

**TELL US  A STORY**  
JESUS' POWERFUL PARABLES

**A STORY OF RECKLESS PATIENCE**

The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*October 8, 2023*

## **SERIES THEME: TELL US A STORY**

Much of what Jesus has to say to you and me is contained within his parables. Parables are simple little stories that contain profound truths about life and eternity. For the believer, a parable takes a challenging spiritual fact and makes it clear. However, since the parable conveys spiritual truth, for someone without faith, the story remains only that—a story. Therefore, our prayer for this worship series is that Christ would send us his Holy Spirit, so that we might receive the peace and power Jesus offers us in his parables. Tell us a story, Jesus!

## **THEME OF THE DAY: A STORY OF RECKLESS PATIENCE**

Patience is a virtue. But can too much patience be a vice? If you are too patient, waiting to see if that pain in your stomach goes away with time, you might make a problem worse. If you are too patient with an incompetent employee, you will lose productivity before the inevitable—his firing—occurs anyway. Too much patience would seem not to be a virtue, but reckless behavior. Yet that is exactly what God demonstrates to a rebellious human race—reckless patience. Through a story Jesus teaches exactly what God’s patience means for us.

**Worship Leader**  
**Organist/Pianist**

Pastor Justin Wilkens  
Timothy Richert

## **Acknowledgments**

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## Morning Praise (page 207 in Christian Worship 21)

### Hymn: 920 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

*Stand*

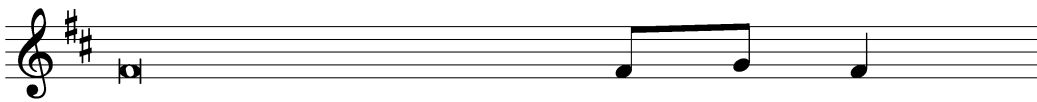
O Lord, open my lips,  
**and my mouth shall declare your praise.**

Hasten to save me, O God;  
**O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

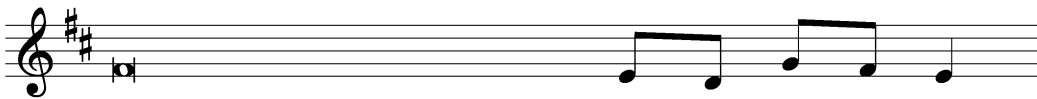
Jesus Christ is Lord of all:  
**praise and thanks to God!**

### O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

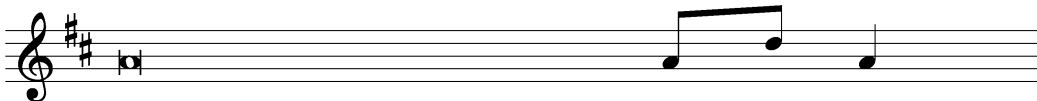
*CW 208*



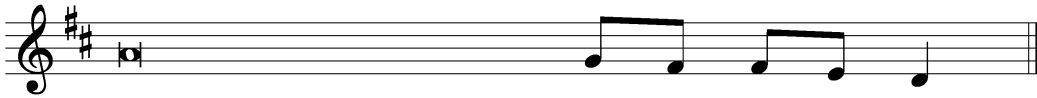
- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a great God
- 3 The sea is his, for he made it,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
- 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
- 3 and his hand formed the dry land.



- 1 Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,
- 2 The deep places of the earth are in his hand;
- 3 O come, let us worship and bow down,
- 4 For he is our God,



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.
- 2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.
- 3 let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er.
- 4 and we are the people of his  
pasture and the sheep of his \_\_\_\_\_ hand.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Isaiah 5:1–7*

*The Lord Almighty pictures his patient love for Israel as an owner of a vineyard patiently waiting for a good crop of fruit.*

<sup>1</sup> Let me sing for my loved one a song about my loved one's vineyard.

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile ridge.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it up and gathered the stones out of it.

He planted it with the best vines.

He built a tower in the middle of it.

He also cut a winepress into it.

He expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,  
but it produced only sour grapes.

<sup>3</sup> So now, you residents of Jerusalem and you men of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard.

<sup>4</sup> What more could have been done for my vineyard  
that I have not already done for it?

