NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 3, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

Prelude "Prelude on Hyfrydol" -set. Mark Sedio

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" -set. Kevin Hildebrand

Confession and Absolution



Text and tune: Public domain

 \blacksquare In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

- **C** who made heaven and earth.
- **P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

- C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- **C** Amen.

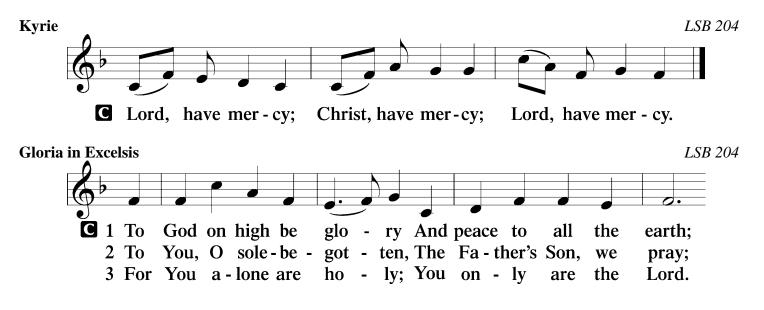
Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 127:3-5, 1a

Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessèd is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate. *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.* Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

Pew Edition





Salutation and Collect of the Day

Proper 22 (Year B)

- The Lord be with you. **P**
- С And also with you.
- P Let us pray. Merciful Father, Your patience and loving-kindness toward us have no end. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may always think and do those things that are pleasing in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

С Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 2:18–25

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

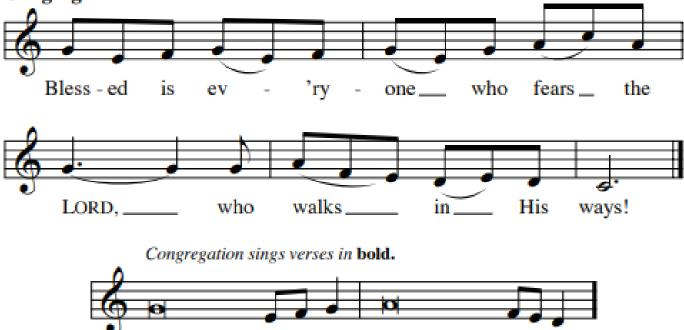
С Thanks be to God.

Psalm

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Psalm 128
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Henry V. Gerike

Choir: Blessèd is everyone who fears the LORD, who walks in His ways! Congregation:



Blessèd is everyone who | fears the LORD,* who walks | in His ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor | of your hands;*

you shall be blessed, and it shall be I well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine with-1 in your house;* your children will be like olive shoots around your I table.

Behold, thus shall the | man be blessed* who | fears the LORD. REFRAIN

The LORD bless you from | Zion!*

May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days | of your life! May you see your children's | children!* Peace be upon | Israel! Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen. REFRAIN

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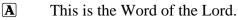
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Epistle

Hebrews 2:1–13

Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Behold, I and the children God has given me."



C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Mark 10:14b

Henry V. Gerike

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.

Congregation:



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Holy Gospel

AC-3B57

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

Pharisees came up and in order to test [Jesus] asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" He answered them, "What did Moses command you?" They said, "Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away." And Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let

Mark 10:2–16

not man separate." And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. And he said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery." And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

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

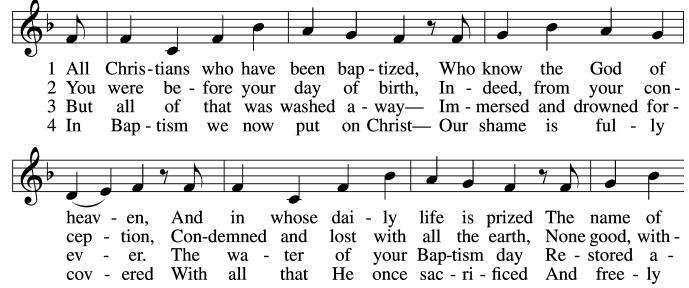
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Hymn of the Day: "All Christians Who Have Been Baptized"

LSB 596

(The choir will sing verse 4. The congregation will sing all other verses.)



