

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2020



Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

C: **And also with you!**

A: Let us pray together,

C: **Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

Chorus

Let us go now to the banquet to the feast of the universe. The table's set and a place is waiting; come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.

Verse 1

I will rise in the early morning; the community's waiting for me. With a spring in my step I'm walking with my friends and my family.

Chorus

Let us go now to the banquet to the feast of the universe. The table's set and a place is waiting; come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.

Verse 2

God invites all the poor and hungry to the banquet of justice and good where the harvest will not be hoarded so that no one will lack for food.

Chorus

Let us go now to the banquet to the feast of the universe. The table's set and a place is waiting; come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.

Verse 3

May we build such a place among us where all people are equal in love. God has called us to work together and to share ev'rything we have.

Chorus

Let us go now to the banquet to the feast of the universe. The table's set and a place is waiting; come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. ⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Psalmody: Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go

therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe,¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless.¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

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 the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude

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.

Final Blessing

P: Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.

I Saw the Light

Verse 1

I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin. I wouldn't let my dear Savior in. Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night; Praise the Lord! I saw the light.

Chorus

I saw the light, I saw the light; no more in darkness, no more in night. Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight. Praise the Lord! I saw the light.

Verse 2

Just like a blind man I wandered along. Worries and fears I claimed for my own. Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight; Praise the Lord! I saw the light.

Chorus

I saw the light, I saw the light; no more in darkness, no more in night. Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight. Praise the Lord! I saw the light.

Verse 3

I was a fool to wander and stray. Straight is the gate and narrow the way. Now I have traded the wrong for the right; Praise the Lord! I saw the light.

Chorus

I saw the light, I saw the light; no more in darkness, no more in night. Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight. Praise the Lord! I saw the light. (*Sing twice*)



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880

www.bethlehemtc.org

October 11, 2020

"2.0" is here! We are excited to announce that a new experience is now here for our online worship, and we're calling it "2.0"! On **Wednesday Nights**, join Pastor Paul and others for an online **Holden Evening Prayer or Taize service**, as we begin melding some of our typical "Celebrate!" content, along with footage from outdoor communion and other gatherings into a new Wednesday experience. We may also look to YOU for help with readings if you are willing/able!

The OCTOBER issue of the STAR is ready! The STAR is no longer being subsidized by anonymous donors. We thank them for the generosity for 3 months and their hard work in preparing it for mailing. (There is even a rolling pin involved!!!) They are continuing to complete the lion's share of the work after it is printed, collated, and stapled, but now the cost of postage is being taken from the membership budget. If you read the STAR on line and have not told us, please make certain you contact the office or tell the Sunday greeter or hospitality team so we are not sending out copies needlessly. Printed STARs will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. Feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

The outdoor **"Shooting STAR Dispenser" at BLC is now full** with several paper publications, including the September STAR. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

Christ in Our Home Devotionals for Oct, Nov, Dec have arrived. They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

Your individual giving statements are now available in your mailbox in the Narthex. The statement covers giving from January through September 2020. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of October. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church even during these uncertain times. Your Bookkeeper

Altar flowers have returned to our worship services. If you would like to sign up for a particular weekend, you can call Sharon at 231-947-9880 or email her at admin@bethlehemtc.org – the cost is \$40 per week.

Today's altar flowers are donated by: *by the Congregation in thanks for all of God's blessings*

The daughter of one of our members, Kathi Ivany-Mort, is in need of a vehicle. She is a single parent of three children, two of which are special needs. She has limited funds but would be open to a fair price and/or payment plan if desired. If you have a vehicle that would seat five people and possibly AWD or 4WD, please contact Kathi on her cell at 231-313-1647 or Kathi's husband, Jef Mort, at their home phone 231-929-4911

"Help the Children School Supplies Project": During the changed times that the children in our schools have been enduring, Bethlehem would like to help. With the help of our member, Donna Novak, we have identified more than one school: Blair Elementary which is a school for at-risk students as is Traverse City High School. We are in the process of contacting a third school. Because students cannot share materials, EACH student will need their own school supplies, such pencils, markers, erasers, crayons and more. We will be collecting money to buy these much needed items. We have matching funds up to \$250 so we will have \$500 (or more) to help these young members of our community. For donations, please send a check made out to BLC and mark it "Good Samaritan Fund/School Supplies". The items will then be purchased from a list provided by the schools.

Art & Craft Show at Bethlehem - Due to the unpredictable status of Current COVID-19, the October 10, 2020 will not be taking place this year. With the show being an indoor event, it would be difficult to keep the 50 creative artist/crafters and the many eager shoppers the required distance. Our goal is to make the fundraiser enjoyable and safe for all who enter our church. Please join us in 2021!

Share your name please! It can be hard to think of someone's name when you do not see the entire face because of a mask and when someone is wearing glasses. Please retrieve your name tag from your mailbox. Even though we are mainly at a distance of 6 feet, it is still nice to hear you own name especially when you come forward for communion.

The BLC book club will be meeting by ZOOM on Thursday Oct 27 at 5:30. We will discuss *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes which is fiction based on the real women who rode horseback to deliver library books in a program developed by Eleanor Roosevelt. If you are not already on the list to receive the ZOOM link just send an email to Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net.

Keep "Hope Spreading": Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org or *Sharon* at admin@bethlehemtc.org if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

Pecans are ordered but are still available The Worship and Music committee, with the help of Thrivent, are still selling the popular Schermer pecans again this Fall. Instead of having a table set up inside the church, we will take orders for *Dark Chocolate Pecans, Caramel Cluster Pecans and Cinnamon Glazed Pecans*. The \$12 bags are perfect for holiday or hostess gifts or just plain munching. So far there are orders into the second case for all three flavors which means we will have some that will be available without pre-ordering. Please contact Barbara Oster (231-668-7038 or beo6475@yahoo.com) if you still want to order.

The Annual Chili Cook Off has been postponed to a later date. Please stay on the lookout for more updates, and we can't wait to see you and share some chili with you all when we can (likely in the spring!)

Online Fellowship Time on ZOOM continues and will start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 7:30pm on Wednesdays with a crossover to WBLC on Facebook around 7:45pm. We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.

"Zoom Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship. Pastor Paul and Annie co-lead this study. Our subject matter is now more of a book study using the Walt Wangerin book *Paul: A Novel*, on the famous apostle plus whatever life and ministry guides us as we meet...which gives us plenty of good stuff to talk about.