



Palestine
Lutheran Church

Lectionary 25 (*16th Sunday after Pentecost*)

September 20, 2020

Reaching Out in Christian Love to All

1375 Highway 210

Huxley, IA 50124

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Lectionary 25 (16th Sunday after Pentecost)
September 20, 2020

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

*=Stand as you are able **Bold Print** = congregation responds
ELW=Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Ringling of the Bell and Prelude

GATHERING *The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole

heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***GATHERING SONG This Little Light of Mine**

ELW 677

Text: African American spiritual; Music: African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935; Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine,
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine,
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine,

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual, arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935

Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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***GREETING**

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**

Let us pray.

**Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WORD *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10-4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my

life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 145: 1-8

¹I will exalt you, my God and king,

and bless your name forever and ever.

²Every day will I bless you

and praise your name forever and ever.

³Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to your greatness.

⁴One generation shall praise your works to another

and shall declare your power.

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

⁶They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of your great
goodness;

they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as

well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

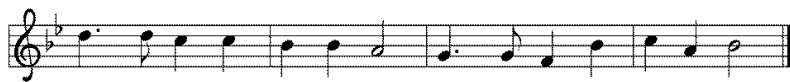
***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' ⁷They said

to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' ⁹When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, '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.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – *Please stay in your seats/pews*

SERMON

HYMM OF THE DAY Baptized and Set Free

ELW 453

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Baptized and Set Free



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
 2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.

Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
 Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
 and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
 All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.

Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
 For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
 As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
 Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be

to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
 end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
 pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
 one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
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*APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church,
the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Generous God, you make the last first, and the first last. Where
this gospel challenges the church, equip it for its works of service.
Strengthen those who suffer for Christ (*especially*):

Prayer Requests:	Laura Aust	Dianne Blackmer
Anita Brendeland	Dick Brown	Penny Brown
Joan Carson	Alisha Cox	Bev Echtenkamp
Lowell Elliott	Jane Gordan	Jackie Greene
Bruce & Sandy Halverson		Dolores Hauge
Warren Johnson	Kevin Klingbeil	Alvina Larson
Ardell Lundgren	Merlin Lyon	Loree Ness
Deidre Qual	Marvin Sorensen	Shannon Tope
Joyce Volz	Sarah JoAnn Young	Phil Zeller

Emergency workers, health workers, neighbors

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Sun and wind, bushes and worms, cattle and great cities—nothing
in creation is outside your concern, mighty God. In your mercy,

tend to it all. Give us a spirit of generosity toward all you have made.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Where we find envy and create enemies, you provide enough for all. Bring peace to places of conflict and violence. Inspire leaders with creativity and wisdom. Bless the work of negotiators, peacekeepers, and development workers.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Reveal yourself to all in need as you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, ready to relent from punishing. Accompany judges and lawyers, victims of crime and those serving sentences. Give fruitful labor and a livelihood to those seeking work.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Even beyond our expectations, you choose to give generously. Grant life, health, and courage to all who are in need (*especially*):

Family & friends of Don Trautner, Wanda Halverson, Bonny Erickson, Angie Claude, Donna Keiser, Arlene Wee, Judy Smith, Sharon Mortenson, Valerie Brendeland, Sue Ihle, Ralph Kalsem, Mark Richter, Dean Simmons, Charles Brendeland, Tanner Houseman, Rev. LeRoy Dobbe, Jimmy Young, Darrell Rout, John Maier, Elaine Pote, Travis Ellis, John Johnson, Mae Rivard, Doris Ness

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We praise you for the generations that have declared your power to us. Give us faithfulness to follow them, living for Christ, until you call us to join them in the joyful song around his throne.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL *God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

OFFERING

***Hymm of the Month:* Hallelujah We Sing Your Praises ELW 535**

Text: South African; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984; Music: South African; arr. Freedom Is Coming; Tr. and arr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona

Refrain - sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la, Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness, Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your

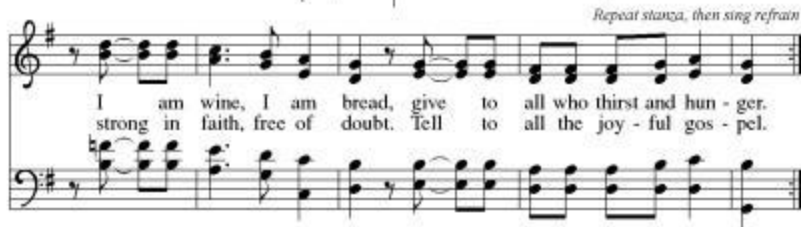


ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la.
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness. *End*



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

Text: South African; tr. *Freedom Is Coming*, 1984.
Music: HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA, South African; arr. *Freedom Is Coming*
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***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

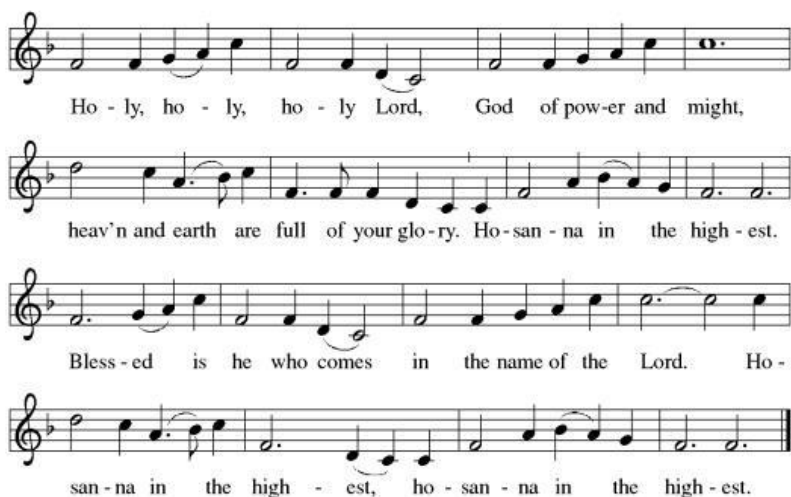
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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:



In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
 you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
 e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Holy Communion Distribution for Today

1. ***Congregation will remain seated and commune from their seats using the prepackaged wafers and cups.***
2. ***Ushers, Musicians and Technology ministers will commune with the congregation from their seats together with the Pastor.***
3. ***Pastor will do a children's blessing while children remain in the pews with the help of parents.***
4. ***Please dispose of empty communion cups in trash after service.***

***TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

***BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

ELW 537

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.; Music: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879. Public domain.

On Our Way Rejoicing



1 On our way re - joic - ing glad - ly let us go.
2 Un - to God the Fa - ther joy - ful songs we sing;



Christ our Lord has con - quered; van - quished is the foe.
un - to God the Sav - ior thank - ful hearts we bring;



Christ with - out, our safe - ty; Christ with - in, our joy;
un - to God the Spir - it bow we and a - dore,



who, if we be faith - ful, can our hope de - stroy?
on our way re - joic - ing now and ev - er - more.

Refrain



On our way re - joic - ing; as we for - ward move,



hear - ken to our prais - es, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: HERMAS, Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Ring of the Bell

Postlude

For streaming and printing:

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Those Serving in Today's Service

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Technicians: Brent Emerson, Austin Klimpel

This Week at Palestine

Today, September 20, 2020 *Lectionary 25 (16th Sunday after Pentecost)*

8:00 a.m. ZOOM Dawn Dialog

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER SERVICE

4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Work at Blackmer Farm

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

6:00 p.m. ZOOM Bible study

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

12:00 noon ZOOM Prayer time

6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Confirmation

Friday, September 25th – 27th Women's Retreat @ Riverside

Sunday, September 27, 2020 *Lectionary 25*

8:00 a.m. ZOOM Dawn Dialog

9:30 a.m. Worship (livestreamed)

Lectionary texts: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Psalm 25:1-9; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry

THANK YOU!!! We celebrate your generosity and thank you in advance for your support as we strive to reach our average weekly offering goal of \$4,427 for current expenses and \$68 for benevolence.

Prayer from Southeastern Iowa Synod:

Pray that our acts of generosity will be driven by our faith, without partiality, restraint, the promise of reward or recognition, or the expectation of earning God's favor.

Tithes & Offering

Palestine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:
Palestine Lutheran Church
1375 HWY 210
Huxley, IA 50124
3. **Give online through Easy Tithe.**

Go to our website www.plchuxley.com and click on the bright red ONLINE GIVING tab on the right located above our "Reaching out in Christian love to all" statement.
Thank you. Continue to pray and know God is with us.



Sunday, September 20th after worship service

The recent Derecho damage has prompted the Council to think long term with projects and updates that are needed within the church. The Council has formed a work group to discern the long- term projects and updates. The meeting will be held to inform the congregation of the updates and possible costs of these projects as well as a possible vote to approve expenses.