6	
J	
	Christ once giv - en: Con - sid - er now what God has done, The
	out ex - cep - tion. For like your par - ents' flesh and blood, Turned
	gain what-ev - er Old Ad-am and his sin de-stroyed And
	for us suf - fered. For here the flood of His own blood Now
0	
Y	
Ŭ	gifts He gives to ev - 'ry - one Bap-tized in - to Christ Je - sus!
	in - ward from the high - est good, You con-stant - ly de - nied Him.
	all our sin - ful selves em-ployed Ac - cord-ing to our na - ture.
	makes us ho - ly, right, and good Be - fore our heav'n-ly Fa - ther.
5	O Christian, firmly hold this gift
	And give God thanks forever!
	It gives the power to uplift
	In all that you endeavor.
	When nothing else revives your soul,
	Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
	And then in death completes you.
5	So use it well! You are made new—
)	In Christ a new creation!
	As faithful Christians, live and do
	Within your own vocation,
	Until that day when you possess
	His glorious robe of righteousness
	Bestowed on you forever!
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Sermon "Rosetta Stone" (Mark 10:13-16)

In 1799, some soldiers in Napoleon's army accidentally discovered one of the most important archaeological finds in history near the Egyptian town of Rahsid, also known as Rosetta. While the soldiers were digging the foundations for an addition to a fort, they discovered a stone with ancient writings on it. The stone featured a decree by Egypt's clergy and ruler, Ptolemy V, that attested to his generosity and devoutness. The decree on the stone was written in three ways: in hieroglyphics, demotic, and Greek. The use of hieroglyphics died out after the 4th century, and the writing system became an enigma to scholars. They lost the ability to read and understand the language. With the discovery of this stone, though, they were able to use Greek to decipher the hieroglyphics, and a whole new world of information reopened for scholars, students, and lovers of history. With this stone, famously called the Rosetta Stone, they had the key to understanding ancient hieroglyphics once again.

For the next few weeks, we will be focusing on Mark 10, and I would like to give you the "Rosetta Stone" for understanding the chapter. This "Rosetta Stone" will help us to answer the rich young man's question in verse 17: "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" It will help us to wrestle with Jesus' twice said declaration in verses 23 and 24: "How difficult is it to enter the kingdom of God!" and the

disciples' astonished response in 26, "Then who can be saved?" This "stone" explains why Jesus walks to Jerusalem fearlessly in 32, and the foolishness of James' and John's request: "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." Last, it shows the beauty of the blind man's cry in verse 48, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" What is the "Rosetta Stone" for Mark 10? What is the truth that is key to understanding the whole chapter? It is introduced in our text, today. The truth is this: God accepts us by grace through faith in Jesus, not by works, status, or obedience. Our place in the kingdom is by grace.

On Monday morning, I was doing some sermon research at Panera in Maplewood. Spread across my table were about eight different books on the Gospel of Mark, my computer, preaching notebook, Bibles, and of course, coffee. As I was reading, an elderly man in a red Door Dash shirt approached me. He said, "If you don't mind me asking, what are you doing? What is with all the books?" I said, "I'm a pastor and I am reading to prepare for a sermon that I'm doing this weekend." He responded, "Oh, well, I won't keep you then from that important work. Every second that you talk with me keeps you from that important work." I told him, "Don't worry about it. I appreciate the thought, but people are important, too." With a smile, he said, "Well, then...." And proceeded to tell me about himself. People are important. It is a lesson that the disciples haven't quite learned, yet. To the disciples, not everyone was important.

Mark tells us: "And they were bringing the children to Him that He might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them." The disciples were turning children away from Jesus. The word for child, here, is paidon, which refers to children under seven. In Luke's account, he uses the word brephos, which is infants. The disciples are turning away babies, toddlers, and young children from coming to Jesus.

Worse yet, they were coming to Jesus for His touch. In the Gospel of Mark, the touch of Jesus is always associated with healing, and sought for healing. It seems, that in addition to seeking a blessing, some had ailments that needed help or healing. Some of these young ones needed the touch of Jesus to be made well and whole!

And still, worse yet, they rebuke the parents (or children?) for coming. It isn't a gentle, "Please, go away, not now," or an empathy soaked, "Can you come back later? I know you want to see Jesus, but He needs a little rest, now. He will be ready in a bit, okay?" Instead, it is a rough and heartless, "Get out of here and go away! Don't bother Jesus with your kids!" It is a firm and harsh rebuke. The disciples didn't think the children were worthy of His time or attention. In other words, they weren't important.

But, to Jesus, they were. Later, He will take each child individually in His arms, hug them, love them, and bless them. Knowing that, how do you think He will respond? Mark says that Jesus was indignant. The word indignant means "feeling or showing anger because of something unjust or unworthy. Jesus is mad once He sees that injustice, that unworthy treatment. [The disciples will, ironically, be indignant a few verses later when they find out that James and John asked Jesus in private to sit at His right and left hand in glory. It shows where their hearts and heads were.] And so, Jesus tells them, "Let the little children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Jesus doesn't want them to be turned away, for the kingdom of God...belongs to them?

