

# Dennison & Vang Lutheran Parish

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 3, 2021



# GATHERING

## Welcome

### Call To Worship

Come, worship the God of all Creation.

**We gather to praise the Creator, the continuous source of all living things.**

Come, worship our God who breathes life into being.

**We praise the Creator who fashions the forests, whose trees clean the air of this world.**

Come, worship our God who forms life out of soil.

**We praise the Creator whose land brings nourishment.**

Come, worship our God who receives our lament in the wilderness.

**We praise the Creator whose Son brings healing to all Creation.**

Come, worship our God who sends waters flowing with life.

**We praise the Creator whose baptism unites us to be one in the body of Christ with all Creation.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who so loves the world and all who live in it. **Amen.**

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

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Reconciling God,

**We confess that we are captive to sin and can not 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.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for all the ways we have been poor stewards of the world you've entrusted to us.**

**Forgive us, loving God.**

**Remind us of the covenant you made with the whole Earth. Nourish us so we can restore your awe-inspiring Creation**

**and be instruments of your peace. Amen.**

Christ, the one who was buried into the heart of the Earth and then raised up to new life, forgives you all your sin. Freed from your burdens, be led by the Spirit to do God's healing work in the world. **Amen.**

### Gathering Song

## 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.**

## Hymn of Praise

### Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

**Holy Spirit, you move through creation with sighs too deep for words. Open our hearts to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Speak through your church to rebuke the forces that seek to exploit your planet. Join our prayers with the voices of all creation and move us to honor you by preserving and celebrating the gifts of nature, which reveal your glory. Amen.**

## WORD

### Scripture Reading: Genesis 2: 18-20

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that Adam should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them; and whatever he called every living creature, that was its name. Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Blessing of the Animals

#### PSALM: Psalm 8

<sup>1</sup>O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!—

<sup>2</sup>**you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children;**

**you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

<sup>3</sup>When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

<sup>4</sup>**what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them,**

**human beings that you should care for them?**

<sup>5</sup>Yet you have made them little less than divine;

with glory and honor you crown them.

**⁂You have made them rule over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet:**

⁂all flocks and cattle,

even the wild beasts of the field,

**⁂the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

⁂O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in <sup>⁂</sup> all the earth!

### **Gospel Acclamation – 172 - “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”**

*Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah*

*Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah*

*Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark...

**Glory to you, O Lord**

### **Holy Gospel: Mark 10: 13-16**

People were bringing little children to Jesus in order that he might bless them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was angry and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

### **Sermon**

### **Song of the Day**

### **Prayers of the People**

Lord in your mercy...

**Hear our prayer.**

### **Passing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## MEAL

### Offering

### Offering Prayer

### Offertory – “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free spirit.*

### The Great Thanksgiving – pg. 144

### Eucharistic Prayer

### Lord’s Prayer – pg. 145

### Distribution of Communion

*(All are welcome at the Lord’s table.)*

### Prayer after Communion

## SENDING

### Blessing

### Sending Song

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## ***Announcements***

**Special Prayers for:** Liala Hedstrom, Danny Brockton, Bob Mitchell, Nick Iverson, Lowell Anderson, Marianne King, Tim Larson, Eric Wittlief, Doug Norvold and all of our homebound people, service members and their families, and for all those in need of healing and strength.

### **Jesus Unforsaken: The Cross and the Unrelenting Love of God**

Why did Jesus die on a cross? What does the cross reveal about God, the world, and ourselves? What does the cross mean, and what does it mean for daily life?

Questions like these are vital to our walk with Jesus. You are invited to come explore these questions, as we explore together a Christ-centered view of the cross that sets us free, heals us, and unveils God's unrelenting love.

All are welcome. We will be meeting in person and on zoom.

*Dates (all times at 7:00 PM)*

Tuesday, Oct. 12

Tuesday, Oct. 19

Monday, Oct 25

Monday, Nov. 1

## ***GOSPEL MESSAGE***

### **What to Leave Behind**

If you were stranded on a desert island, what five items would you want to have with you? Or if you only had a minute to grab one possession before leaving the rest behind, what would you take? These kinds of thought experiments invite us to clarify what's most important to us while reminding us that, frankly, we have a lot of things we could probably do without.

In today's gospel, Jesus challenges us to take a similar look at ourselves. What parts of ourselves do we need to leave behind as we follow Christ? Maybe it's our perfectionism or our need for control. Maybe it's our desire to escape through addictions or distractions. Maybe it's our harsh judgments about ourselves or others or a broken image of ourselves. Whatever our stumbling block is, Jesus calls us to leave it behind.

Yet, the gruesomeness of Jesus' images—leaving behind body parts—suggests he understands that this isn't easy work. Often our most harmful patterns and behaviors are the hardest to leave behind, because in some way we brought them into our lives to protect us from what scared us the most about ourselves and the world around us. Jesus stands with us to give us courage to look at ourselves fully as we are. He looks at us not with judgment but with love and grace. He invites us to find in him a new source of comfort and security, to let go of our old selves and cling to him and to his cross.

When we take up this cross, Jesus will provide everything else that we need for the journey as his followers—strength and courage, endurance and patience, hope and love. Today in this Christian assembly, we walk through this journey together, encouraging one another with words of peace and feeding one another with Christ's own body and blood given for us.