When I expected it to produce clusters of sweet grapes,  
why did it produce sour grapes?

<sup>5</sup> Now, let me tell you what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will take away its hedge, and it will become a pasture.  
I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup> I will make it a wasteland.  
It will not be pruned or hoed.  
So briars and thorns will shoot up.

I will also command the clouds not to pour rain on it.  
<sup>7</sup> Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Armies is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah are the planting that was pleasing to him.  
He expected justice, but instead there was oppression.  
He expected righteousness, but there was an outcry.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

*Philippians 3:12–21*

*Through Christ we have already attained the kingdom of heaven. God patiently waits for us to respond to his grace by living drastically different lives than the people of this world.*

<sup>12</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus also took hold of me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it yet, but there is one thing I do: Forgetting the things that are behind and straining toward the things that are ahead, <sup>14</sup> I press on toward the goal, for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Therefore, let all of us who are mature continue to think this way. And if you think differently about anything, God will reveal this to you too. <sup>16</sup> Only let us think the same thing and walk in line with what we already have attained.

<sup>17</sup> Brothers, join together in imitating me and in paying attention to those who are walking according to the pattern we gave you. <sup>18</sup> To be sure, many walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. I told you about them often, and now I am saying it while weeping. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is their appetite, and their glory is in their shame. They are thinking only about earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven. We are eagerly waiting for a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> By the power that enables him to subject all things to himself, he will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

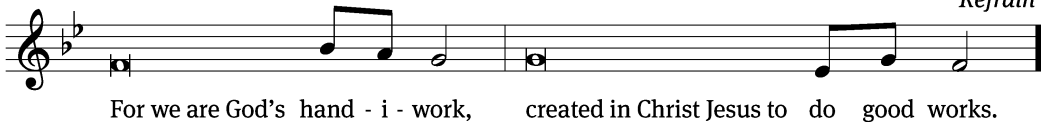
Ephesians 2:10



### Refrain



### Tone



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## Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

*Jesus tells us a story of God's reckless patience.*

<sup>33</sup> "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. He leased it out to some tenant farmers and went away on a journey. <sup>34</sup> When the time approached to harvest the fruit, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. <sup>35</sup> The tenant farmers seized his servants. They beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. <sup>36</sup> Then the landowner sent even more servants than the first time. The tenant farmers treated them the same way. <sup>37</sup> Finally, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. <sup>38</sup> But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance!' <sup>39</sup> They took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. <sup>40</sup> So when the landowner comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?"

<sup>41</sup> They told him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end. Then he will lease out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him his fruit when it is due."

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

<sup>43</sup> "That is why I tell you the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruit.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Seated*

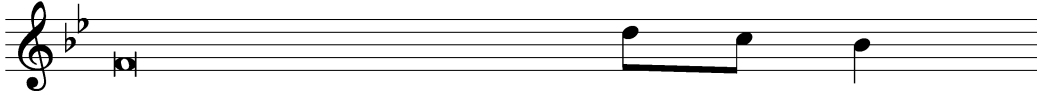
# Hymn of the Day: 862 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

**Sermon:** Matthew 21:33-43

*Stand*

## We Praise You, O God

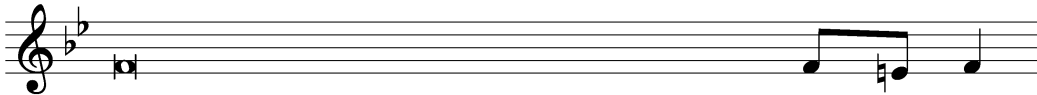
CW 210



- 1 We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord;
- 2 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of heav'n - ly hosts,
- 3 The white-robed army of martyrs praise — you.