Children are vulnerable and helpless, aren't they? Left by themselves, children are weak and helpless. They need to be provided for, cared for, and protected. Our society has laws put in place to protect them from abuse and harm, whether economic, physical, sexual, or emotional. There are programs in place to make sure they are fed and receive food. The Church, and Christians, still fight to make sure that the unborn are protected. Children are vulnerable and helpless. They also, only, receive. Children have nothing. They only have what they have been given. They are not self-sufficient. They only can receive.

However, despite these weaknesses and dependency, they simply trust. Perhaps you have seen this. When a child is born, they have done nothing to earn their parent's love and care. Over the next few

months, they will not help that case, as they will need to be fed every four hours, changed about 8 times a day, bathed, entertained, and soothed. They will keep their parents up, they will spit-up on them, and sometimes, drive them crazy! However, despite all of this, they trust that their parents will give them the love and care that they need. Their lives absolutely depend on it.

But, it is to people like this that the Kingdom belongs to? People who are vulnerable and helpless? People who only receive? People who simply trust, and are absolutely dependent on another? Yes. They embody what being a disciple and believer is all about. For, remember the truth of the day: God accepts us by grace through faith in Jesus, not by works, status, or obedience. Our place in the kingdom is by grace. The Kingdom does belong to those who are helpless and vulnerable before God. We cannot come to Him on our own. We cannot come to Him on our own power, will, desire, or might, not even a little. Before Him, we are soaked by, steeped in, and stained by sin. We cannot stand against temptation, sin, Satan, or spiritual forces on our own. We cannot even face the daily rigors and stresses of life by ourselves! The Kingdom is for those who are helpless and vulnerable before God. God has to come to us poor, helpless, and vulnerable sinners, and He does. God came down in the person of Jesus. God comes to us by His Spirit through His Word, and through the Sacraments, welcoming us to His Kingdom.

And the Kingdom is for those who only receive. We cannot earn what God has to give or offer. We cannot earn salvation, or eternal life. If we had to do it, we would never get it. Our work would never be done, nor enough. It would always fall short, and it would always be lacking. We could never cover our sin, or pay for it fully. And so, God gives the salvation we could never earn. He simply gives, and provides it all. He gives us Jesus, the One Who lived a perfect life for us, Who kept the Law on our behalf, and Who died to satisfy God's wrath for us. And more than that, God does it all, too. He applies Jesus' work to us, and sends His Spirit Who creates faith in us, sustains us, and does the work He desires in us. Salvation is freely given. The work is done, applied, and certain. We just receive. The Kingdom is for those who receive God's gifts.

And it is for those who have a childlike trust. In my office, there is a picture that demonstrates this well. It is a newspaper clipping of a picture taken at my home church's dedication service that has two people on it. On the left is my Great Grandfather with armed sprawled out on the pew, smiling. On the right is my sister Kaitlin, who is pointing up, with big open eyes, and the cross behind them both. Why is she pointing up? I taught her to point up when you would ask her, "Where does Jesus live?" Not the deepest thing I could have taught her, I admit, but the picture captures her doing that. It is a picture of two different faiths: one that is mature, deep, and refined. The other is simple and basic. However, both trust in Jesus and receive His gifts. Both, receive His mercy, His forgiveness, His love, His provision, and a life lived in His Kingdom under His care. Both have a place in the kingdom through the faith given to them that has received His abundant grace.

Jesus finishes by saying, "Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." It is only a gift. It is only received. The lives of children reflect this reality, and it is demonstrated the clearest at baptism. There is a good reason why this text is read at baptisms. It completely shows it! Children are brought up to the font to receive God's Kingdom and salvation. The kids brought up here often cannot come up themselves. They often cannot speak, nor do they fully realize what is going on. But yet, God's salvation is given. His Spirit gifted, faith created, His gifts received, and a new child welcomed into God's family. That happened to you at your baptism, and anyone else who has been baptized.

Mark 10:13-16 is the uncovering of the Rosetta Stone for Mark 10: God accepts us by grace through faith in Jesus, not by works, status, or obedience. Our place in the kingdom is by grace.

Prayer of the Church

Offering "Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide" -set. John Eggert

We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you leave the sanctuary.

