glo - ri - fy;
For your great glo - ry, heav'n - ly King,
You take all hu - man sin a - way.
The Fath - er's glo - ry you made known.



We praise you for your peace and grace,
For all, O Fath - er, you have done
Have mer - cy, Lord; re - ceive our prayer;
We by your Spir - it sing a - gain:



Your fav - or toward our fal - len race.
Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.
From God's right hand, your mer - cy share.
"All glo - ry be to God!" A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Fill us with wisdom and strength through your word and sacraments that, with cheerful hearts, we daily produce good fruit to your glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Word

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my loved one a song about my loved one's vineyard.

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile ridge.

²He dug it up and gathered the stones out of it.

He planted it with the best vines.

He built a tower in the middle of it.

He also cut a winepress into it.

He expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
but it produced only sour grapes.

³So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard
that I have not already done for it?

When I expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,
why did it produce sour grapes?

⁵Now, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will take away its hedge, and it will become a pasture.

I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a wasteland.

It will not be pruned or hoed.

So briars and thorns will shoot up.

I will also command the clouds not to pour rain on it.

⁷Yes, the vineyard of the LORD of Armies is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah are the planting that was pleasing to him.

He expected justice, but instead there was oppression.

He expected righteousness, but there was an outcry.

M The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God!

Refrain

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re -
 joyce and be glad! This is the day the
 Lord has made, let us re - joyce and be glad!

Psalm tone

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

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

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.

This is the day the LORD has made;*
 let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**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

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

As fellow workers we also urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ²For he says:

At a favorable time I listened to you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.

Look, now is the favorable time! See, now is the day of salvation!

³We are giving no one a reason to stumble in any way, so that our ministry will not be blamed. ⁴Rather, in every way we show ourselves to be God's ministers: in great endurance, in troubles, in hardships, in difficulties, ⁵in beatings, in imprisonments, in riots, in hard work, in sleepless nights, in times of hunger; ⁶in purity, in knowledge, in patience, in kindness, in the Holy Spirit, in sincere love, ⁷in the word of truth, in the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness on the right and on the left; ⁸through glory and dishonor, through bad report and good report; treated as deceivers yet being honest, ⁹treated as unknown and yet being well known; as dying, and yet look—we live; as punished yet not put to death; ¹⁰as grieving yet always rejoicing; as poor yet making many rich; as having nothing yet possessing everything.

¹¹We have spoken to you openly Corinthians. Our heart is standing wide open. ¹²We have plenty of room for you, but you do not have room for us in your affections. ¹³I am speaking as to my children: In exchange, open your hearts wide too. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God!

VERSE OF THE DAY

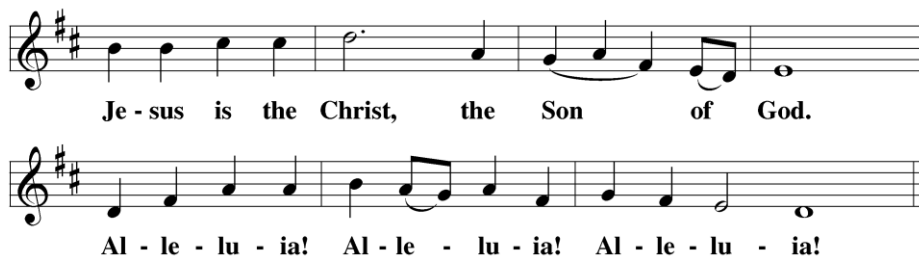
M Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-43

please stand

[M] The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 21.

³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it out to some tenant farmers and went away on a journey. ³⁴When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way. ³⁷Finally, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. ³⁸But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance!’ ³⁹They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?”

⁴¹They told him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end. Then he will lease out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his fruit when it is due.”

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

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?