- 1 all creation worships you, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing.
- 2 heaven and earth are full — of your glo - ry.
- 3 Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



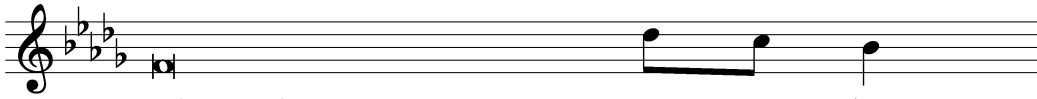
- 1 To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heav'n,
- 2 The glorious company of apostles praise — you.
- 3 Father of majesty unbounded; your glorious, true, and on - ly Son;



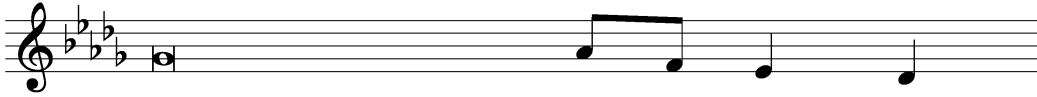
- 1 cherubim and seraphim, sing in end - less praise:
- 2 The noble fellowship of proph - ets praise — you.
- 3 and the Holy Spirit, ad - vo - cate and guide.



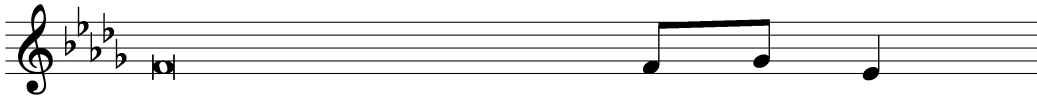
- 4 You, Christ, are the King of glo - ry, the eternal Son of the Fa - ther.



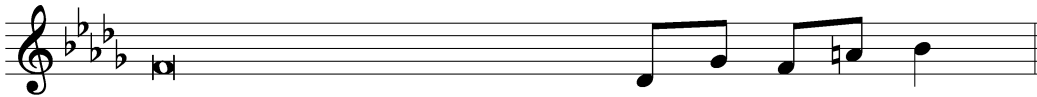
5 When you became man to set us free,  
6 You sit at the right hand of God



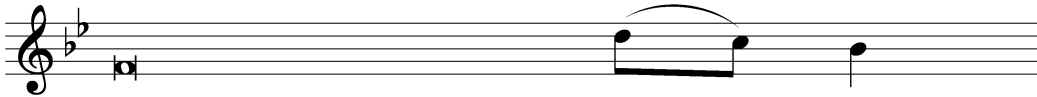
5 you humbled yourself to be born of a vir - gin.  
6 in the glory of the Fa - ther.



5 You overcame the sting of death  
6 We believe that you will come



5 and opened the kingdom of heaven to all be - liev - ers.  
6 to be our judge.



7 Come then, Lord, and help your peo - ple,



7 bought with the price of your own blood,



7 and bring us with your saints to glory ev - er - last - ing.

*Be seated*



## Prayer of the Church

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, *[especially . . . here name the person and the cause of the petition]*. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors, *[especially . . . here name the person]*. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

## **Offering**

**Offering Hymn: 750 We Give Thee but Thine Own**

## **THE SACRAMENT**

*Stand*

### **Preface**

*CW 165*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

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

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics underneath. The second staff continues the melody and includes a measure with a fermata over a whole note. The third staff continues the melody and includes a measure with a fermata over a whole note. The fourth staff continues the melody and includes a measure with a fermata over a whole note. The fifth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
 you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
 grant us your peace. A - men.

*Be seated*

## Distribution

**Close Communion** We ask that only those who have previously spoken to our pastor or are members in good standing of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to Holy Communion today. Our practice of Close Communion (which has been the practice of the Christian Church throughout the ages) is in no way trying to judge anyone's faith. What we are trying to do is follow the Bible's clear teaching (1 Corinthians 11) to first study God's Word together. As we do so, we can share with/review with you what the Lord's Supper is all about. You, then, also have an opportunity to examine what we believe and teach before you come to the Lord's Supper and make a public profession that you agree with what we teach.

## Distribution Hymn: 676 Take and Eat

### Lord, Have Mercy

CW 213

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger. And in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

**Hymn: 932 Sent Forth by God's Blessing**



## **NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Today:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship and Communion

**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Bible Study and Sunday School, 10:30 AM Worship

**CONNECTION CARDS:** Visitors or members with changes in contact information, please fill out a connection card online at [www.bethelyork.com](http://www.bethelyork.com) on the member connect tab or scan this code.



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Worship 54, Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,920.37, Given \$2,115.25. **To God be the glory!**

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