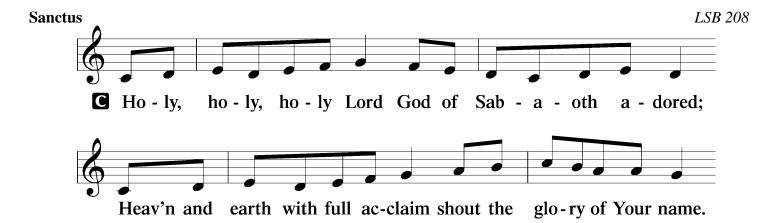
For meditation, from Luther's Small Catechism:

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

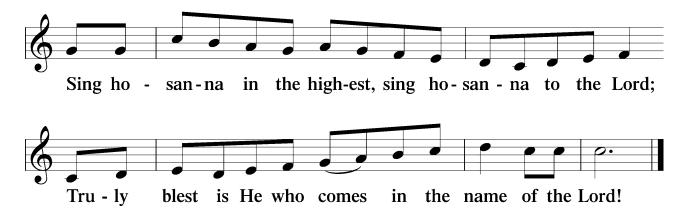
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **C** We lift them to the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



LSB 208



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

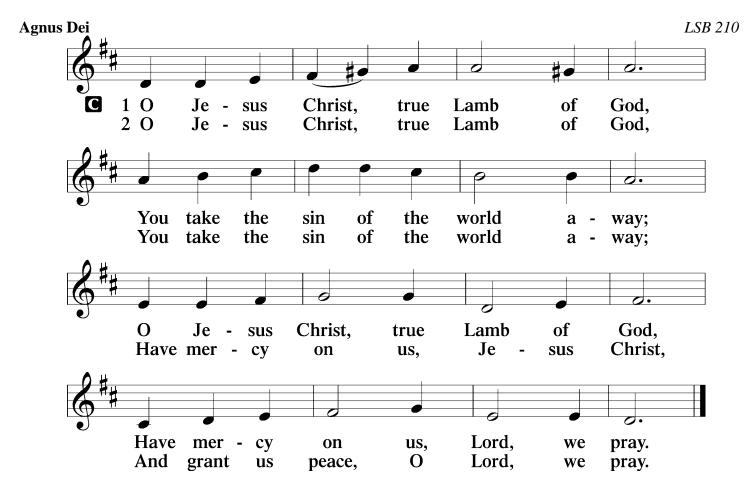
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 209

- **P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** Amen.



Distribution

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing. You may kneel, but it is not required. Distribution Hymn: "O Lord, We Praise Thee"



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Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

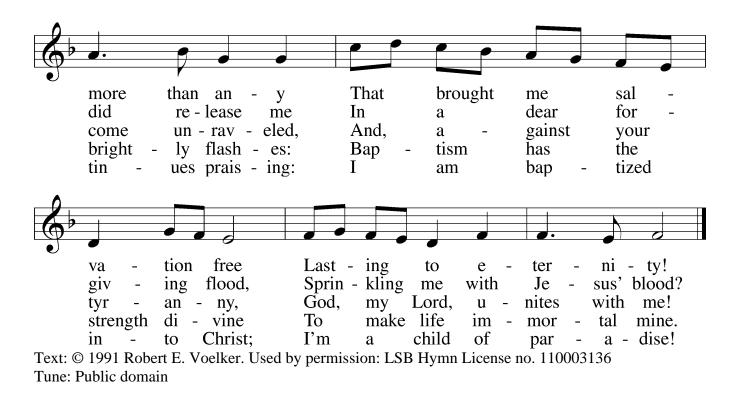
Benedicamus

- **A** Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

LSB 212

Benediction

- 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.
 Amen.
- Hymn: "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It" LSB 594 I Ι 1 God's child, glad - ly it: bap-tized own say am 2 Sin, my bap-tized dis long - er: Ι _ turb soul no am Ι 3 Sa this bap-tized tan. hear proc - la - ma - tion: _ am Ι 4 Death, you can not end my glad-ness: am bap-tized 5 There is noth ing worth com-par - ing To this life-long in to Christ! He, be cause Ι could not it, _ pay _ to Christ! com - fort in Ι have ven strong-er: e in _ to Christ! Drop your ac cu sa - tion, ug _ ly to Christ! When Ι die. Ι leave all sad - ness in _ com - fort sure! O eved grave is pen my star - ing: Gave full Do demp - tion price. I need earth's my re -Should Je sus' cleans - ing sac ri - fice. a guilt _ _ y Ι not soon en - ticed. Now that to the am SO To her - it Though lie in a - dise! Ι in par _ my flesh E there I'll sleep se - cure. Though ven a -Ι $\mathbf{v}?$ have worth sures man _ one trea con science seize me Since my Bap tism _ I've font eled. A11 might trav your has dust and ash Faith's sur ance es as Still soul waits its rais my con ing, -



Postlude "Lift High the Cross" -set. Paul Manz

Rain Garden Dedication

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Beloved in the Lord, we are gathered here to give thanks to God for the completion of this rain garden, and to give thanks to Him for all whose labors, support, and time made this a reality. We also gather to dedicate this to rain garden to Him, and to ask His blessing upon it.

