

The 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

19 September 2021



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

The assembly gathers at the doors of the church. The ministers open the doors and greet the assembly.

PRELUDE

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, ...and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN

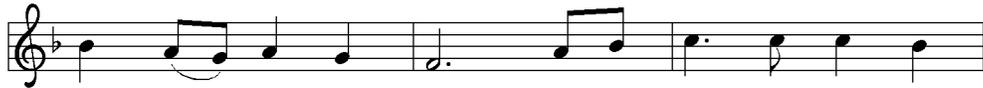
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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*GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,...be with you all.
And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

... our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

JEREMIAH 11:18-20

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew;
then you showed me their evil deeds.
But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.
And I did not know it was against me
that they devised schemes, saying,
“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
so that his name will no longer be remembered!”
But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously,
who try the heart and the mind,
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

54

*The choir introduces the refrain (**R**), the congregation repeats. The assembly joins on all following refrains and verses in **bold**.*

1 Save me, O God, | by your name;
in your might, de- | fend my cause.

**2 Hear my | prayer, O God;
give ear to the words | of my mouth.**

3 For strangers have risen up against me, and the ruthless have | sought my life,
those who have no re- | gard for God.

**4 Behold, God | is my helper;
it is the Lord who sus- | tains my life. R**

5 Render evil to those who | spy on me;
in your faithful- | ness, destroy them.

**6 I will offer you a | freewill sacrifice
and praise your name, O Lord, for | it is good.**

7 For you have rescued me from | every trouble,
and my eye looks down | on my enemies. R

SECOND READING James 3:13-4:8a

13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. 15 Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. 16 For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.

18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. 4:1 Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? 2 You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8a Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*GOSPEL

MARK 9:30-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

30[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;31for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” 32But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. 33Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” 34But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. 35He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” 36Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the night - time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road; we are here to help each oth - er
of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to



let you be my ser - vant, too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant, too.

Text: Richard Gillard, b. 1953
Music: THE SERVANT SONG, Richard Gillard
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***APOSTLES' CREED**

Siblings in Christ, I invite you to confess the faith in which we are baptized:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

*PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of peace saying "Peace be with you," or similar words. Please be mindful of touch.

MEAL

God feeds us with Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church. Our offering at Christ Ascension goes to support our ministries as well as those of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. If you would like to give electronically, you may do so by using the DONATE tab on our website: christascension.org.

*OFFERTORY HYMN

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is the refrain. The second and third staves continue the refrain. The fourth staff has two verses of lyrics. The fifth staff is another refrain. The lyrics are: 'As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.' Verse 1: '1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,' Verse 2: '2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when' The final refrain: 'may we share the pres - ence of your love. all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.'

* OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives
to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*DIALOG

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy:

*SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.
You rescued your covenant people,
led them on all their journeys,
and taught them by the prophets.
You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup
is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,
and make us one in this community of faith
and with your people throughout the world.

Glory and praise to you, O God,
Author of life, Word made flesh, Power of the Most High,
now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

***INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

COMMUNION

This is Christ's Table and Christ himself is present when we share this Meal. All Christians are welcomed to receive the Bread and Wine, Christ's Body and Blood given and shed for the sake of the world. Communion is by pouring chalice. You may come forward, at the direction of the ushers. Take a small cup from the front of the aisle, and proceed to the altar rail. Receive the bread in your open palm. Then, please hold your cup steadily for the assisting minister to pour into. You may then drink. When you return to your seat, please dispose of the cup in the provided bowl. For those who so desire, gluten-free bread is available. Please indicate such desire to the presiding minister. For those who would like to participate, but not to receive the Bread and Wine, please come forward for a blessing. Please indicate this desire by crossing your arms in front of you.

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

God, We Gather As Your People



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
 shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
 wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to
 May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
 As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
 doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
 love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961
 Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman
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How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
 2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
 3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
 4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
 gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
 bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
 ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989

Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine

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Calm to the Waves



Calm to the waves. Calm to the wind. Je - sus whis - pers, "Peace, be still."



Balm to our hearts. Fears at an end. In still-ness, hear his voice.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CALM SEAS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord of life,
in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BLESSING

People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, † one God,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

All Depends on Our Possessing



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and
2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y
3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -
4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing
5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry



con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.
new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be stilled.
hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are
God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly
To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing
I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build.
be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way.
way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

Text: Gesangbuch, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Living Word dwells in you!

Thanks be to God!