

# **CHRISTIAN LOVE IS GRACIOUS**

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

# **Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church | York, NE**

*October 4, 2020*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assisted devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything please ask one of our ushers.

**Connection cards:** Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at [bethelyork.com](http://bethelyork.com), member connect tab, or scan this code.



## **SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY**

### ***Worship Materials***

The order of service and the hymns for today are printed for you in this folder. "Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal" which is normally in the hymnal rack on the back of each pew has been temporarily removed to help protect against passing the Corona Virus. Watching the theme and passage on the screen may help you prepare for worship.

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Worship Leader**

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

**Organist**

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## THE COMMON SERVICE

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**"THE COMMON SERVICE" IS A VERSION OF THE HISTORIC LITURGY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH. IT BECAME THE SERVICE COMMONLY USED BY ENGLISH-SPEAKING LUTHERANS IN AMERICA. IT IS ALSO IN CW PG. 15. OPENING HYMN**

*Today Your Mercy Calls Us* | 339

1 Today your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

2 Today your gate is open, And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,  
A future grace be promised: A glorious crown in heav'n.

3 Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits.  
His blessed angels gather Around the heav'nly gates.  
No question will be asked us How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.

4 O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without you When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

### INVOCATION<sup>1</sup>

*please stand, if able*

**M** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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<sup>1</sup> *These words, which Jesus spoke when he instituted Holy Baptism (Matthew 28:19), remind us that we approach God as his adopted children. The sign of the cross, which the pastor makes also when pronouncing the absolution, is made over people when they are baptized to signify that they have been redeemed by Christ, the crucified and risen Lord.*



C: A - men.

## CONFESSION

**M** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**



C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy



on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

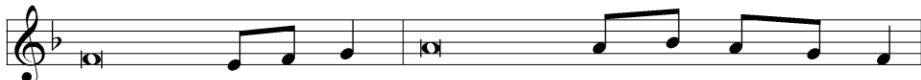
## ABSOLUTION

**M** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.




C: A - men.

**M** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



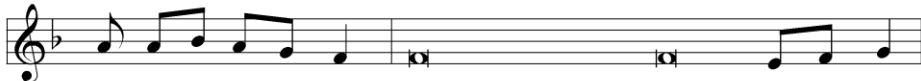
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M** The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

**M** Let us pray.

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to be gracious to others in our words and actions, and to serve you in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## The Word

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### FIRST LESSON

*Jonah 4:5-11*

<sup>5</sup>Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city. He made a shelter for himself there and sat in the shade under it, waiting to see what would happen in the city.

<sup>6</sup>Then the LORD God provided a plant and made it grow up over Jonah to provide shade over his head, to relieve him from his discomfort. So Jonah was very happy about the plant. <sup>7</sup>But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, and it attacked the plant so that it withered. <sup>8</sup>When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind. The sun beat down on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, so he said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

<sup>9</sup>But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" Jonah said, "I do have a right to be angry—angry enough to die!"

<sup>10</sup>So the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this plant. You did not work for it or make it grow. It grew up in one night and perished after one night. <sup>11</sup>So should I not be concerned for Nineveh, the great city, in which there are more than one hundred

twenty thousand people who do not know the difference between their right hand and their left—and also many animals?” (EHV)


**M** The Word of the Lord

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY**


27

*Refrain*



The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion — of whom shall I  
be a - fraid, of whom shall I be a - fraid?

*Psalm tone* \*



Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;\*  
be merciful to me and answer me.

Do not hide your face from me,\*  
do not turn your servant away in anger;  
you have been my helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me,\*  
O God my Savior.

**Refrain**

Though my father and mother forsake me,\*  
the LORD will receive me.

I am still confident of this:\*  
I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD;\*

be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

**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.**

***Refrain***

**SECOND LESSON**

*Romans 9:6b-16*

Not all who are descended from Israel are really Israel, <sup>7</sup>and not all who are descended from Abraham are really his children. On the contrary, "Your line of descent will be traced through Isaac." <sup>8</sup>This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are counted as his descendants. <sup>9</sup>For this is what the promise said: "I will arrive at this set time, and Sarah will have a son."

<sup>10</sup>Not only that, but Rebekah also had children by one man, our forefather, Isaac.

<sup>11</sup>Even before the twins were born or did anything good or bad, in order that God's purpose in election might continue—<sup>12</sup>not by works but because of him who calls us—it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." <sup>13</sup>Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

<sup>14</sup>What will we say then? Does this mean that God is unjust? Absolutely not! <sup>15</sup>For God says to Moses:

I will show mercy to whom I show mercy,  
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.