The book of Genesis declares how God placed humanity over the earth to care for it and the animals. Genesis says, "Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." It also says, "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it."

The Bible also proclaims how our Lord has made all things, and how creation praises Him. In the book of Nehemiah, we hear, "You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

In the psalms, we hear, "Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end. The children of your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you." In Psalm 96, we hear, "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it! Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to judge the earth."

Since the Lord has taught us in His Holy Word that all things are holy when sanctified by the Word of God and prayer, it is fitting that we bless and sanctify this rain garden that with it we might be good stewards of His creation and our congregation.

Let us pray: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, You have created humanity in Your image, and have placed them over all your creation, entrusting what You have created and made to our care, help us to be good stewards of our congregation, its property, and of all that you have entrusted to us, that we might use them wisely, honorably, and to the glory of your Holy Name. We ask that you would bless this rain garden for our congregation and our community, and we give You thanks that You have completed this task through the many blessings, labors, and time of your people. We ask this through Jesus Christ Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **People: Amen.**

Pastor: The Lord Almighty, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless this rain garden to the praise and honor of His name. **People: Amen.**

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Mark 10:6 – "But from the beginning of creation …"* In recent years, our country – along with most all the (formerly) Christian nations of Europe – has lost its way when it comes to marriage. We have ignored the fact that it is God who created us. We always go off the tracks when we forget that He made us and that everything good in this world comes from His hand. In big things and in small things, in the life of a nation or the life of an individual, things go dreadfully wrong when we ignore the Creator's instructions for life.

SLIGHTLY USED FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS available 10/3/21: Many of the fluorescent light bulbs have been swapped out for LEDs in the social hall. As a result, we have a surplus of fluorescent light bulbs that still work. These will be available to anyone that would like them on 10/3/21 (after the church cleanup). If you have any questions, please contact Chris G. Thank you!

LWML MITES: We will be having our fall Mites collection on October 24th and October 31st. Please bring in your coins! If you need a Mite box, they are available in the narthex.

BARNABAS BUDDIES: Please help in encouraging our children and young adults during the year. We have many to choose from on the windows in the Narthex. During the year send letters, postcards, etc. to the children. They will also be praying for them. During the year the adult or family will not tell the children who they are. In May or June we will have a get together to reveal yourself to your Barnabas buddy. Any questions contact Nicole P or Pastor Nick.

EMMAUS FELLOWSHIP FOOD TRAIN: Arrival of a new baby, injuries/surgeries, extended illness, death of a loved one, deployment: these are life events when our congregation can provide support to one another. The Fellowship Committee will be organizing formal food trains for our members when they need a little extra help. Please consider volunteering as you're able, and accepting these gifts as we serve one another in

fellowship. If you are interested in participating when a need arises or have any questions, contact Kjersti D. If you could use this kind of support, please reach out to Pastor Kooi.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Please check with Pastor Kooi for the current start time. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

YOU ARE INVITED to the 34th Annual Lutheran Free Conference on October 30 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 2719 3rd St. N, St. Cloud, from 9:30 to 3:30. This year's theme is "Waking to Woke: Understanding & Responding to Woke Culture." The speakers will be Rev. Paul Dare, Pastor of Zion in Alexandria, and Rev. Fred Hinz, Emeritus, Gaylord, MN, Public Policy Advocate for the MN North and MN South Districts. Registration is \$25, which includes coffee, rolls, and lunch (\$10 for high school and college students). Though the fee is not due until you attend the conference, please RSVP to Redeemer on or before Monday, October 25, for meal and refreshment planning. 320-252-8171 or <u>office@redeemerstcloud.org</u>.

HEAR "THE LUTHERAN HOUR" on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week's broadcast: "Giving God Our Garbage" Guest Speaker: Dr. Harold Ristau. Everything belongs to God and there isn't anything anyone could possibly give Him that He doesn't already have. And yet, there is one thing He desires: our garbage—our sins, our shame, our guilt—that He might put it all on Jesus. (1 Samuel 2:1-10)