

Dennison & Vang Lutheran Parish

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 24, 2021



GATHERING

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed by the Holy Trinity, One God, whose teaching is life, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

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

God of grace,

Like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance, and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.

As high as the heaven's are above the earth,
so vast is God's love for you.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

In the name of Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Leave your shame and guilt behind, and step into the new life Christ has for you.

Gathering Song – 722 – “O Christ, Your Heart Compassionate”

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.

Kyrie – pg. 147

Hymn of Praise – pg. 147 - “Glory to God in the highest”

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray...

WORD

Children's Message

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-9

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁷Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 126

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

**⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

**⁶Those who go out weeping, carry-ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from Hebrews.

²³The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; ²⁴but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. ²⁵Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. ²⁸For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah

Hallelujah! Halleujah!

GOSPEL: Mark 10:46-52

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴⁶As [Jesus] and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” ⁵⁰So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵¹Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” ⁵²Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of the Day – “Jesus, Have Mercy!” *(To the tune of “Morning Has Broken,” lyrics by Carolyn Gillette)*

"Jesus, have mercy! Help! Son of David!"

So Bartimaeus called to the Lord.

Filled with great faith, he knew as he waited:

Christ was his hope for vision restored.

Jesus, have mercy! May we see clearly

You gave a gift we cannot repay.

You had it all, but loving us dearly,

Even your life, Lord, you gave away.

Jesus, have mercy when we're uncertain,

Hiding our talents high on our shelves.

As we've been blessed, may we be an offering —

Healing your world by giving ourselves.

Jesus, have mercy! Give us new vision;
Show us new ways to build up your church.
We are your people, called into mission!
Help us to bring your hope to the earth.

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.

Offering

Offering Prayer

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Song – 881 – “Let All Things Now Living”

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, Dan Braithwaite, 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

The adult ed study of Jesus Unforsaken that was supposed to start October 12th is postponed until a later date. Thank you for understanding and we will update you when it will start again.

St. Olaf Band

The band is made up of 89 undergraduate students who represent a diverse set of majors and backgrounds. The band is conducted by Dr. Timothy Mahr, an award-winning composer and educator. They perform a variety of the finest works for wind band and were recently awarded the 2021 American Prize for their 2020

tour program "Imagining Peace," which was the band's last performance for live audiences before music on campus - and around the world - stopped.

The St. Olaf Band is performing in Kenyon at Kenyon-Wanamingo High School on October 22 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are always free for students and \$10 for adults. Tickets may be purchased

here: <https://wp.stolaf.edu/tickets/band/>

Kenyon Area Internship Service Opportunity

For over forty years, the Kenyon Area Internship Committee has been helping to shape leaders for the church. This is a truly impactful ministry. There is currently an opportunity for someone from Vang to serve on the KAIC. KAIC meets on the last Tuesday of the month at First Lutheran in Kenyon. If you would like more information, please contact Steve Schmidt or Pastor Paul

WELCA

A big thank you for a successful Lutefisk dinner. Are total number served 764 with curbside, delivery and worker meals.

All about Thankofferings

A resource from Women of the ELCA

history

Beginning in the late 19th century, Lutheran women were given small Thankoffering boxes to place in a special location in their homes as a visible reminder of blessings received. Women would add coins to those boxes almost daily as particular blessings were noted. From their use came the idea of an annual church service to celebrate their collection, and so the women of the congregation would come together for a Thankoffering service. The concept of Thankoffering celebrations dates back more than 100 years and beyond Lutherans. The Episcopal Church Women held their first recorded Thankoffering service in 1889, and the World Thank Offering service of the United Methodist Women has been a tradition for over 100 years. In the Lutheran tradition, the General Synod's Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society created their first Thankoffering service in 1889 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the organization. At that first Thankoffering, \$6,100 was collected. Today, Women of the ELCA collects more than \$1 million in Thankofferings annually for the ministries and mission of our women's organization.

Thankofferings: continuing the tradition

Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Thankofferings have always been, and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments.

Please consider giving this month, in December we will be making our mission donations and our offering to the synod WELCA. Please send to Kari Flom or leave in the offering plate.

Thank you, Vang WELCA

GOSPEL MESSAGE

Hope Cannot Be Silenced

Have you ever had to take a break from the news or shut the TV off because the story was just too much to take in? All the reminders of pain, injustice, and misfortune in the world around us can be overwhelming at times. Sometimes the problems feel so insurmountable that we become frustrated, even angry at the constant reminders of our powerlessness. At our worst, we may block out not only the problems but our compassion for the people who are suffering and crying out for help.

In today's gospel, a man who suffers cries out again and again for mercy as Jesus passes by. Yet his cries are too much for others gathered around, who are annoyed by the man and want him to be quiet. In his cries they hear only hopelessness, pain, and misfortune with no remedy; they hear their own powerlessness. But Jesus hears something different: rather than the problem, pain, misfortune, and human weakness, he hears a person in need, hope, and divine strength. Jesus hears the man's faith that his cries will not be in vain, and his trust in God's mercy and power. When Jesus hears the suffering one crying out in hope, it is the beginning of healing.

In Christian assembly, we gather to lift up our own cries and to hear those of others. The peace that comes when the body of Christ gathers is not achieved by shutting out the sounds of a world in pain, but through the hope that wherever they ring forth, God is already present and listening and ready to heal. As you listen in your own life and among those gathered today, what do you hear? And how is God calling you to respond?