

A photograph of a field of tall grasses, possibly foxtails, at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, white and grey clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The grasses are silhouetted against the bright sky, with some catching the light and appearing golden. Three dark blue horizontal bars with white text are overlaid on the center of the image.

THE LAST WILL BE FIRST.

THE FIRST WILL BE LAST.

MATTHEW 20:16

Zion Lutheran Church
Traditional Worship Service
September 20, 2020

WELCOME

God Himself Is Present

God Himself is present: let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him.

God is in His temple; all within keep silence;
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'ence.

He alone on His throne is our God and Savior;
Praise His name forever.

God Himself is present: hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding.

"Holy, holy, holy!" hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and angels blending.

Bow Your ear to us here;

Hear, O Christ the praises that Your Church now raises.

Fount of ev'ry blessing, purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Your merit.

Like the holy angels, worshiping before You,
May I ceaselessly adore You.

Let Your will ever still

Rule Your Church terrestrial as the hosts celestial.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PASTOR: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

PASTOR: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

ALL: who made heaven and earth.

PASTOR: I said I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

ALL: and You forgave the iniquity of my sins.

PASTOR: O Almighty God, merciful Father,

ALL: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

PASTOR: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

INTROIT: *Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16*

PASTOR: I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD. What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.

ALL: 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.

KYRIE (spoken in unison)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with thy spirit.

PASTOR: Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 55:6-9*

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON: *Romans 1:12-14, 19-30*

I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are

standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND FOR THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL.

PASTOR: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

ALL: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 20:1-16*

[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' So the last will be first, and the first last."

PASTOR: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED (spoken in unison)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

With the Lord Begin Your Task

With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Ev'ry morn with Jesus rise, and when day is ended,
In His name then close Your eyes; be to Him commended.

Let each day begin with prayer, praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev'ry care; He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might, with His presence cheer you.

If your task be thus begun with the Savior's blessing,
Safely then your course will run, toward the promise pressing.
Good will follow ev'rywhere while you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share in the mansions yonder.

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

PASTOR: In peace, let us pray to the Lord and offer to Him the petitions and supplications of a people confident of His promise to hear and answer us with mercy.

PASTOR: That we may seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him in the day of salvation, and be prepared by His mercy for the Day of Judgment, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: That we may delight in the light of Christ and His salvation, and that sinners may find refuge in His mercy and comfort in His forgiveness, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: That we may hear the voice of God speaking in His Word and be nurtured by faithful pastors who preach and teach this Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: That this Word may be the foundation of the home, that husband and wife may be united in this faith and hope, and that their children may hear and be nurtured in this Word by faithful parents, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: That the Lord may bless missionaries far and near, that He may nurture newly planted congregations, and that He may renew those congregations in distress, that those from every nation and culture may be united with us in faith and life, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: That we may enjoy the blessing of good government, faithful leaders, peace in our land and peace among the nations, and that we may be good citizens and neighbors, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: That the sick may be healed, the troubled know peace, the grieving be comforted and the dying be delivered to everlasting life in Christ, and especially for _____; and that we may all be delivered from fear, anxiety and despair by God's gracious care, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: That we may commune in faith, that no unrepentant sin may hinder our reception of Christ's body and blood, and that the fruits of this communion may be reflected in a manner of life in keeping with who we are as God's children by Baptism and faith, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: That we may honor the Lord with praise and thanksgiving and bring to the Lord the tithes and offerings of a grateful people, let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: That we may not forget the witness of the faithful who lived and died in Christ, and that we may at last be joined with them in the marriage supper of the Lamb in His Kingdom without end, let us pray to the Lord:

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: Hear the prayers of Your people, O Lord, and grant to us all things good and wholesome and keep from us all things harmful. Give us contentment, that trusting in Your mercy we may delight in Your saving will where the last are made first by Your generosity and grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken in unison)

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed by 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.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with thy spirit.

PASTOR: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up unto the Lord.

PASTOR: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

ALL: It is meet and right so to do.

PASTOR: It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS (spoken in unison)

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He,

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

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.

Abide, O Dearest Jesus

Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with Your grace
That Satan may not harm us nor we to sin give place.

Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with Your Word,
And thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.

Abide with heav'nly brightness among us, precious Light;
Your truth direct and keep us from error's gloomy night.

Abide with richest blessings among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom grow daily through Your Word.

Abide with Your protection among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us and overcome at length.

Abide, O faithful Savior, among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us to reach our home above.

BLESSING

PASTOR: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

PASTOR: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

BENEDICTION

PASTOR: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

All: Amen.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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.