NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 3-4, A.D. 2026
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, WEST POINT, NEBRASKA

AS WE GATHER

"God loves you." It is not like we have never heard that before. We may even have taken that fact for granted, thinking, "Well, of course He does! That's His thing! 1 John 4:8 says that God *is* love." Nevertheless, as our lives and circumstances unfold, through the uncertainties of sin and doubt and failure, many have come up short and been forced to wonder, "How can God love me now?" Love, after all, is always in direct proportion to our worthiness of it, to how lovable we are, right?

The highest love of God, agape, can commonly be defined as the love of intelligence and corresponding purpose. This definition may seem at first to drain the whole idea of the depth of emotion or the value of love. But we discover the power of God's love even more as we are convinced of the greatness of our need—our own sin and unworthiness. That's when the cross of Calvary and the sacrifice of Christ crucified shines forth as the highest, greatest, and almost unbelievable love of God for you—even you. God has loved you with an everlasting love - in Christ Jesus our Lord!

HYMN "Christ Is Our Cornerstone" LSB 912

1 Christ is our cornerstone,
On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone
The courts of heav'n are filled.
On His great love
Our hopes we place
Of present grace
And joys above.

2 Here may we gain from heav'n
The grace which we implore,
And may that grace, once giv'n,
Be with us evermore
Until that day
When all the blest
To endless rest
Are called away.

3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing
And thus proclaim
In joyful song,
Both loud and long,
That glorious name.

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Text and music: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 43:4; 124:8; John 3:16*

P I will go to the altar of God,
C **to God my exceeding joy.**

P Our help is in the name of the LORD,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,
C **that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *2 Corinthians 5:14–15, adapted from KJV*

P Beloved, "the love of Christ compels us," because "He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but unto Him who died for them, and rose again." For the sake of the miraculous love of God, let us draw near to Him with a true heart and confess our sins and our need for God's love.

C **Lord God, heavenly Father, we confess to You that we have sinned against You through our fears and failure to live according to Your will and design. Because our love for You has faltered, so also have we not loved those whom You would have us call our neighbor. So certain are we of our sin that we have even wondered at times how You could still love us. Because of Your merciful invitation alone, we come before You, begging Your forgiveness solely and alone for the sake of the sacrifice of Your Son. O Lord, have mercy on us.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

INTROIT (Entrance Psalm) for Pentecost 19 *Psalm 118:22–24; antiphon: v. 1*

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
C **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

P The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
C **This is the LORD'S doing;**
it is marvelous in our eyes.

P This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
C **for His steadfast love endures forever!**

Text: ESV®

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KYRIE *LSB 152*

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Loving Lord God, reveal to us the depth of Your love that we learn greater love for You in return and that we grow in love toward our neighbors and one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 5:1–7*

I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it." The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of his delight. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *Philippians 3:4b–14*

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I

do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 21:33–46*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: " 'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone ; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes' ? "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet. (NIV)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED *Nicene Creed*

C **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN "All For Christ I Have Forsaken" LSB 753 *(sung to tune of LSB 427, In the Cross of Christ I Glory)*

1 All for Christ I have forsaken
And have taken up my cross;
Worldly joy, its fame and fortune,
Now I count as worthless dross.

2 Who is sweeter than Christ Jesus?
No good thing in Him I lack!
Hand to plow, at peace I follow
Where He leads me . . . why look back?

3 Gone the past, unknown the future—
Grace supplies my daily breath;
Strong in Christ through death's dark valley,
Firm and faithful unto death.

4 When God takes me home to heaven,
Should this be the day I die,
God will keep my spouse and children
As the apple of His eye.

5 Though the road ahead be thorny,
Though dark clouds all light obscure,
Though my cross-shaped path grows steeper,
With the Lord, I am secure.

Text: Calvin Chao, 1906–96; tr. Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835
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Tune: Public domain

Sermon *"It's Time for a Change of Heart & Mind - Loss for Gain - for Christ's Sake"* Text: Philippians 3:4b-14

TITHES & OFFERINGS

HYMN "Beautiful Savior" LSB 537

1 Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,

Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

2 Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.

