

Service of Holy Communion

October 10, 2021 20th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME

PRELUDE

One Voice

"I Give You My Heart" Reuben Morgan

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, 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 SONG *"10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)"*

Chorus

Bless the Lord O my soul O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before O my soul

I'll worship Your holy name

Verse 1

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes
Chorus

Verse 2

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find
Chorus

Verse 3

And on that day when my strength is failing
The end draws near and my time has come
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending
Ten thousand years and then forevermore
Chorus 2x

Tag

Worship Your holy name
Lord I'll worship Your holy name

Ending

Sing like never before O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name
Worship Your holy name

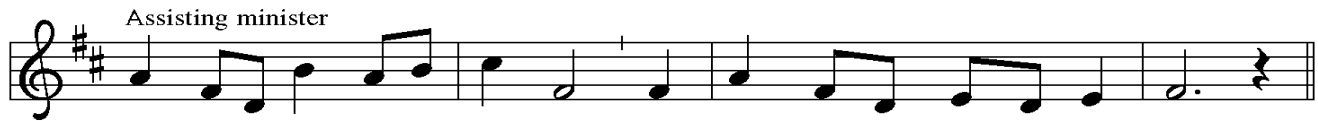
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GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

⁶Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. ⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! ¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks

the truth. ¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. ¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. ¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. ¹⁵Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

PSALM READING: *Psalm 90:12-17*

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

¹³**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?
Be gracious to your servants.**

¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us
and as many years as we suffered adversity.**

¹⁶Show your servants your works,
and your splendor to their children.

¹⁷**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

SECOND READING: *Hebrews 4:12-16*

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we

do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

“Sing Alleluia”

Sing Alleluia to the Lord. Sing Alleluia to the Lord.
Sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia, sing Alleluia to the Lord. (*repeat*)

GOSPEL READING: Mark 10:17-31

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the tenth chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God’s eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or

brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

My nephew Matthew’s eldest daughter, Ella, looks just like him. She always has. The shape of her face and her eyes are his. She has the same light blonde hair, furrowed brow, and facial expressions. She inherited those traits from her daddy. He and his wife have two more girls. The second daughter doesn’t resemble him at all, but looks a lot like her mom. The youngest is the spitting image of her daddy and her oldest sister.

That’s how it is with children -- they might look like one parent, or the other, or a mix of the two. People say: “I inherited my mom’s eyebrows” or “he has his father’s build” or “she has her grandma’s smile.” I was fortunate to get my father’s good blood pressure, but not his long legs or lean frame. We don’t choose the traits we get from our parents, they’re just given -- an interest in sports, or a knack for music, or a mind for science. That’s what we mean when we say these traits are “inherited.” We didn’t ask or pay for them in advance; our parents didn’t decide which characteristics to pass on to which child. It’s all a gift.

Then there’s the other kind of inheriting – money or things we receive when someone dies. Those inheritances are also a gift. We don’t earn them; they’re a bequest left to us from someone who loves us. Which is why I find it odd, in today’s gospel reading, that a man asks Jesus “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” What does he mean, “do” to “inherit”? An inheritance – whether jewelry, or property, or money – is something a person gives of her own free will. It can’t be earned.

Other things we want to inherit from parent or grandparents require some doing, if we want their wisdom, their sense of fair play, their generosity, their goodwill toward all people. In order to acquire those, we need to be with our parents or grandparents, imitate them, follow their instructions, take correction from them, grow and mature under

their guidance. If we only want their money when they die, we don't have to bother with any of that. *[If all we want from Jesus is to go to heaven when we die, then seeking to be like him is superfluous.]* But to become true daughters and sons of our parents or grandparents, takes time and effort.

It's like that with God, too. God's love for us is a given. We don't earn that. Our salvation has been won by Jesus' death and resurrection. Eternal life is a gift, an inheritance. It cannot be bought by wealth, or talent, or knowledge, or beauty, or connections, or good deeds. God gives it to us because of who God is, not because of what we do or don't do.

And yet, as the readings this morning make clear, that's not all there is to it. There is much more involved in our relationship with God, in our living as people of God, as a family-of-faith rooted in the gospel of Jesus. If we are "Church," the Body of Christ, we need to pay attention to and live by God's word in scripture. "Do not kill – literally, or with your words. Do not steal – property or someone's good name. Don't commit adultery. Do not lie, gossip; don't ridicule people who are different from you, but treat people with respect. Honor your father and mother. Don't build bigger and bigger houses for yourself while your neighbor lives in a cardboard box on the street. Seek good, not evil, and you will live." Are we Church? Are we the Body of Christ? If so, we take the word of God seriously.

The man in the gospel reading who questioned Jesus, led a righteous life. He kept the commandments; he was a good person. But just to be sure, he asked, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" There's that rub again, the words "do" and "inherit." Instead of saying "Nothing, it's a gift," or "You're doing great," Jesus told the man to sell everything he had, give the money to the poor and come be a disciple. Which sounds like he had to do something to get his inheritance, and that's puzzling.

Jesus went on to say, "How hard it will be for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God," Ouch! Most of us probably don't think of ourselves as rich. I don't. But that half of the world's population that lives on less than \$5.50 a day would consider us all wealthy. "How hard it will be for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God," you and me, that is. Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle..." which is impossible. A camel cannot fit through the eye of a needle.

