

Sunday, September 30, 2018  
19th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

*"When Morning Gilds the Skies"*

Robert Hobby

\*GATHERING SONG *"When Morning Gilds the Skies"* vs. 3 – women; vs. 4 - men ELW 853

☒ When morning gilds the skies,  
my heart awaking cries:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
When evening shadows fall,  
this rings my curfew call:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

☒ When mirth for music longs,  
this is my song of songs:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
God's holy house of prayer  
has none that can compare  
with "Jesus Christ be praised!"

☒ *No lovelier antiphon  
in all high heav'n is known  
than "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
There to the eternal Word  
the eternal psalm is heard:  
oh, Jesus Christ be praised!*

☒ *Let all of humankind  
in this their concord find:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
ring joyous with the sound:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!*

☒ Sing, sun and stars of space,  
sing, all who see his face,  
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
God's whole creation o'er,  
today and evermore  
shall Jesus Christ be praised!

\*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.**

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

*“Praise to You, O God of Mercy” v. 1*

**Praise to you, O God of mercy:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly:  
thanks be to you forever!**

**Strong is your faithfulness,  
strong is your love,  
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.**

**Praise to you, O God of mercy:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Raising high the weak and lowly:  
thanks be to you forever!  
Thanks be to you forever!**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** *Generous God,*

**G** **your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

**FIRST READING**

**Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29**

*What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?*

<sup>4</sup>The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, “If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup>We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; <sup>6</sup>but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.”

<sup>10</sup>Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the LORD became very angry, and Moses was displeased. <sup>11</sup>So Moses said to the LORD, “Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? <sup>12</sup>Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, ‘Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors’? <sup>13</sup>Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, ‘Give us meat to eat!’ <sup>14</sup>I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. <sup>15</sup>If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery.”

<sup>16</sup>So the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you.”

<sup>24</sup>So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD; and he gathered seventy

elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. <sup>25</sup>Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

<sup>26</sup>Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. <sup>27</sup>And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” <sup>28</sup>And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” <sup>29</sup>But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, and that the LORD would put his spirit on them!”

### **Reflection**

*Why were the Israelites complaining? (verses 4-6) This reminds me of the complaining of small children. “I don’t like this!” they will pout. “I want a cookie!” What was the Lord’s response to this? (verse 10) How did Moses react? (verses 10-15) What is Moses’s complaint? (verse 12) It’s not surprising that Moses feels like a nurse to the people to whom God is mother. What do you think? What is Moses’s solution to this problem? (verse 15) Not surprisingly, God has a better solution. What is it? (verses 16, 24-25) This is another version of the story in Exodus 18:13-23, where Moses takes his father-in-law’s advice about how to share the responsibility by empowering others. In this text, how were the others given power to help Moses? (verse 25) Not all the elders were in the same place when God empowered them to help Moses. What happened with Eldad and Medad? (verse 26) What was Joshua’s reaction to the story of Eldad and Medad? (verse 28) What did Moses say? (verse 29) Have you ever experienced something like this? I remember when I was a new pastor, I had a Missouri Synod colleague who assumed that because I was a woman I could not be a pastor. I’ll never forget that, but I also was not bound by his assumptions, and I grew into being a good pastor and chaplain. Sometimes we expect some people to be able to speak for God, and others, because of who they are—their age, their gender, their culture—could not possibly be God’s voice. God often surprises us!*

### **Psalm 19:7-14**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to | the simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | jice the heart;**  
**the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,**  
**sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is | great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one’s | own offenses?**  
**Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion | over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your**

sight,

**O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer.**

**Reflection**

*How does the psalmist describe God's word? (verses 7-10) What is the effect of God's word on the psalmist? (verse 11) Perhaps the psalmist has experienced the assumption that someone (herself or someone else) could not speak God's word. What is the psalmist's prayer, in this situation? (verses 12-13) I have heard verse 14 spoken by preachers as they are getting ready to preach. How is this a helpful prayer for you, even if you are not a preacher?*

**SECOND READING**

**James 5:13-20**

*Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.*

<sup>13</sup>Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup>Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup>Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

**Reflection**

*This text assumes that not everyone in the congregation is in the same physical, spiritual, emotional place. What should you do if you are suffering? (verse 13—note the type of suffering is not specified.) What if you are cheerful? What if you are sick? (verse 14) Why is this good direction? (verse 15) What if you have sinned? (verse 16) Have you ever confessed your sin to someone? What was the result? What is the responsibility of one who hears another's confession? We might be tempted to instruct someone else about how to avoid sin in the first place—but that is not one of the directions in this text. Elijah is an interesting example of powerful and effective prayer. (verses 17-18) We've recently read in our first readings the story of Elijah's prayer. If you need to review it, read 1 Kings 17-18. What is our responsibility when we see someone else "wander[ing] from the truth"? (verses 19-20) That's not easy to do! Have you ever had someone re-direct your spiritual practice? If you have, thanks be to God!*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

***"With a Voice of Singing"***

**With a voice of singing  
declare ye this,  
and let it be heard,  
Alleluia.**

**\*GOSPEL**

**Mark 9:38-50**

*On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.*

<sup>38</sup>John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me.

<sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup>“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

**Reflection**

*This text is a reminder of the story of Eldad and Medad in our first reading. What was John’s concern? (verse 38) What was Jesus’ response? (verse 39) Why is it true that “whoever is not against us is for us”? How do we treat those who speak a different “language” than Lutheran? What is important about how people say and do the gospel? On the other hand, there are things that are not deeds of power, but become stumbling blocks. Who are “the little ones who believe in [Jesus]”? Have you ever experienced such a stumbling block, or put up a stumbling block for someone else? One obvious stumbling block that comes to my mind, which is constantly in the news, it seems, is the sexual abuse of children (or anyone of “these little ones”) by someone in authority, especially someone in the church. Although we don’t like to think about this, much less talk about it, we need to be aware that it happens, and take it seriously. As the pastor of a church in which this happened, I can testify that the first instinct of most of us is to deny that anything like that could happen or be serious. Of course, most people do not sexually abuse someone else, and there are certainly other stumbling blocks as well. Our prayer is always that we do nothing to cause someone else to stumble, and also that we don’t stumble ourselves! What do you think?*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Eugene Lickenbrock

**SERMON**

**Love Your City: Change the World**  
***Living Inside Out***

Rev. Roger Lenander

**SONG OF THE DAY**

***“All Are Welcome”***

***Chorus***

**All are welcome friend and stranger**

**At the banquet of the Savior  
All are welcome all are welcome here (*repeat*)**

**From the woman who comes crying  
Leaving tears at Jesus' feet  
To the man who knows the right way  
But cannot see  
All are welcome friend and stranger  
At the banquet of the Savior  
All are welcome all are welcome here**

**From the ones who feel forgotten  
Those who sense their place is gone  
To the ones who live in hunger  
Here you belong  
All are welcome friend and stranger  
At the banquet of the Savior  
All are welcome all are welcome here**

**Go into the streets and cities  
To the farms and families  
Tell about the splendid table  
God's mercy  
All are welcome friend and stranger  
At the banquet of the Savior  
All are welcome all are welcome here**

**All are welcome friend and stranger  
At the banquet of the Savior  
All are welcome all are welcome here (*repeat*)**

**\*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!

**\*PRAYER SONG**

*“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”*

**ELW 752**

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you gather together people of faith in every time and every place to be the risen body of Christ in the world. Enliven the church to nourish its members, to love the earth, and to serve its neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Creative God, you weave together the fabric of the universe. Forests and fields bear the banner of your abundance. Give us wisdom and discernment to be good stewards of our resources. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, you bless people with intelligence and compassion. Inspire citizens to raise up good leaders who seek peace and reconciliation among nations and who long to repair the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, you house the homeless, free the captive, and heal the sick. Make our hands your hands in service to strangers and friends. We pray especially for *Jim, Larry, “Doc”, Irene, David, Lisa and her baby Lara, Dorothy, Kay*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Welcoming God, you have given us to each other in this congregation. Make us glad to receive those you send to us and ready to receive their unique gifts and perspectives. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In every time and place you raise up witnesses who testify to your love and tender mercy. We remember with thanksgiving all who made your word known in the world. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.  
**Amen!**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

- P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*
- C** **And also with you!**

**OFFERTORY**

***“Make Me a Servant”***

**Make me a servant  
humble and meek  
Lord let me lift up  
those who are weak  
And may the prayer of my heart  
always be  
Make me a servant  
make me a servant  
Make me a servant today**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *(on the repeat)*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

- P** *God of life,*
- C** **you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen!**

**\*DIALOGUE**

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** *Lift up your hearts.*
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PREFACE**

- P** *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:*

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, holy,  
holy Lord, God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes,  
who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *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**

**P** *Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**C** **Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,**

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen!

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P** *Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.*

**\*BLESSING**

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

**G** **Amen!**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** *Holy and compassionate God,*

**G** **in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P** *God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;  
Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;  
Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.*

**G** **Amen!**

**\*SENDING SONG**

***“Heaven Is In My Heart”***

***Chorus***

**O heaven is in my heart**

**O heaven is in my heart**

**The kingdom of our God is here**

**Heaven is in my heart**

**The presence of His majesty**

**Heaven is in my heart**

**And in His presence joy abounds**

**Heaven is in my heart**

**The light of holiness surrounds**

**Heaven is in my heart *Chorus***

**His precious life on me He spent**

**Heaven is in my heart**

**To give me life without an end**

**Heaven is in my heart**

**In Christ is all my confidence  
Heaven is in my heart  
The hope of my inheritance  
Heaven is in my heart *Chorus***

**We are a temple for His throne  
Heaven is in my heart  
And Christ is the foundation stone  
Heaven is in my heart  
He will return to take us home  
Heaven is in my heart  
The Spirit and the Bride say come  
Heaven is in my heart *Chorus***