



Do God's Work

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 8, 2023

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall for small children.

Service of Preparation

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Use this time in quiet preparation for worship by looking ahead at today's Bible readings and hymn texts, and in prayer.

OPENING PRAYER

P: O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy word. Please open our hearts by your Holy Spirit. Through the preaching of your word teach us to repent of our sins, to believe in Jesus in life and death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake. Amen.

HYMN (8:15)

I'm But a Stranger Here | #474

ANTHEM (10:45)

Lord, You Call Us As Your People

*Lord, you call us as your people, out of darkness into light.
You created and redeemed us, made us precious in your sight.
Give us faith to trust you boldly and to love you steadfastly.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.*

*Lord, you call us as disciples, walking on your pilgrim way.
Crucified and risen Savior, you are with us every day.
Give us wisdom, give us courage as you teach us patiently.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.*

*Lord, you send us to the harvest in your Great Commission's call,
Reaching out to all the nations, bringing life and hope to all.
Give us boldness and compassion, bless us with your eyes to see.
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.*

*Lord, you call us to new ventures by a pathway yet unknown.
Though we cannot see the ending, we will follow you alone.
Knowing that your hand is guiding and you love us faithfully,
By your Spirit may we ever faithful to our callings be.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

P: Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us a true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your word; to the end that — by your grace — we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN

Kyrie



O God the Fa - ther in heav - en, have mer-cy up-on us.

O God the Son, Re - deem-er of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.

O God the Ho-ly Ghost, true Com-fort-er, have mer-cy up-on us.

ABSOLUTION

P: Lift up your hearts to God! Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us. He has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of Jesus' work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives the power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all. Amen.

HYMN

Gloria

All glo - ry be to God on high, Who hath our race be -

friend-ed! To us no harm shall now come nigh, The strife at last is

end - ed; God show - eth his good will to men, And

peace shall dwell on earth a-gain; O thank him for his good - ness!

Service of the Word

The readings for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost reveal that God has expectations for the people he has lovingly invested in. His expectations are not just unfulfilled, they lie in ruins. But with the further investment of his Son his expectations will be fulfilled.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray that we faithfully do God's work: Lord God, you have planted your church to be a flourishing fruitful vineyard. Make us loyal and productive, doing the work you have given us to do. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

What more could God do for us than he has already done? Put his Spirit to work in us so that we produce the works he has prepared for us to do.

¹ 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 3:12–21

Many live as enemies of Christ. But let us eagerly await God's Son to come to us and give us the inheritance he has promised.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

O Church, Arise



1 O church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the
2 Our call to war— to love the cap - tive soul, but to
3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give—



call of Christ our cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the
Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -
grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.
wound - ed whole we will fight with faith and val - or.
neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!
win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.



With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -
When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the
And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -
As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing



gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle
out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for
merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger



cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
which he died— an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.
till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.
for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

The tenants want to avoid what is expected of them by killing the messengers. Will we cope with God's expectations for us by trying to silence the teller of the parable?

³³ “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. ⁴⁴ Anyone who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Service of Thanksgiving

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall 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

The teaching and evangelism work of King of Grace is supported entirely by donation. You can support this work by giving a gift in the offering plate or at www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing | #588 (tune #114)

PRAYER

P: Let us give thanks and pray: Lord God, our heavenly Father, we thank you that because of your great mercy you have given us your holy and blessed word, by which you gather among us your Christian church. We humbly ask you: grant us your Holy Spirit, so that we receive your word with thankful hearts and live according to it, so that we always increase in Christian faith and hope and love, and so that we at last obtain eternal salvation. We pray through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Thine Image | #593

CLOSING PRAYER

P: O Lord, we give you our heartfelt thanks that you have taught us what you want us to believe and to do. Help us, O God, by your Holy Spirit, on the basis of Jesus' work, to keep your word in pure hearts, so that by that means we may be strengthened in faith, perfected in holiness, and comforted in life and death. Amen.

Meditate on how Psalm 80 relates to today's theme at home throughout this week.

Preacher..... Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad | **Liturgist**..... Pastor Bernt Tweit
Organist (Sunday).....Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)** Jenny Merseth



King of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and School
6000 Duluth Street | 763-546-3131 | www.kingofgracelutheran.com
Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors Aaron Ferkenstad & Bernt Tweit | Principal Allen Labitzky