

St. James Lutheran Church
Mason City, Iowa
October 11, 2020
Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

We Proclaim and Practice Christ's Love

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assisting with worship today:

Piano: Cynthia Tompkins

Song Leaders: Rich Tompkins

- Indoor worship begins next Sunday at 9 AM. Masks will be required and social distancing guidelines will be adhered to. You are asked to register for the services so we can keep our social distancing requirements in place. Please call or e-mail Jill at the office to reserve your spot. More information about guidelines will be in the Journal and on our website.
- Online Sunday School continues today and every Sunday. Openings can be found on our website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel. Other materials are available at the Church and on our website. The next set of lessons can be picked up beginning Friday at Church or next Sunday at Church.
- Drive-thru communion will be held the next TWO Sundays—the 18th and the 25th from 2-3 PM.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

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 Savior and Lord. Amen.

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. **Amen.**

SONG *For The Fruit Of All Creation* #679

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.

For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

CALL TO WORSHIP *based on Psalm 23*

Come! Let us worship and praise God.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

Celebrate the many ways in which God cares for our lives.

He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul.

Even though difficulties happen in our lives, still God is with us.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake; even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.

Surely God's mercy accompanies us on our journey.

For you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

God feeds and nurtures us,

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Come! Let us worship and praise God.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: **Lord of the feast, 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.**

SONG *This Little Light of Mine*

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine. This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine let it shine let it shine

Hide it under a bushel no I'm gonna let it shine. Hide it under a bushel no I'm gonna let it shine
Hide it under a bushel no I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine let it shine let it shine

Don't let Satan blow it out I'm gonna let it shine. Don't let Satan blow it out I'm gonna let it shine
Don't let Satan blow it out I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine let it shine let it shine

Let it shine till Jesus comes I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine tell Jesus comes I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine tell Jesus comes I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine let it shine let it shine

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:1-9

O 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING:

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my 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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.**GOSPEL***Matthew 22:1-14*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²The 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.

¹¹But 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**SERMON****SONG** *Jesu, Jesus Fill Us With Your Love*

#708

Refrain Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,

show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*
- 2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,
neighbors are near us and far away. *Refrain*
- 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*
- 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain*

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.

OFFERING

PRAYERS ...Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

SONG *Onward Christian Soldiers*

1 Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal master, leads against the foe;
forward into battle, see, his banners go!

Refrain

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before.

2 Like a mighty army moves the church of God;
let us boldly follow where the saints have trod.
We are not divided; all one body we;
one in hope and doctrine, one in charity. *Refrain*

3 Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
but the church of Jesus constant will remain;
gates of hell can never 'gainst the church prevail.
We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail. *Refrain*

4 Onward, then, you faithful, join our happy throng;
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the king.
We through countless ages with the angels sing: *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.