

THE LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD



March 26, 2023



Experiencing Christ's Love

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Welcome and Greeting

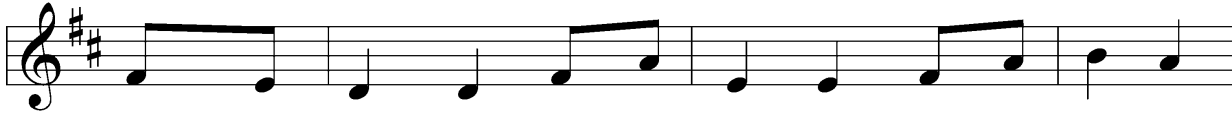
Please Stand

Call to Worship

P We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

686 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -
4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter
love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
Bind my wan-d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
How I'll sing Thy won-drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

Confession and Absolution

P The Lord God is loving, merciful, and provides fresh beginnings every day. Our God has claimed us as His children and yet we often fail to live like we belong to Him. We try and fail, try again and fail again. We are stuck in a pattern of brokenness and can't break free on our own, but in Jesus Christ, we have hope! God has provided the Way for us to be made new again by admitting and confessing our need for His forgiveness in Christ. In these next few moments, we pause to seek His mercy and forgiveness once more.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination

Prayer of Confession

P Let us pray,

C Heavenly Father, you love us perfectly and offer a fresh start once again today. We thank you that by faith in your Son, Jesus, we have been given a new identity as your children. We know that our lives are inconsistent with that identity. We say one thing and do something else, but you continue to love us and call us back to yourself. We pray that by your Holy Spirit's work, we would believe your Word and trust in your promise to forgive us. We humbly ask that you help us to grow more fully into who you created us to be. In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

P Our Heavenly Father loves us! He gave His only son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place and for his sake, forgives us all our sins! It is by His authority that I have the privilege to declare His forgiveness to you in Christ Jesus. You are forgiven, and the new life is yours, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Please be seated

Video Hymn of Praise "In Christ Alone" by Mercy Me

Prayer

Romans 8:1–11

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit

set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

P The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Matthew 20:1–16

“The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ So the last will be first, and the first last.”

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 there 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.

Please be seated

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000979 Tune: Public domain

SERMON: "KINGDOM PRINCIPLES" MATTHEW 20:1-16

Please Stand

955 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, And fill to the brim our



cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, That we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the



hopes and the dreams of all; U - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with Your pres - ence, and



give us A fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922–80 Tune: Richard W. Hillert, 1923–2010 Text and tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000979

Prayer of the Congregation

P Lord, in Your mercy,
C 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.

Please remain standing

Words of the Institution

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please be seated

Holy Communion

Communion Video: "God of All My Days" by Casting Crowns

Continuous Distribution by Pastor

(Family units will come forward to receive the elements and take them to their seats.

Please wait to eat and drink until instructed)

All receive the Sacrament together

(Pastor will indicate when to take the wafer and the cup.)

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

Benediction

921 On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731–89 Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

- P Go in the peace and serve the Lord!
- C **Thanks be to God!**



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