

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
18th Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2020

PRELUDE

O That I had a Thousand Voices

Richard Heschke

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins to God, our merciful Father.

C Almighty God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have turned away from each other in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us all that is past, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, move us to serve You faithfully. Amen.

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PSALMODY (*from Psalm 19*)

P The heavens are telling the glory of God;

C and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

P The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

C the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

P The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

C the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes.

P The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;

C the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

P By them Your servant is warned;

C in keeping them there is great reward.

P Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

Oh, that I had a thousand voices to praise my God with thousand tongues!

My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, would then proclaim in grateful songs to all, wherever I might be, what great things God has done for me.

You forest leaves so green and tender that dance for joy in summer air,
you meadow grasses, bright and slender, you flow'rs so fragrant and so fair,
you live to show God's praise alone. Join me to make His glory known.

Creator, humbly I implore You to listen to my earthly song
until that day when I adore You, together with the angel throng
and learn with choirs of heav'n to sing eternal anthems to my King.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C **Holy and loving God, all good things come from You. Lead us by the inspiration of Your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by Your merciful guidance help us to do them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 3:4-14

⁴If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:

⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.

⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard 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 one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this 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 heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus spoke in the temple courts:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. 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 get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when 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 lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” 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 amazing in our eyes’? ⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” ⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

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.

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.

SERMON

Rev. Scott Geminn

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven,

and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

P Holy God, You call us to work for peace and justice in Your vineyard. Refresh the church with Your life, that we may bear fruit through work and service. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Thank You for the abundant harvest of the earth. Bless and care for those whose hands bring the fruits of the earth to the tables of all who hunger. May we be inspired by Your servants who care deeply for Your creation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Curb the impulses of greed and pride that lead us to take advantage of others. Grant that world and community leaders seek the fruits of the kingdom for the good and welfare of all people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Sustain those who are hurting with the promise of new life. Assured of Your presence, heal our pain and suffering. Equip us to embrace all who are longing for wholeness of mind, body, and soul. We call to mind those who are struggling in the wake of Covid-19, those recovering from flood, fire, and other disasters, all on our prayer line, and those dear to us...*(pause)*.

C Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

P We thank You for the saints who teach us to live faithfully in Your vineyard.
May our chorus join theirs until our labor is complete. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P As we call on You, O God, enfold in Your loving arms all for whom we pray;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

C **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.**

CLOSING HYMN

Lord of the Dance

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth.
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain: Dance, then wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

I danced on a Friday and the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I will go on. **Refrain**

They cut me down and I leapt up high,
I am the life that will never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He. **Refrain**

BENEDICTION

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:
Lector Mimi Blanco



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