⁴³“That is why I tell you the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit. ⁴⁴Whoever falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” (EHV)

[M] This is the Gospel of the Lord.



be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amid the World's Bleak Wilderness | 342

1 Amid the world's bleak wilderness
A vineyard grows with promise green,
The planting of the Lord himself.

2 His love selected this terrain;
His vine with love he planted here
To bear the choicest fruit for him.

3 We are his branches, chosen, dear,
And though we feel the dresser's knife,
We are the objects of his care.

4 From him we draw the juice of life,
For him supply his winery
With fruit from which true joys derive.

5 Vine, keep what I was meant to be:
Your branch, with your rich life in me.

SERMON

please stand

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.**

OFFERING ***Please leave your offering in the plate provided in the entry or make use of one of the available online options on our website.***

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income. 1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[M] Merciful Lord, You have planted us as Your own vineyard, that we might bear good fruit for Your glory. Grant to us grace, that we may be faithful and show forth in our lives the good works that glorify You and serve Your purpose. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

[M] Gracious Father, embolden us by Your Spirit, that we may give witness to Your mighty acts. Bless the missionaries who bring the Gospel to people who have not heard, and raise up faithful pastors who will nurture the congregations in their care with Your Word and Sacraments. Give us ears willing to hear, minds willing to be instructed and hearts willing to trust You in all things. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

[M] Holy Lord, rescue us from all enemies of Your Church, and bless us with church leaders whose voices will not waver in the face of threat. Bless the president of the Synod; our district president; our circuit pastor; and all who serve our Synod and congregations. Inspire men and women to go into church-work vocations, and bless those preparing for full time work in your vineyard. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

[M] Mighty Lord, give to the nations both the desire for and the blessing of peace. Thwart the actions of terrorists and those who would oppress with the power of fear. Bless our

president; our governor; and all who pass, enforce and judge our laws. Spare us from disease and fear. Deliver the poor from want, and help us to provide jobs and worthy employment for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

M Everlasting Father, guide husbands and wives to love and forgive each other and strengthen them in their life together. Bless the homes in which Your people dwell. Help parents to be faithful examples for their children, and give room in their hearts and homes so that orphans may know the joy of a place and a home to call their own. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

M God of love, deliver the sick from their illnesses, give relief to the suffering, help the troubled to know peace of mind, and be with the grieving and those in their final days. Guide all health care professionals to serve those in need, and give patience to those who must bear with their infirmities, disabilities and infertility. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

M Holy God, give us a willing spirit, that we may serve You with all that we have and all that we are. Help us to be faithful and fruitful in the godly use of Your resources and gifts, that we may use them in accord with Your will and for Your glory. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

M Blessed Lord, keep us from resentful hearts that would begrudge Your mercy or live selfishly for ourselves and teach us to live for You the life that You have given us, treasuring in our hearts all that is good and wise and seeking after these things. Lord, in Your mercy,

hear our prayer.

M Hear us, O Lord, and give answer to the prayers of Your people prayed in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, whom with the Father and the Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, forevermore.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

be seated

HYMN

The Man Is Ever Blest | 475

- 1 The man is ever blest Who shuns the sinners' ways,
Among their counsels never stands, Nor takes the scorners' place,
- 2 But makes the law of God His study and delight
Amid the labors of the day And watches of the night.
- 3 He like a tree shall thrive With waters near the root.
Fresh as the leaf his name shall live; His works are heav'nly fruit.
- 4 Not so the wicked man! He no such blessing finds.
His hopes shall flee like empty chaff Before the driving winds.
- 5 How will he bear to stand Before that judgment seat
Where all the saints at Christ's right hand In full assembly meet?
- 6 God knows and he approves The way the righteous go,
But sinners and their works shall meet A dreadful overthrow.

PRAYER

O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow

on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

Take My Life and Let It Be | 469

- 1 Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- 2 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.
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from thee.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for thee.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 8:00 AM Bible Class; 8:45 AM Worship; 9:45 AM Sunday School

Tuesday-Wednesday: Eastern Conference Pastors at Grace

Thursday: 6:00 PM Catechism Online

Saturday: LES Volleyball tournament at NELHS

Sunday: 8:00 AM Bible Class; 8:45 AM Worship with Communion; 9:45 AM Sunday School

"Marriage Moments" New weekly videos coming from WELS available on our Facebook page each Monday, or at <https://welscongregationalservices.net/ministry-resources/marriagemoments/>

St Paul's Plymouth Ladies Aid is celebrating their 100 anniversary. They invite you to join them on October 25th at 2 PM for a presentation by Mrs. Sarah Stellick followed by pie and ice-cream fellowship.

The youth are offering to rake leaves or help with other projects this year to raise money for a mission trip to our WELS Church in Abita Springs, LA. Contact Tom Worster 402-499-3023 to schedule them to come to your house.



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranSeward



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 30 in person, Facebook Live 4, Bible Class 13, Online 9, Sunday School 5. Offerings: Home 943.27, WELS 180.00, NELHS 500.00. **To God be the glory!**



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