<sup>16</sup>So then, it does not depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. (EHV)

**M** The Word of the Lord

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE OF THE DAY**

**M** Alleluia. Salvation does not depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy. Alleluia.





*please stand, if able*

**[M]** The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 20.

**C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!**

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), and F4 (quarter). The notes are connected by a slur from G4 to Bb4, and another slur from C5 to Bb4. The piece ends with a double bar line.

<sup>1</sup>Indeed the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup>After agreeing to pay the workers a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup>He also went out about the third hour and saw others standing unemployed in the marketplace. <sup>4</sup>To these he said, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will give you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup>Again he went out about the sixth and the ninth hour and did the same thing. <sup>6</sup>When he went out about the eleventh hour, he found others standing unemployed. He said to them, 'Why have you stood here all day unemployed?'

<sup>7</sup>"They said to him, 'Because no one hired us.'

"He told them, 'You also go into the vineyard.'<sup>8</sup>When it was evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last group and ending with the first.'

<sup>9</sup>"When those who were hired around the eleventh hour came, they each received a denarius. <sup>10</sup>When those who were hired first came, they thought they would receive more. But they each received a denarius too. <sup>11</sup>After they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner: <sup>12</sup>'Those who were last worked one hour, and you made them equal to us who have endured the burden of the day and the scorching heat!'

<sup>13</sup>"But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not make an agreement with me for a denarius? <sup>14</sup>Take what is yours and go. I want to give to the last one hired the same as I also gave to you. <sup>15</sup>Can't I do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' <sup>16</sup>In the same way, the last will be first, and the first, last." (EHV)

**[M]** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), and F4 (quarter). The notes are connected by a slur from G4 to Bb4, and another slur from C5 to Bb4. The piece ends with a double bar line.

*be seated*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there 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.**

*be seated*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Salvation unto Us Has Come* | **390**

1 Salvation unto us has come By God's free grace and favor.  
Good works cannot avert our doom; They help and save us never.  
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone, Who did for all the world atone;  
He is the one Redeemer.

2 What God does in his law demand And none to him can render,  
Brings wrath and woe on ev'ry hand For man, the vile offender.  
Our flesh has not those pure desires The spirit of the law requires,  
And lost is our condition.

3 It is a false, misleading dream That God his law has given  
That sinners can themselves redeem And by their works gain heaven.  
The law is but a mirror bright To bring the inbred sin to light  
That lurks within our nature.

4 Yet as the law must be fulfilled Or we must die despairing,  
Christ came and has God's anger stilled, Our human nature sharing.  
He has for us the law obeyed And thus the Father's vengeance stayed  
Which over us impended.

5 Since Christ has full atonement made And brought to us salvation,  
Each Christian therefore may be glad And build on this foundation.  
Your grace alone, dear Lord, I plead; Your death is now my life indeed,  
For you have paid my ransom.

6 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
The God who saved us by his grace—All glory to his merit!  
O Triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed your saving love;  
Your blessed name be hallowed!

## SERMON

*please stand, if able*

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -



*be seated*

**OFFERING** *The offering will not be gathered – please place your offering in the plate located in the entry or make use of our options for online giving.*

*1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M** Almighty God, giver of all things, with gladness we give thanks for your great mercy. We bless you for the love with which you created us and by which you sustain us from day to day. We praise you for the gift of your Son, our Savior, through whom you have made known your will and grace. We thank you for the Holy Spirit, the Comforter; for your holy Church; for the means of grace; for the encouraging example of the fruits of faith your Spirit produces in our lives as believers; and for the hope of the life to come. Help us treasure in our hearts all that our Lord has done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness with lives that are wholly given to your service:

**C** **Hear us, good Lord.**

**M** Save and defend your whole Church, purchased with the precious blood of Christ. Give it pastors and ministers filled with your Spirit, and strengthen it through the Word and the holy sacraments. Make it perfect in love and in all good works, and establish it in the faith delivered to the saints. Sanctify and unite your people in all the world, that one holy Church may bear witness to you, the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier:

**C** **Hear us, good Lord.**

**M** Preserve our nation in justice and honor, that we may lead peaceable lives of integrity. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, especially to the President, the Governor, and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws, and help them serve all citizens according to your holy will:

