

Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 8, 2023

Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: *"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"* - American Folk Tune, arr. Rebecca Borum
Gretchen Theesfield, violin

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
+ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

Amen.

Let us come before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**
**We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.**
**We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.**
**For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.**
**For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.**
**For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**
**Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In + Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "You Are Holy" ELW #525

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.

Prayer of the Day

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. 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, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Lector: Larry Parker

¹Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

³And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,

but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Music Voluntary: “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” arr. Anne Krentz Organ
Handbell Ensemble: Adult ringers joined by Michaela Kinyon, Danny Golden, Becker DeVos, and Liam Lynch

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Lector: Jerry Eilers

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If 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.

The Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Children at Heart Sermon

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

The Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to You, O Lord

[Jesus said to the people:] 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.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Pastor Gloria Dovre

Hymn of the Day: "There in God's Garden" ELW #342, stanzas 1-4

Apostles' Creed

**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 Intercession

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Music Voluntary: *“Lord of All Hopefulness”* - arr. Nancy Grundahl
Memorial Choir with violinist Gretchen Theesfield

Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

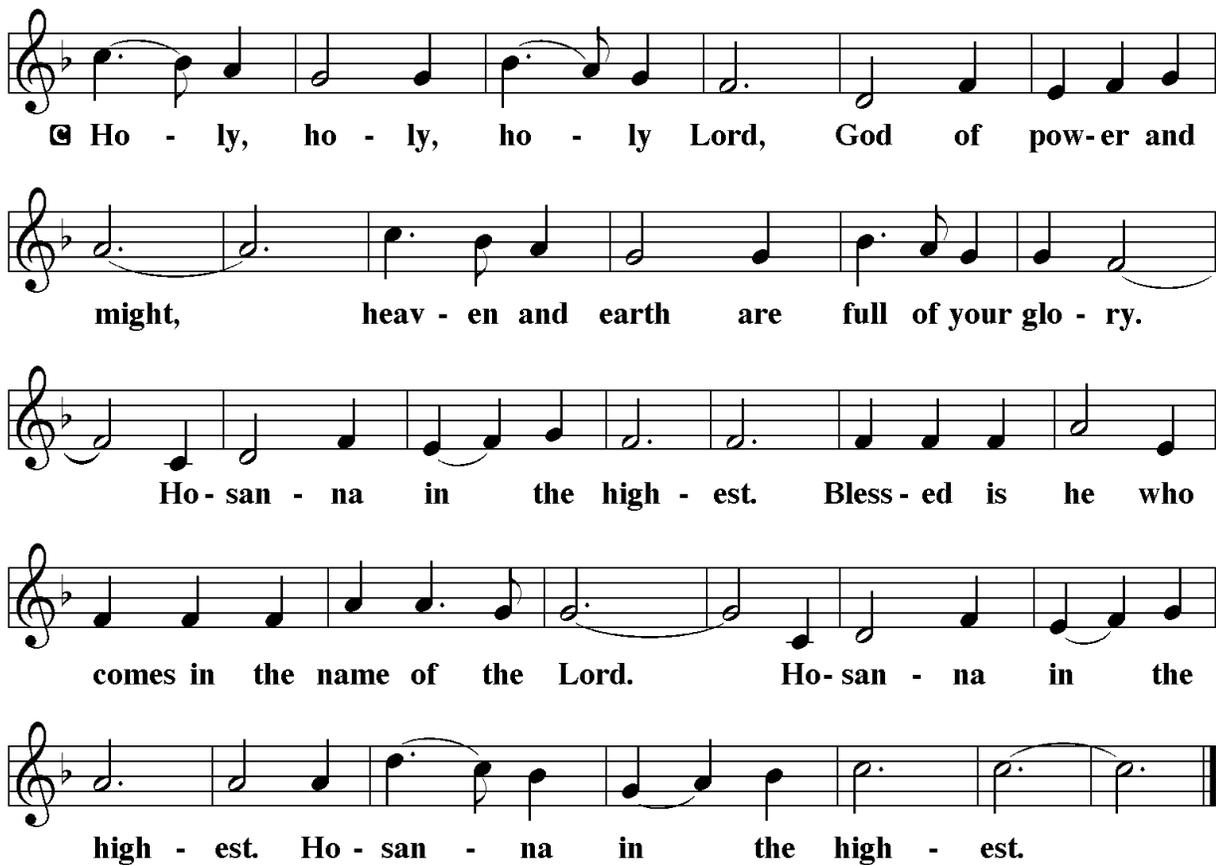
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

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.

Invitation to Communion

Jesus invites you to this table.
 Come, eat and live.

Hymns during Communion

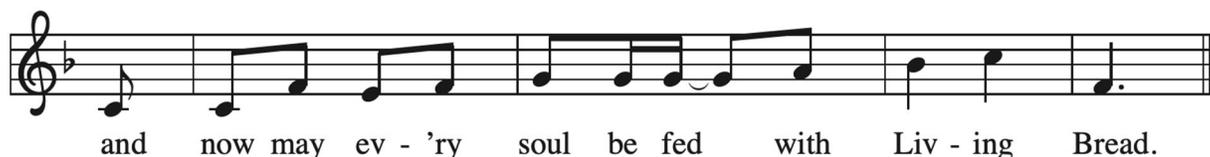
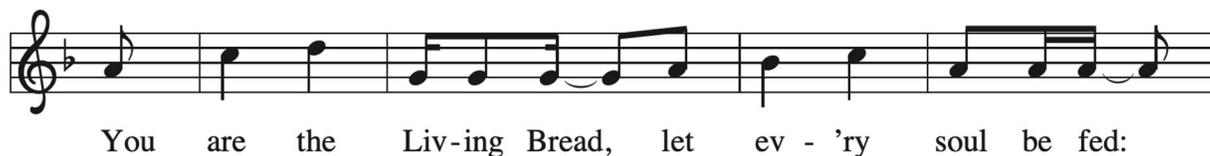
"We Come Now to Your Table" ACS #970

"Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" arr. Rebecca Bornam

- Gretchen Theesfield, violin

"Jesus Loves Me" ELW #595

We Come Now to Your Table, Lord



Text: Caribbean Conference of Churches Jamaica workshop

Music: LIVING BREAD, St. Vincent traditional, adapt.; arr. Patrick Prescod, 1932–2013

Text and music © Caribbean Conference of Churches

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Prayer after Communion

Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Announcements

Blessing

The God of glory,
+ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "God Loved the World" ELW #323, stanzas 1,2,5

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *"The Heavens Declare"* - Benedetto Marcello
Lois Theesfield, organ

Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org or emily@mlcnevada.org, or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

*Please keep Connie Krupp and family in your prayers
following the death of her husband, +Larry Krupp*

*Please keep Nancy Christian and family in your prayers
following the death of her husband, +Larry Christian*

*Please keep Norma Jean Smith and family in your prayers
following the death of her son, +Darrel Smith*

*Prayers for the family and friends of +Tina Palmisano following her death
(sister-in-law of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch)*

Prayers for the family and friends of +Georgiann Grant following her death

Mike Neal	Sandy Muesburger	Jackie Byers
Ron Parker	<i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-</i>	<i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>
<i>brother of Larry Parker</i>	Goettsch	Donna See
Helen Johnson	John Bass	Norma Dannan
Wayne Kinyon	<i>son-in-law of Ron & Gloria</i>	<i>friend of Betty Runge</i>
Kathy Lynn Johnson	Jacobson	Jami Tharp
Christina King	Carol Vincent	Fred Samuelson
Sherry Kluever	Cassie Harrell	Jaylee Bartleson
Dick Settle	Jean Smith	Sheila Collingwood
Kim Elliott	Annette Dalthorp	<i>mother of Lyndsey</i>
Jenny Adelmund	Ellie Lynch	De Vos
Marsha Kane	Ernie Ruhde	Judy Coverdale
Pr. Marcia Kisner	Sierra Parr	George Forsyth
Marlene Waddell	<i>cousin of Kim Stieler</i>	Janeen Driscoll
<i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-</i>	Janet Jacques	Lynn Harris
<i>Goettsch</i>	Easton Farrington	Julie Sutherland
	Janice Hartz	Jan Cook

Hospitalizations. *If you are in the hospital or are going to be in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf. Unless directed otherwise, your name will be placed on the prayer list and included in electronic notifications.*

Announcements

TODAY: Bake Sale with Proceeds Benefiting "Drive for the Drive" Pavement Project

Following worship this morning, be sure to stop by the table in the Narthex for some tasty cookies and bars decorated by our Wednesday Night Live participants! Free-will donations will go toward Memorial's "Drive for the Drive" pavement project.

Thank you to everyone who donated in support of the Nevada CROP Walk!

Thank you for the gift of both your presence at the walk itself and for your financial generosity to fight hunger. If you didn't have an opportunity to give a gift that will fight hunger both globally and locally it's not too late to do so! You can still give your gift by going online and giving here: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/event/nevadaia> (or by using the QR code) and clicking on "make a donation" OR you can write a check to Church World Service CROP Walk and turn that into the office by October 15. We will share the total number raised in the next several days. Thank you!



Community Trunk-or-Treat at Memorial

Trunk-or-Treat returns! Bring your family and friends to Memorial's parking lot Saturday, October 28 between 5:00 and 6:00pm for trick-or-treating around decorated vehicles. Walking tacos will be available with free-will donations benefitting Nevada's Good Samaritan Fund. There will also be a "Best Decorated Trunk" contest with a prize for the winner! Want to bring your decorated vehicle and hand out candy? Sign up here: <https://bit.ly/3L8eoDH> use the QR code, or contact the church office.



Attention Youth and Families: Join us at *Wednesday Night Live!*

Calling kids and youth of all ages of Memorial Lutheran! **You're invited!** This year we are starting something new... We want to invite you to bring a friend and join us for *Wednesday Night Live!* Come and engage with God, Scripture, and other young people each Wednesday evening from 6:30-7:30 PM. To sign up, grab a registration form at church or you can fill out the online form here: <https://bit.ly/459i0xu> or by visiting mlcnevada.org.

Can't wait to see you at Wednesday Night Live!

Important Reminder Regarding Giving to Special Projects

We so appreciate gifts received for special projects such as "A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place" (heating and cooling) and "Drive for the Drive" (pavement). If you would like to support these projects, please make sure to specify the project name with your gift. This ensures that your gift goes directly to the project and helps us keep an accurate record of funds received / still needed. Thank you for your support!

“Created to be: Good Neighbors” - An Event for Iowa Youth

God created us to be just who we are-- and calls us to love our neighbors with the gifts God gave us. 8th-12th Graders, especially those interested in the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering are invited to join in on this evening of fun, faith, and fellowship.

We're hoping to form a group from Memorial to carpool down to Ankeny. Please let Pastor Kathleen know if you would be interested in joining!

What: Dinner & interactive worship for 8th-12th graders

When: October 14, 5-8pm

Where: Resurrection Lutheran, 914 NW Ash Dr., Ankeny, IA

Online Giving with Tithe.ly

Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you would like to support our ministries, online gifts can be made using <http://tithe.ly/give> or by scanning the QR code. ***Did you know?* In Tithe.ly, you can select to give to the General Fund, A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place (heating and cooling project), or the Drive for the Drive pavement project!**



Save the Date

TODAY: Bake Sale to Support “Drive for the Drive” Pavement Project

When: Sunday, October 8

Wednesday Night Live

When: Wednesday, October 11, 6:30—7:30pm

Thursday Morning Bible Study

When: Thursday, October 12, 8:30—9:30am

Where: MLC Chapel

Community Trunk-or-Treat at Memorial

When: Saturday, October 28

Rite of Confirmation

When: Sunday, October 29 during 9:00 worship

Beer & Theology (first Thursday of every month) - Note the new location!

When: Thursday, November 2, 6:30pm

Where: Cubbies on Main

Ministry Endowment Fund Reception

When: Thursday, November 9

Memorial Lutheran Church

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Memorial Lutheran



Memorial Lutheran ELCA

Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry

Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement

Mike Coverdale, Custodian