

October 15, 2023: Terms & Conditions May Apply
18th Sunday after Pentecost

Call To Worship

Welcome dear friends! As the sun bathes us in its warm embrace and the breeze whispers through the trees, we gather in this sacred outdoor space to worship the Divine Presence that surrounds us.

In the midst of creation, we find the Creator. In the rustling leaves and the singing birds, we hear the sacred song of life.

We are here to share in praise of the Creator. Let us open our hearts to the Spirit's movement among us.

We come as we are, with our joys and sorrows, our questions and convictions, seeking a deeper understanding of the sacred mystery that unites us.

As we stand on this sacred ground, let us remember that the Earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it. Our worship extends beyond these walls, encompassing the vastness of creation.

We celebrate the diversity of creation – the mountains and valleys, the rivers and oceans. In every living being, we encounter a reflection of the Divine.

With open hearts and minds, let us join together in this progressive Lutheran worship, where love knows no bounds, and justice flows like a mighty stream.

May our gathering be a sanctuary of grace, where all are welcome, and the Spirit moves freely among us. Blessed be this sacred moment. **Amen.**

Gathering Song: *In The Garden*

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses

He speaks and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing

Refrain

And He walks with me
And He talks with me
And He tells me I am His own
And the joy we share as we tarry there
None other has ever known

Refrain

I stayed in the garden with Him
Though the night all around me is falling
But He bids me go, through the voice of woe
His voice to me is calling

Refrain

Text: C. Austin Miles (1868–1946)

Prayer of the Day

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O 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.

Litany on Psalm 23

The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.

He makes us lie down in green pastures, and leads us beside still waters.

The Lord restores our souls; he guides us in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though we walk through the darkest valley, we fear no evil, for you are with us; your rod and your staff, they comfort us.

You prepare a table before us in the presence of our enemies; you anoint our heads with oil; our cups overflow.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives,
and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

In times of plenty and in times of scarcity, we trust in the Lord's provision.

For the Lord is our shepherd, and we lack nothing under his care.

When we are weary and burdened, we find rest in the Lord's green pastures.

He restores our strength and leads us beside the quiet waters, renewing our spirits.

In moments of uncertainty and fear, we cling to the promise that we need not be afraid.

**For the Lord, our shepherd, walks with us through the valleys,
and his presence brings comfort and peace.**

When enemies surround us and troubles arise, we take refuge in the Lord's protection.

He prepares a feast for us, a table of abundance, even in the presence of adversity.

In times of sorrow and mourning, we find solace in the Lord's anointing and overflowing grace.

Our cups overflow with the blessings of the Lord, and we trust in his unfailing love.

As we journey through life, we are confident that goodness and mercy will accompany us always.

**We look forward to dwelling in the eternal house of the Lord,
where his love and presence will be our everlasting home. Amen.**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

¹My 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.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The 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.

¹¹“But 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.”

Sermon

Hymn Of The Day: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

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| 1 | Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see. | 3 | Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home. |
| 2 | 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed! | 4 | The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures. |

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends with the words “God of grace,” and the response of the assembly is “**hear our prayer.**”

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Holy Communion

Those worshiping elsewhere are invited to prepare your table with the food and drink that will be the Body and Blood of Christ for us,

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

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| <p>1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!</p> | <p>2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
take it to the Lord in prayer.</p> <p>3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.</p> |
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Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.