



October 4, 2026

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kenneth Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“My Song Is Love Unknown” (vv. 1–5)

- ♪ My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me, Love to the loveless shown
That they might lovely be. Oh, who am I
That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
- ♪ He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow; But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know. But, oh, my friend,
My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!
- ♪ Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing; Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King. Then “Crucify!”
Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
- ♪ Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He made the lame to run,
He gave the blind their sight. Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these Themselves displease And ’gainst Him rise.
- ♪ They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away; A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay. Yet cheerful He
To suff’ring goes That He His foes From thence might free.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

I will go to the altar of God,

To God my exceeding joy.

Psalms 43:4

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,

That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Confession and Absolution

Beloved, the love of Christ constrains us, because He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him which died for them, and rose again. For the sake of the miraculous love of God, let us draw near to Him with a true heart and confess our sins and our need for God’s love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, we confess to You that we have sinned against You through our fears and failure to live according to Your will and design. Because our love for You has faltered, so also have we not loved those whom You would have us call our neighbor. So certain are we of our sin that we have even wondered at times how You could still love us. Because of Your merciful invitation alone, we come before You, begging Your forgiveness solely and alone for the sake of the sacrifice of Your Son.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

A Time of Silence

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“My Song Is Love Unknown” (vv. 6–7)

♪ In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have; In death no friendly tomb
But what a stranger gave. What may I say?
Heav’n was His home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

♪ Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine! Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine. This is my friend,
In whose sweet praise I all my days Could gladly spend!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 430—Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683; Text: Public domain

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 5:1–7

¹Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it;
and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it?
When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up;
I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting;
and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed;
for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Philippians 3:4b–14

^{4b}If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“God Loved the World So That He Gave”

- ♪ God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.
- ♪ Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death;
All then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.
- ♪ God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- ♪ Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done;
And, justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- ♪ If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Please Stand

- ♪ Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 571—Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778,
Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Text: Public domain

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:33–46

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

³³“Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ ³⁹And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes,

what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. ⁴⁴And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

♪ Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

♪ When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near, When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

♪ When the darkness appears And the night draws near And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 739—Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993; Text: © 1938 (renewed) Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp., admin. Alfred Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005255

Proclamation of the Word

“Preparing, Planting, Protecting, Processing: But Disappointment”

Isaiah 5:1–7

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalms 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus Hymn *Music: "Lamb of God", Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550*

♪ Oh, holy, holy is the Lord, The God by heav'n and earth adored.
We join the angels in their song, Their glorious praises to prolong.
How blest is He, who comes to us, Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
Hosanna with galactic space, Sing we, saved only by His grace.

*Text: Traditional; tr. International Consultation on English Texts, alt.
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Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

The Peace of the Lord

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

Music: "Lamb of God", Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550

♪ Your only Son, no sin to hide. But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550 -Text & Tune: Twila Paris b.1958;
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Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Draw Near and Take”

♪ Draw near and take the body of the Lord, And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least, Himself the victim and Himself the priest.
♪ He who His saints in this world rules and shields, To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole, Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.
♪ Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere, And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 637-Text: Latin, 7th cent, tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66; Public domain

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

♪ When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.
♪ Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
♪ See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
♪ Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 425-Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Text: Public domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Music: "Lamb of God", Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550

♪ Lord, let Your servants go in peace; Your covenant will never cease.
The promised Savior now we see; His blood and body set us free.
For all the nations He is light For Israel, glory in plain sight.
To Father, Spirit, and the Son, Three persons, ever Three in One.

*Text: James Pierce; Text: ©2019 Concordia Publishing House.
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Benediction

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.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

"In Christ Alone"

♪ In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

♪ In Christ alone, who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

♪ There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine— Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

♪ No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath. Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home — Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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Postlude