The disciples, frustrated and perplexed by all this, objected. “Then who can be saved?” they asked. And Jesus replied, “It is impossible for human beings, but not for God. For God all things are possible.” Which brings us back to the beginning: Eternal life is a gift from God, an inheritance; we cannot earn or pay for it. God gives it to us for Jesus’ sake and because of who God is, not because of what we do or do not do.

There’s this place in North Carolina called the Blowing Rock – there’s a town named for it. The rock is a ledge that juts out over a sharp drop off to the ground far below. It’s said that you can stand right at the edge of that rock -- even step off the rock (*although I wouldn’t try it*) and you won’t fall because the wind blows up from under the ledge and keeps you afloat.

The righteous man in our gospel reading is in just such a place. He leads a good, faithful life already. Jesus looks at him and, far from condemning him, loves him. But Jesus also gives him a challenge: sell everything, give it to the poor, and come with me! There the man stands, looking at the ground far below, the wind keeping him aloft. Does he dare? Can he let go of all his possessions, all that keeps him tied to ins-and-outs of daily life, and go with Jesus, entrust himself utterly to Jesus? It must have been so tantalizing and so scary, standing there, looking over the edge.

That day the man walked away shocked because he had many possessions, but we don’t know what became of him after that. Maybe he eventually took Jesus’ advice. Or maybe he sold a portion of his stuff and gave generously to the poor. Maybe he kept telling people about his encounter with Jesus, making them curious to go and find out more. We don’t know.

What we do know is this: Jesus, saw him and loved him. And what is impossible for people like you and me, is possible for God, who loves us and gives us eternal life as an inheritance.

HYMN OF THE DAY *“More Precious Than Silver”*

Chorus 1

(Oh) Lord You are

More precious than silver

Lord You are

More costly than gold

Lord You are

More beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire
Compares with You

Verse

And who can weigh the value
Of knowing You
Oh who can judge the worth
Of Who You are
Lord who can count the blessing
Of loving You
Who can say just how great You are
How great You are

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

(Oh) Lord You are
More precious than silver
Lord You are
More costly than gold
Lord You are
More beautiful than diamonds
And nothing I desire
Compares with You
Ooo nothing I desire
Compares with You
Ooo nothing I desire
Compares with You

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LYNN DESHAZO
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The assembly stands.

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole Church let us confess our faith.

**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 THE PEOPLE

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind,

especially CAM, SAAM, and Haven for Hope. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Caring God, listen to the prayers of your gathered people...

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

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministry of Jesus at Shepherd King. If you wish to give to Shepherd King, there is a donate button on our website - www.skllcsa.org

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

OFFERING 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 assembly stands.

(Please have the bread and wine/juice ready for Holy Communion)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The musical score for 'The Great Thanksgiving' consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The third and fourth staves end with a double bar line.

PREFACE FOR SUNDAY

It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ;

The musical score for 'Preface for Sunday' consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words in bold. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second and third staves end with a double bar line.

who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resur-rec-tion
 opened to us the way of ev-er-last-ing life.
 And so, with all the choirs of an-gels,
 with the church on earth and the hosts of heav-en,
 we praise your name and join their un-end-ing hymn:

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“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry.
 Ho-san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Praise to you, Great God, creator of heaven and earth, praise to you for all you have made. Praise to you for hearing the cries of Israel and delivering

them from bondage in Egypt. Praise to you for bringing your people home from exile in Babylon. Praise to you for Mary, willing to bear your Word in her body. Praise to you for Jesus who lifted up the lowly and brought down the mighty from their thrones. Praise to you for his dying and rising from the dead. Praise to you for the Holy Spirit which gives us life and guides our way. Praise to you as we remember...

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 in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Take the bread and eat, this is the body of Christ, given for you. (*please consume the bread*)

Take the cup and drink, this is the blood of Christ, shed for you. (*please drink from the cup*)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Midweek Bible study meets on Tuesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We are studying Jeremiah. All are welcome. Please wear a facemask.

The Book Discussion Group Meets on Tuesday night, 7:00 (a change from 7:30) both at Shepherd King – in the Fellowship Hall – and on Zoom, to finish discussion Jesus and the Disinherited by Howard Thurman.

This Saturday the Worship and Music Ministry Team meets at 9:00 via Zoom. That's an hour earlier than usual. At 9:00.

Also this Saturday, the youth are meeting here at Shepherd King from 11:00 to 2pm to do a few projects here at the church. We're going to vacuum and clean the pews, have Bible study, and then have fun.

We're glad so many of you tune in to worship with Shepherd King on Sundays. Please call us at 210-344-5881, if you're in need of prayer, a listening ear, or anything else.

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.

CLOSING HYMN ELW 547 *“Sent Forth by God's Blessing”*

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

“Celebration No. 5”

Michael Keller

Hand Bells

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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We ask at the end of the service that you kindly throw away your bulletin, communion cup and any trash you may have in the receptacles provided at the rear of the sanctuary. Your assistance is most appreciated.

Prayer concerns this week: