



October 8, 2023

Mission Festival Sunday

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Then we shall not turn back from You;

Give us life, and we will call upon Your name!

Psalm 80:7, 18

Confession and Absolution

Holy and gracious God,

We confess that we have sinned against You this day. Some of our sin we know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which we are ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ we ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore us that we may rest in peace.

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.

May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“The Church’s One Foundation”

- ♪ The Church’s one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav’n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
- ♪ Elect from ev’ry nation, Yet one o’er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev’ry grace endued.
- ♪ Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping, Their cry goes up, “How long?”
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.
- ♪ Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

♪ Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 644-Text: Samuel J. Stone 1839-1900;
Tune: Samuel S. Wesley 1810-76; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Merciful Father, in Your abundant love You redeemed us from our sin and restored us as Your own children in Christ. As You have crowned us with love and mercy, keep us in this grace and favor that we may strive to complete the race and receive from Your hand the crown of everlasting life; 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 *Please Be Seated*

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

“Fight the Good Fight”

♪ Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your strength, and Christ your right.
Lay hold on life, and it shall be Your joy and crown eternally.

♪ Run the straight race through God’s good grace; Lift up your eyes, and seek His face.
Life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

♪ Cast care aside, lean on your guide; His boundless mercy will provide.
Trust, and enduring faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.

♪ Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changes not who holds you dear;
Only believe, and you will see That Christ is all eternally.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 664 -Text: John S. B. Monsell 1811-75;

Tune: The Methodist Harmonist, New York 1821; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Holy Gospel Please Stand

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.

Apostles’ Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

Handbell Choir

“They’ll Know We are Christians”

The Hymn

“Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

♪ 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.

♪ Here may we gain from heav’n The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv’n, Be with us evermore
Until that day When all the blest To endless rest Are called away.

♪ 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.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 912-Text: Latin c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler 1806-76;
Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain.*

Proclamation of the Word

“Permission for Mission”

Matthew 28:16–20

Offering and Musical Offering

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

Lord, in Your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be
with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Lift High the Cross”

~Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till all the world adore His sacred name.

♪ Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Lift high...

♪ Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. ~Lift high...

♪ All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. ~Lift high...

♪ O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. ~Lift high...

♪ Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. ~Lift high...

♪ So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! ~Lift high....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 837-Text: George W. Kitchin 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt 1874-1956;
Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson 1875-1947; ©1974 Hope Publishing; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Postlude