3 Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

4 Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Tune: Silesian, 19th cent.; setting: Service Book and Hymnal, 1958
Text and music: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord God, heavenly Father, Your apostle John wrote, "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are" (1 John 3:1). As Your children, then, we come before You crying, "Abba! Father!" For the mystery of Your gift of our lives, Your good creation, and Your holy will of love and salvation, we praise You without end. Help us to live in Your love and praise, giving thanks every day for Your provision of life and salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P By Your goodness, O Lord, keep and preserve Your holy church in the true faith, proclaiming the pure, heavenly doctrine of Your Word and being constantly strengthened in Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P By Your Spirit, we pray You to guide all who are in the authority of government in our land and in all the nations of the earth, that we dwell in peace and rely on Your provision of justice and freedom for all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized and for any who are in trouble, doubt, or fear of death. Grant Your healing gifts and merciful presence to save and deliver all who look to You for help in every need. *[We pray especially for…]* Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Receive, O God, our bodies and souls and all our talents, together with the offerings we bring, as You have purchased us by the blood of Your Son to be Your own, that we may live under Him in His kingdom. Help us live by true faith to prepare for the world to come, doing the work You have given us to do while it is day. And when our last hour comes, support us by Your power and receive us into Your heavenly kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P *Other thanksgivings and prayers may be included here…* Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **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.

SACRAMENT of the ALTAR

PREFACE

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 Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS *LSB 161*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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 and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✢ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My ✢ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI *LSB 163*

C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

HYMN "Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus" LSB 685

1 Let us ever walk with Jesus,
Follow His example pure,
Through a world that would deceive us
And to sin our spirits lure.
Onward in His footsteps treading,
Pilgrims here, our home above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, with me abide;
I shall follow where You guide.

2 Let us suffer here with Jesus
And with patience bear our cross.
Joy will follow all our sadness;
Where He is, there is no loss.
Though today we sow no laughter,
We shall reap celestial joy;
All discomforts that annoy
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.
Jesus, here I share Your woe;
Help me there Your joy to know.

3 Let us gladly die with Jesus.
Since by death He conquered death,
He will free us from destruction,
Give to us immortal breath.
Let us mortify all passion
That would lead us into sin;
And the grave that shuts us in
Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here with You I die,
There to live with You on high.

4 Let us also live with Jesus.
He has risen from the dead
That to life we may awaken.
Jesus, You are now our head.
We are Your own living members;
Where You live, there we shall be
In Your presence constantly,
Living there with You forever.
Jesus, let me faithful be,
Life eternal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
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HYMN "What Is the World To Me" 730

1 What is the world to me
With all its vaunted pleasure
When You, and You alone,
Lord Jesus, are my treasure!
You only, dearest Lord,
My soul's delight shall be;
You are my peace, my rest.
What is the world to me!

2 The world seeks to be praised
And honored by the mighty
Yet never once reflects
That they are frail and flighty.
But what I truly prize
Above all things is He,
My Jesus, He alone.
What is the world to me!

3 The world seeks after wealth
And all that mammon offers
Yet never is content
Though gold should fill its coffers.
I have a higher good,
Content with it I'll be:

My Jesus is my wealth.
What is the world to me!

4 What is the world to me!
My Jesus is my treasure,
My life, my health, my wealth,
My friend, my love, my pleasure,
My joy, my crown, my all,
My bliss eternally.
Once more, then, I declare:
What is the world to me!

Text: Georg Michael Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629-1701; setting: Lutheran Service Book, 2006
Text and music: Public domain

HYMN "Soul, Adorn Yourself With Gladness" LSB 636

1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight's splendor,
There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him,
And with loving rev'rence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal
He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him,
Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,
That I nevermore will leave You.

3 He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven,
And His blood, for you once given.

4 Now in faith I humbly ponder
Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless
Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
Pledge and seal of my salvation!

5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding,
Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You;
Love incarnate, I adore You;
Worthily let me receive You
And, so favored, never leave You.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring,
Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker,
Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessèd food from heaven,
For our good, Your glory, given.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish
And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness
And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living,
Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77; (sts. 1, 4–5): tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978; (sts. 2–3, 6–8): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✢ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

HYMN "Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing" LSB 924

1 Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us; O refresh us,
Trav'ling through this wilderness.

2 Thanks we give and adoration
For Your Gospel's joyful sound.
May the fruits of Your salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful
To Your truth may we be found.

3 Savior, when Your love shall call us
From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not fear of death appall us,
Glad Your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with You in endless day.

Text (sts. 1–2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941
Text and music: Public domain

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