

Order of Service

Twenty First Sunday of Pentecost

October 25, 2020

"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."

[P = Pastor C = Congregation]

Opening Hymn: ELH #413 vs. 1-4 *"Come Unto Me, Ye Weary"*

**"Come unto Me, ye weary, And I will give you rest."
O blessed voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction, Of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that hath no ending, Of love which cannot cease.**

**"Come unto Me, ye wand'ers, And I will give you light."
O loving voice of Jesus, Which comes to cheer the night!
Our hearts were filled with sadness,
And we had lost our way; But Thou hast brought us gladness
And songs at break of day.**

**"Come unto Me, ye fainting, And I will give you life."
O cheering voice of Jesus, Which comes to aid our strife!
The foe is stern and eager, The fight is fierce and long;
But Thou hast made us mighty And stronger than the strong.**

**"And whosoever cometh, I will not cast him out."
O patient love of Jesus, Which drives away our doubt,
Which, though we be unworthy Of love so great and free,
Invites us very sinners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!**

Invocation

P: In the name of our Triune God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: **(sung) Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace, for the sake 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 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.**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

C: **Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.**

Congregational Response: ELH 551 vs. 2, 4

**Help us Thy holy Law to learn,
To mourn our sin, and from it turn
In faith to Thee and to Thy Son
And Holy Spirit, three in One.**

**Lord, when we fall and sin doth stain,
Absolve and lift us up again;
And through the Sacrament increase
Our faith till we depart in peace.**

The Prayer of the Day

P: Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you. We ask for this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

Psalm Reading: Psalm 23

P: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

C: He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters.

P: He restores my soul; he guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

C: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

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

C: Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9

("All peoples" are invited to the eternal feast of the Lord Almighty. Only the best is served, and the participants are in high spirits. Death, tears, and persecution are things of the past. The guests praise their divine host: "We trusted in [the Lord] and he saved us. . . Let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.")

6 On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine—the best of meats and the finest of wines. 7 On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; 8 he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will

wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. 9 In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." (NIV)

8:00 a.m.: Mixed Choir "*As the Deer*"

*As the deer pants for the water,
So my soul longs after you;
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you.*

Refrain:

*You alone are my strength, my shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship you.*

*I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy giver
And the apple of my eye. Refrain*

*You're my friend
And You are my brother
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything. Refrain*

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Epistle Lesson: Philippians 4:4–13

(From prison Paul invited Christians to rejoice with him! Why? “The Lord is near.” Anxiety is put to rest by confident petitions to the Omnipotent and thankful recognition of divine blessings received. Peace between God and man guards our hearts, fills our minds with everything “excellent and praiseworthy,” and supplies the secret of being content in every situation.)

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Thanks for Their Gifts

10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (NIV)

Congregational Response: ELH 226 vs. 1

**By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Hath Scripture ever falsehood taught?
Nay; then this word must true remain:
By grace thou, too, shalt heav'n obtain.**

The Confession of Faith — Explanation of Second Article of Apostles'

Creed: *(by all)*

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord; He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood, and with His innocent sufferings and death; that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness; even as He is risen from death, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14

(The kingdom of heaven is likened to a wedding banquet that is spread and announced by the lavish grace of God. It is free to all, and all are eventually invited. If God invited so many, why do so few actually attend? Leave it to depraved human nature to drag its feet, to make excuses, or to seek admission while dressed in its own rebellion! "Many are invited, but few are chosen.")

1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. 4 "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' 5 "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. 6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12 He asked, 'How did you get in here

without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless. 13 “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 “For many are invited, but few are chosen.” (NIV)

Hymn: TLH #371 vs. 1,2,5,7

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

**Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in that great Day,
For who ought to my charge shall lay?
Fully thro’ these absolved I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**Lord, I believe were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.**

**Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.**

Sermon: Matthew 22:1-14 (see Gospel Lesson)

“Do you Want a Reservation?”

Hymn: ELH #370 vs. 1,2,4,6

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

**The King of Love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am His. And He is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow,
My ransomed soul He leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow,
With food celestial feedeth.**

**In death’s dark vale I fear no ill
With Thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.**

**And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never.
Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise
Within Thy house forever.**

Offering Prayer - The Prayer of the Church

P: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

P: Look with favor on our nation. Guide us to elect leaders who will govern according to Your holy law with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice.

C: Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

P: Give us zeal to proclaim the Gospel of Your kingdom throughout the world as a testimony to all nations. Comfort and encourage all those who suffer harassment, violence, imprisonment and even death for being followers of Jesus.

C: Strengthen and protect your believers who are persecuted around the world.

P: Extend Your healing hand to the sick, Your presence to the lonely, Your hope to the discouraged, and Your comfort to the bereaved. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident, and spare us from the ravages of global disease and epidemics.

C: Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

P: Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

P: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

C: Amen.

The 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 Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord turn to you in His favor and give you peace.

C: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn: TLH #50 vs. 1-3

**Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace.
Let us each, Thy love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us, Oh, refresh us,
Trav'ling thro' this wilderness!**

**Thanks we give and adoration
For Thy Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Thy salvation
In our hearts and lives abound;
Ever faithful, Ever faithful
To the Truth may we be found!**

**So whene'er the signal's given
Us from earth to call away,
Borne on angels' wings to heaven,
Glad the summons to obey,

May we ever, May we ever,
Reign with Christ in endless day!**