**C** **Hear us, good Lord.**

**[M]** Sanctify our homes with your presence and joy. Keep our children in the covenant of their baptisms, and enable their parents to train them in lives of faith and devotion. By the spirit of affection and service, unite the members of all families, that they may show your praise in our land and in all the world:

**[C]** **Hear us, good Lord.**

**[M]** Let your blessing rest on the seedtime and harvest, the commerce and industry, the leisure and rest, the arts and culture of our people. Take under your special protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and be with all who lay their hands to any useful task:

**[C]** **Hear us, good Lord.**

**[M]** Comfort with the grace of your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning. And to all grant a measure of your love, taking them into your tender care:

**[C]** **Hear us, good Lord.**

**[M]** We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you in your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all your saints, and bring us at last to the joy of your heavenly kingdom:

**[C]** **Hear us, good Lord.**

**[M]** All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God forever:

**[C]** **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**[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.**

## HYMN

*By Grace I'm Saved* | 384

1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless; My soul, believe and doubt it not.  
Why waver at this word of promise? Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?  
So then this word must true remain: By grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.

2 By grace God's Son, our only Savior, Came down to earth to bear our sin.  
Was it because of your own merit That Jesus died your soul to win?  
No, it was grace, and grace alone, That brought him from his heav'nly throne.

3 By grace! Oh, mark this word of promise When you are by your sins oppressed,  
When Satan plagues your troubled conscience, And when your heart is seeking rest.  
What reason cannot comprehend God by his grace to you did send.

4 By grace to timid hearts that tremble, In tribulation's furnace tried—  
By grace, despite all fear and trouble, The Father's heart is open wide.  
Where could I help and strength secure If grace were not my anchor sure?

5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying; In Jesus' promise I rejoice.  
For though I know my heart's condition, I also know my Savior's voice.  
My heart is glad; all grief has flown Since I am saved by grace alone.

## PRAYER

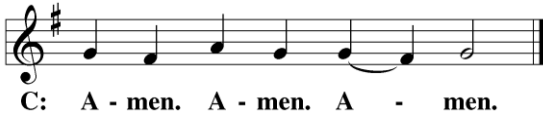
**M** Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## BLESSING

- M** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.



## CLOSING HYMN

*Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations* | 577

- 1 Rise, O Light of Gentile nations, Jesus, bright and Morning Star;  
Let your Word, the gladsome tidings, Ring out loudly near and far,  
Bringing freedom to the captives, Peace and comfort to the slave,  
That the heathen, free from bondage, May proclaim your pow'r to save.
- 2 Knowing you and your salvation, Grateful love dare never cease  
To proclaim your tender mercies, Gracious Lord, your heav'nly peace.  
Let us sound the gospel tidings To the earth's remotest bound  
That the sinner has been pardoned And forgiveness can be found.
- 3 May our zeal to help the heathen Be increased from day to day,  
As we plead in true compassion And for their conversion pray.  
For the many faithful workers, For the gospel they proclaim,  
Let us all be cheerful givers To the glory of your name.
- 4 Savior, shine in all your glory On the nations near and far;  
From the highways and the byways Call them forth, O Morning Star.  
Guide them whom your grace has chosen Out of Satan's dreadful thrall  
To the mansions of your Father—There is room for sinners all.

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today:** 9:30 AM Adult and Youth Bible class and Sunday school, 10:30 AM Worship  
Quarterly Voters meeting  
4 PM NELHS Fall Concert followed by an Association Meeting.

**Monday:** 7 PM Bethel Women's Guild  
7 PM Trinity School Board

**Wednesday:** 7 PM Women's Bible Study at 822 W. Nobes Road and Online.

**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Adult and Youth Bible class and Sunday school, 10:30 AM Worship with Communion

Please remember social distancing if you stay and visit after church.

Meetings Today: Quarterly Voters meeting, NELHS Association Meeting

The NELHS Fall Concert is today at 4 PM.

You can log in at our Member Connect page and see a record of your offerings, check to see if your contact information is up to date, fill in a contact card, enter a prayer request, or give an online gift. You can get there from our website or you can scan this code



In our prayers:



Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/bethelyork](http://www.facebook.com/bethelyork)



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: In Person 68, Facebook live 3, online slides 7, Bible Class: Adults 14, Youth 25. Offerings General Fund needed 2,870.30, Given 2,266.80, Trinity 45.00. **To God be the glory!**