Please join us!

Gather at the Garden

September 20th

Help at the Blackmer farm along with a devotion and s'more time! Drop in to work in the garden between 4pm and 7pm. S'mores and worship at 6 p.m.

Wear work clothes, bring gloves and masks as needed. Tracy will provide water, work gloves, sunscreen. Directions to the Blackmer Farm can be found on the Iowa Gardening for Good Website:

<https://www.iowagardeningforgood.com/>



Monday, September 21, 2020

The Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace invites you to an interfaith prayer service for peace to mark International Peace Day on September 21. The theme of the service is “Shaping Peace Together”, featuring artist Ted Lyddon Hatten and harpist Kristin Maahs. It will be livestreamed at 6:30 p.m., on the Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace Facebook page. We continue to raise our prayers that war is not the answer and that the urgent work of peace-making is essential to the survival and well-being of humanity.

-Des Moines Faith Committee for Peace

Palestine Lutheran Church

Daily Prayer during Rebuilding and Recovery from the Derecho Storm and COVID-19 Community Response

Psalm 46 – *David is under attack, pursued by Saul, he takes refuge in the caves of the Negev. He is alone in this wilderness with his own people turned against him and fleeing death itself. And so, he prays to God in the midst of the darkness. This psalm (prayer) became the inspiration for Martin Luther's majestic hymn "A Mighty Fortress" which spearheaded the German protestant reformation and the great schisms of the 16th and 17th centuries. Now it becomes our prayer once more as we face new and imminent battles of social changes and disruption to life in schools and homes.*

(Please use as a daily devotional prayer and as a guide for prayer time along with the Lord's Prayer)

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²*Therefore we will not fear*, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; ³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; **God will help it when the morning dawns.** ⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. ⁷**The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰*"Be still, and know that I am God!"*

I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Gracious God, whose help comes when the morning dawns, we need you always and especially now, this morning, as we face storm damages and changes toward some new ways of living together including daily work/school/worship routines. Help us to be still and know that you are God. Help us to remember and experience daily your love and grace in order to share with others. Help us to rest in the promise that this too shall pass and once more we will celebrate in new ways and old. We thank you for our leaders, council members and those who step up to help in relief and recovery among us. Encourage and bless us with insights to give thank in all things and move us to help support your ministry of building and recovery here and throughout our community, so that Jesus might be glorified and witnessed in all that we say and do for you are with us as a stronghold, a refuge and author of hope in Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**



**Thanks to all those that helped at the Blackmer Farm
and/or helped tie quilts last Sunday!**



Welcome to Worship! We're glad you're here (physically or virtually), guests and members alike, and pray that you will find in our worship an opportunity to praise God and hear God's Word.

All baptized Christians who believe that Christ Jesus is truly present in the sacrament to forgive, strengthen and bless us, are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Leftovers (based on Matthew 20)

The last laborers to join the vineyard had spent their day being picked over. They were the hiring process leftovers. Like the last kids remaining in a gym class team selection, these laborers were for one reason or another deemed less valuable workers by the other landowners. Perhaps they were less physically capable than others. Maybe their strengths were not easily visible. Not being hired for work that day, they were standing around with no purpose or potential for growth.

But we have a generous landowner who does not overlook anyone. This landowner spends his entire day scouring the market for those who have been left behind and securing a place for them in his vineyard. He gives them value and meaning. Jesus will not rest until every lost and idle bystander has a place in the kingdom of heaven.

This radical generosity scandalizes the system that rewards people based on their merits and outputs. But Jesus rewards people of all abilities and work ethics equally. In God's commonwealth, the leftover workers have as much value as those chosen first.

Eunice Kennedy Shriver was keenly aware of how people with intellectual disabilities were defined by what they couldn't do. She wanted to provide opportunities for them to develop physical fitness, display courage, and find joy on the playing field. Her vision grew into the Special Olympics movement. This inclusive and expansive glimpse into the kingdom of heaven celebrates the athletic achievements of those who are often excluded from the vineyard.

In worship, we practice leaning into Jesus' vision as we gather around the table. Regardless of our status or position, we are all on equal footing at Christ's meal. We are given the same portions of bread. We drink from the same cup. It does not matter if we arrived late or early, young or old, grateful or ungrateful. Jesus has invited each of us here. We have not been overlooked. We have been given our work for this day.