

Twentieth Week of Worship after Pentecost

OPENING

Blessed Jesus at Your Word (CW#221)

*Blessed Jesus, at your Word We are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred Now to seek and love and fear you,
By your teachings, sweet and holy, Drawn from earth to love you solely.*

*All our knowledge, sense, and sight Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till your Spirit breaks our night With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us; You must work all good within us.*

*Gracious Savior, good and kind, Light from Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind; Help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your people raises; Hear and bless our prayers and praises.*

*Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Praise to you and adoration!
Grant that we your Word may trust, Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander, Till we sing your praises yonder.*

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *(spoken)* Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good, For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God our Heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for all of our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

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; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

C: (*spoken*) Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 5:1-7

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 men 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 house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

Refrain

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

**The LORD is my strength and my song;*
he has become my salvation.**

**The LORD'S right hand is lifted high;*
the LORD'S right hand has done mighty things!**

**I will not die but live,*
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

Refrain

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

**I will give you thanks, for you answered me;*
you have become my salvation.**

**The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;*
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**This is the day the LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**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.**

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 3:12-21

I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers, 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 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 with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now say 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 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.

VERSE OF THE DAY

ALL: Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia. (Hebrews 2:12)

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-43

"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 went away on a journey. 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 capstone; 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.

HYMN Now I Have Found the Firm Foundation (CW#386:1,2,4,5)

*Now I have found the firm foundation Which holds my life forever sure;
'Twas laid before the world's creation In Christ my Savior's wounds secure,
Foundation which unmoved shall stay When heav'n and earth will pass away.*

*It is that mercy never ending, Which human wisdom far transcends,
Of him who, loving arms extending, To wretched sinners condescends.
His heart with pity still will break Whether we seek him or forsake.*

*O depth of love, to me revealing The sea where my sins disappear!
In Christ my wounds find perfect healing; There is no condemnation here!
For Jesus' blood through earth and skies Forever "Mercy! Mercy!" cries.*

*Let mercy cause me to be willing To bear my lot and not to fret.
While he my restless heart is stilling, May I this mercy not forget!
Whatever comes my heart to test, His mercy is my only rest.*

SERMON

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and
glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.



1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me,
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me



Bring - ing com - fort to my anx - ious soul.
 Strength to serve and wis - dom to o - bey;
 When my bur - dens grow too great to bear;



Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me



Draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
 O'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.
 When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.



Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal meas - ure,
 I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row;
 Day by day, no mat - ter what be - tide me,



Brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest;
 I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace.
 You will hold me ev - er in your hand.



Sav - ior, lead me to the home I treas - ure,
 Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and sor - row;
 Sav - ior, with your pres - ence here to guide me,



Where, at last, I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 Till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

PRAYERS/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.

BLESSING

**M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.**

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN **Christ Is Our Cornerstone (CW#528)**

- 1 Christ is our cornerstone; On him alone we build.
With his true saints alone The courts of heav'n are filled.
On his great love Our hopes we place
Of present grace And joys above.***
- 2 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hallowed courts shall ring!
Our voices we will raise The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim In joyful song,
Both loud and long, That glorious name.***

Holy Communion follows

St. Paul's invites all confirmed members
of the WELS and ELS to join us in the Lord's Supper.

Please follow the directions of the ushers.

After you have communed, you may go whenever you wish.