Guided to Citizenship in Heaven

October 15, 2023



Twentieth Week after Pentecost

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

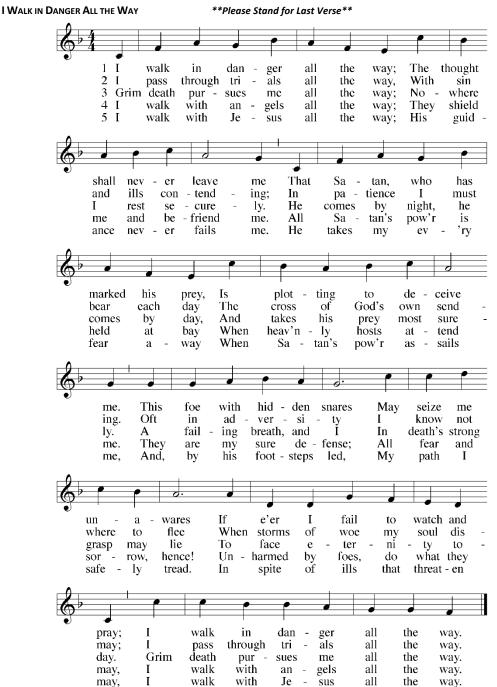
THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS — Our God patiently seeks fruits. The Lord came to his city and his temple to teach his people, but the leaders of Israel rose up against him. During Holy Week, Sadducee and Pharisee put aside their differences to join in opposing this man who threatened their worldview and their worldly positions. When they questioned his authority, Jesus responded with three parables meant to drive the leaders to self-evaluation and self-condemnation. Each should have led to a proper response, yet each parable showed that Israel's leaders were refusing to give God the fruits of faith he patiently sought.

MORNING PRAYER: 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.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION—CW, p.15



OPENING HYMN: #431



6 My walk is heav'nward all the way; Await, my soul, the morrow, When you farewell can gladly say To all your sin and sorrow. All worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on. For all the world I would not stay; My walk is heav'nward all the way.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694-1764; tr. Ditlef G. Ristad, 1863-1938, alt.

Tune: DER LIEBEN SONNE LICHT UND PRACHT (87 87 66 88) Freylinghausen, Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch,

4th ed., Halle, 1708.

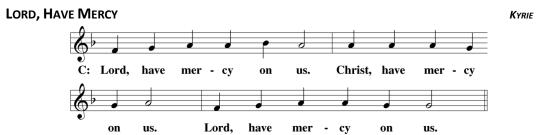


In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION OF SINS

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.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have 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.



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for 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.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



PRAYER OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you.

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.



FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 5: 1 – 7

Did Isaiah share this message at the time of the grape harvest when every detail was fresh? The song of the vineyard starts out as a beautiful love ballad. It's a story with a lovely and lyrical beginning. Israel is God's own vineyard, and he gave her everything she needed.

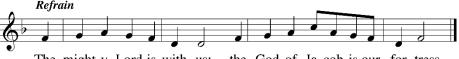
Let me sing for my loved one a song about my loved one's vineyard.

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile ridge. He dug it up and gathered the stones out of it. He planted it with the best vines. He built a tower in the middle of it. He also cut a winepress into it. He expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes, but it produced only sour grapes.

So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more could have been done for my vineyard that I have not already done for it? When I expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes, why did it produce sour grapes? Now, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will take away its hedge, and it will become a pasture. I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled down. I will make it a wasteland. It will not be pruned or hoed. So briers and thorns will shoot up. I will also command the clouds not to pour rain on it.

Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Armies is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the planting that was pleasing to him. He expected justice, but instead there was oppression. He expected righteourness, but there was an outcry.

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 73



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.



The LORD is my rock, my fortress and by deliverer;*
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.
He reached down from on high and took hold of me;*
he rescued me from my powerful enemy.
He brought me out into a spacious place;*
he rescued me because he delighted in me.

Refrain



The might-y Lord is with us; the God of Ja-cob is our for-tress.



You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning;*
my God turns my darkness into light.
You save the humble*
but bring low those whose eyes are haughty.
You give me your shield of victory,*
and your right hand sustains
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.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON PHILIPPIANS 3: 12 – 21

Paul encourages us to live up to what we have already attained. God has given us the kingdom of heaven by faith. We are the people he promised would produce its fruits. So let us do exactly that. Let us live drastically different lives than the people of this world who worship their stomach and their shame. Let us with free hearts do everything that pleases our Lord and Savior.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, let all of us who are mature continue to think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you too. Only let us think the same thing and walk in line with what we already have attained.

Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you. To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping. Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a

Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.

VERSE OF THE DAY

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

Jesus' words in the Gospel highlight the patience of our God as he seeks fruits of faith. Could God have done anything more for Israel? The point here is the amazing patience the owner displays. What owner continue to send servants when they were treated this way?





"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it out to some tenant farmers and went away on a journey. When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance!' They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?"

They told him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end. Then he will lease out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his fruit when it is due."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? That is why I tell you the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit.

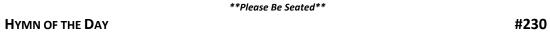


Nicene Creed

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

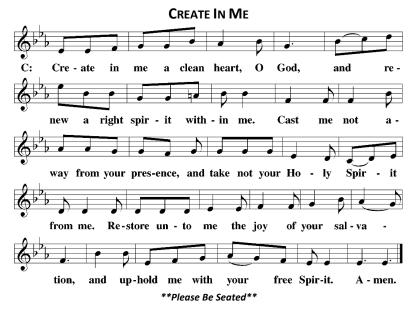
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate 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.





Text: Lutherische Hand-Büchlein, 2nd ed., Altenburg, 1648; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND (LM) Cantionale Germanicum, Gochsheim, 1628.



OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: "Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver." This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH'S MISSION

Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, and for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge.

Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament, bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ in our own neighborhoods and the areas around Deschutes County.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits.

Move us to support missionaries at home and overseas with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Silent prayer

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

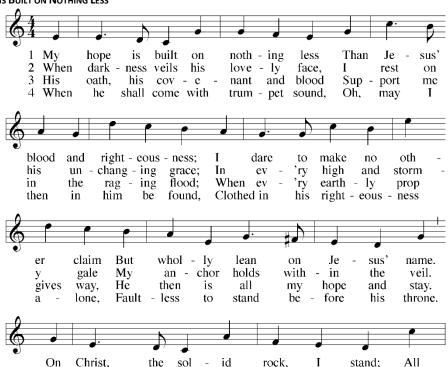
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Please Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#382

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less





Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Tune: MAGDALEN (88 88 88) John Stainer, 1840-1901.

Please Stand

THE SACRAMENT

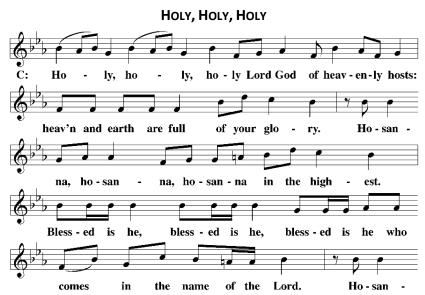
The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:





WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



DISTRIBUTION — Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul's guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: "For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord's body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself." Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

Please Stand



O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

CLOSING PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

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.



Please Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN: #536

LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE CHURCH'S HEAD



Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658-1734, abr.; tr. William J. Schaefer, 1891-1976, alt.

Tune: REUTER (87 87 65 66 7) Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863-1924.

What We believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trifolds – We have our trifolds back from the printers. These were printed for those of you who are uncomfortable with going door to door; they are available for you to take as many as you would like to pass out to your friends, neighbors, families, and co-workers. You can even leave them in a grocery cart or at your favorite restaurant.

Sunday Morning Bible Study – for October we are studying Luther's Small Catechism, with an emphasis on the commandments; we left off in August with the Third Commandment. Please feel free to bring questions, and to come and go as you like; all reading is voluntary.

Midweek Bible Study – Tuesday night Bible Study has been put on pause during October and will resume in November.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057 Password: GraceOT

LMSG Retreat – October 25 – 30 Pastor Emmons will be preaching for the LMSG retreat at Camp Shiloh, Texas. There will be no communion on the October 29. If you have any pastoral needs in his absence, you may contact him by his cell phone. For more pressing concerns needing immediate care contact Elder Gene Baldwin at 541-610-9978.

Thanksgiving Eve/Advent Services – It is almost here the close of the church year with End Times celebration which means a new church year and advent. Our Advent Season will begin with Thanksgiving Eve service 7 PM Wednesday, November 22. Our Advent services will have a soup supper at 6 PM please contact Penny Port to sign up for a soup or dessert.

Thanksgiving Potluck - Save the date for our Annual Thanksgiving potluck to be held November 19 following service. Next week, we will have a sign up for the meal, this meal is a little more orchestrated than our typical potluck.

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