

**Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost
October 10, 2021**

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Please consider these lyrics as Mark gifts us with a prelude.

EvLW # 679 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

EvLW # 693 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1. Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.
2. All the world is God's own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.
3. For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day all offences purge away;
give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.
4. Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified, in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Joel 2:21-27

The prophet Joel understood that a locust plague that ravaged the land of Judah was God's judgment on the people, whom he then called to repentance. Today's reading points beyond the judgment to a time when God will bless the land and cause it to produce food in abundance.

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negeb.

Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Christians are encouraged to offer prayers and thanks for all people, including rulers. We offer such inclusive, far-reaching prayers because God desires to save all people.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all - this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia. God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in ev'ry good work. *Alleluia.* (2 Cor. 9:8)

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25-33

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught his disciples about the providence of God so that they would regard life with thanksgiving and trust rather than anxiety.

[Jesus said,] “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 681 *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

1. We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain. *Refrain*

Refrain

All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above
We thank you, Lord, we thank you Lord, for all your love.

2. You only are the maker of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower; you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children, you give our daily bread. *Refrain*
3. We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts
but what you most would treasure - our humble, thankful hearts. *Refrain*

CREED

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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God whose giving knows no ending, you invite the whole world to your table of mercy. Hear us as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need.

God, you give all people a place at the table. Nurture and encourage campus ministries, new congregations, and workplace chaplaincies. Support all parts of the church that meet people where they are and offer accompaniment through daily challenges and joys. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give nourishment to the birds of the air and the lilies of the fields. Sustain all creatures who rely on the earth for sustenance. Water parched ground, dry flooded fields, temper heat waves and frosts, and give sunlight and shade. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God, you give wisdom to your people. Enlighten all leaders, in the church, in businesses, in schools colleges and universities in governments. Give them patience and perspective to choose wisely for our common good. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you give nourishment to those who hunger. Bring poverty and food insecurity to our awareness and to an end. Give dignity and adequate employment to those who are unemployed and underemployed. Sustain us all at your welcoming banquet of love and justice. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God, you give community to those who are lonely. Be with our biological families, our chosen families, and our church family as we gather for the Thanksgiving holiday. Send your compassionate presence to those who are lonely, those who are separated or estranged from their families, and those whose loved ones have died, especially the Brown family and the Leibold family. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God, you give healing and hope to those with health concerns. Bring comfort to those awaiting surgery and those recovering from surgery. Embrace those anxious about their health with your loving arms. We pray for friends and families, especially Beryl, Carol, Daryl, Elethia, Ferolyn, Hans, Jordon, Pat, and those we name quietly in our hearts. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God, your welcome is wider than we can imagine. Receive our prayers and thanksgiving for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray. Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

For the many blessings we enjoy in our daily lives and for the gift of the Word made flesh. For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

SENDING

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

EvLW # 881 *Let All Things Now Living*

1. Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us, who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night, till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished, as forward we travel from light into light.
2. God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine; the hills and the mountains,
the rivers and fountains, the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise till all things now living
unite in thanksgiving: "To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

POSTLUDE

As we prepare to leave this space, please reflect on the words.

EvLW 783 *Praise and Thanks and Adoration*

Praise and thanks and adoration, Son of God, to you we give,
for you chose to serve creation, died that sinners all might live.
Dear Lord Jesus, guide my way; faithful let me day by day
follow where your steps are leading, find adventure, joys exceeding!

Hold me ever in your keeping, comfort me in pain and strife;
through my laughter and my weeping, lift me to a nobler life.
Draw my fervent love to you; constant hope and faith renew
in your birth, your life and passion, in your death and resurrection.

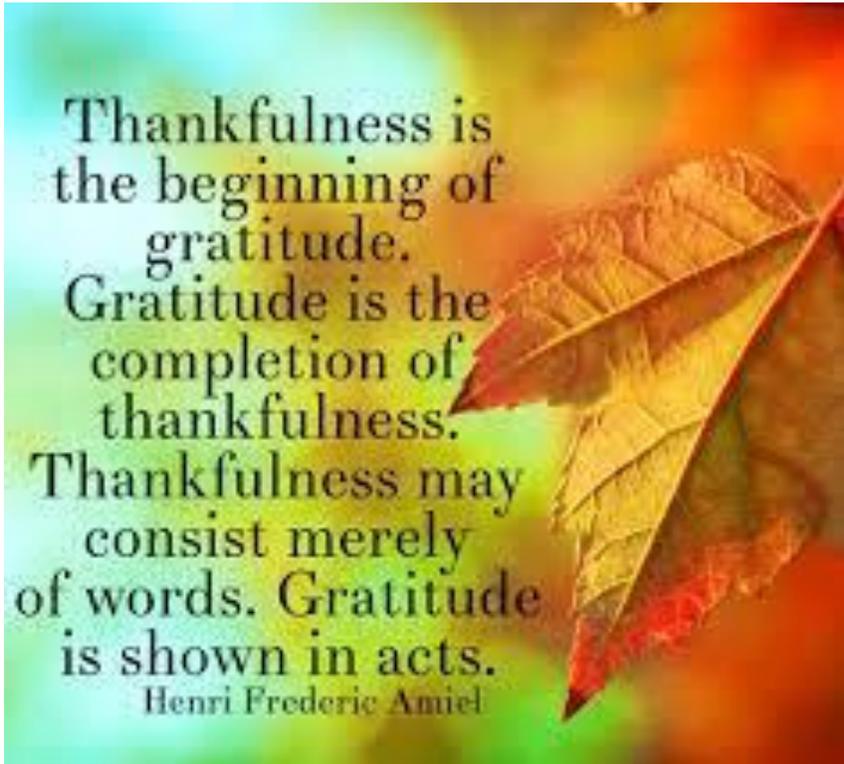
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Oct 11	Obadiah 1-9	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 26
Tue	Oct 12	Obadiah 10-16	Revelation 8:1-5	Psalm 26
Wed	Oct 13	Obadiah 17-21	Luke 16:19-31	Psalm 26
Thu	Oct 14	Genesis 14:17-24	Romans 15:7-13	Psalm 91:9-16
Fri	Oct 15	Isaiah 47:1-9	Revelation 17:1-18	Psalm 91:9-16
Sat	Oct 16	Isaiah 47:10-15	Luke 22:24-30	Psalm 91:9-16
Sun	Oct 17	Isaiah 53:4-12	Mark 10:35-45	Psalm 91:9-16 (9)
		Hebrews 5:1-10		

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Thankfulness is
the beginning of
gratitude.
Gratitude is the
completion of
thankfulness.
Thankfulness may
consist merely
of words. Gratitude
is shown in acts.
Henri Frederic Amiel

**GRATITUDE, LIKE FAITH,
IS A MUSCLE.**

The more you use it, the stronger it grows, and the more power you have to use it on your behalf. If you do not practice gratefulness, its benefaction will go unnoticed, and your capacity to draw on its gifts will be diminished. To be grateful is to find blessings in everything. This is the most powerful attitude to adopt, for there are blessings in everything.

Alan Cohen