

Pentecost 18, October 4, 2020

**Greeting** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Call to Worship**

Psalm 80:7-19 ***Restore us, O God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.*** You brought a **vine** out of Egypt [from the time of Moses]; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. It sent out its boughs to the Sea [the Mediterranean], its shoots as far as the River [the Nile]. Why have you broken down its walls so that all who pass by pick its grapes? Boars from the forest ravage it, and the creatures of the field feed on it. **Return to us, O God Almighty!** Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this **vine**, the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself. Your **vine** is cut down, it is burned with fire; at your rebuke your people perish. Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of the man you have raised up for yourself. Then we will not turn away from you; **revive us, and we will call on your name.** ***Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make you face shine upon us, that we may be saved.*** Amen.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

P: With masked voices, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another:

**C: Faithful God, 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 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 now in freedom to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn** ***The Church's One Foundation*** (public domain) (v. 1-2) LBW 369, ELW 654

*The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord  
She is his new creation by water and the Word.  
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.*

*Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses with every grace endued.*

Note: the remaining verses will be sung as the hymn of the day, after the sermon.

**The Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise**      ***Praise God, from Whom*** (public domain)      LBW 565, ELW 885

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below.  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

**Prayer of the Day:** Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**A reading from Isaiah, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter (5:1-7)** Isaiah sings a sad love song about the relationship between God and Israel. Israel is compared to a promising vineyard which, despite God's loving care, has brought forth "wild grapes" of injustice and distress.

And now the reading      Word of God, word of life.

**A reading from Philippians, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter (3:4b-143)** Paul recites his "credentials," then tells the Philippians that they mean nothing at all compared to the relationship of forgiven sinner he has received through the death of Christ. The power of Christ's resurrection motivates him to press on toward the ultimate goal, eternal life with Christ.

And now the reading      Word of God, word of life.

**Alleluia**      ***Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!***

**A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter (21:33-46)**

**Sermon** (page 4)

**Hymn of the Day**      ***The Church's One Foundation*** (public domain)(v. 4-5) LBW 369, ELW 654

*Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.*

*Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.  
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace  
That we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.*

**The Apostle's Creed** God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.**

### **Prayers**

**Sharing God's Peace** (in any appropriate way)

**Service of Holy Communion** (at St. John, first and third week of the month)

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **The Benediction**

**Sending Hymn**      ***How Firm a Foundation*** (public domain)      LBW 507, ELW 796  
[Louann, please play #526, *Immortal, Invisible*; Charlotte, you choose #796 or #834]

*How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!  
What more can he say than to you he has said  
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?*

*Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

**Dismissal** With joy and thanksgiving, go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Note: An offering plate is at the end of the aisle if you wish to leave a gift. All donations are welcome!**

**If you wish to chat with family or friends after worship, please do so outside. Thanks!**