

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Psalm 19" Marcello, arr. Behnke

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Pastor Rob*)

CALL TO WORSHIP "Oh, Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord" *Psalm 95/John Tirro*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (*Pastor Rob*)

L: Merciful God, it isn't easy for us to follow the commandments of loving.

C: Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors. But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, turning them away from those who need our love.

L: We place a test before you, asking that you prove your love to us, or we threaten not to believe in you.

C: Please forgive us for this foolishness and stubbornness. Give us the courage to be people who will care for others. Let us dedicate our lives in your service, always aware of your awesome love for us. This we ask in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

L: Though our hearts were hardened to the needs of others, God has touched them with compassionate care, healing our wounds and giving courage and strength to our souls. Rejoice, and be assured that God's love is poured out for you! AMEN.

SONG OF PRAISE "The First and the Last" *Joel Houghton & Reuben Morgan/
Dan Galbraith*

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*Assistant*)

L: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING (*Bette Gamboni*)

2 Thessalonians 3:7-14

For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right. Take note of those who do not obey what we say in this letter; have nothing to do with them, so that they may be ashamed.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #173

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:24-27

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

SONG OF THE DAY

“Lord of Light”

ELW #688

THE APOSTLES’ CREED (*Assistant*)

C: 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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*Assistant*)

L: Called together as brothers and sisters in Christ, let us pray for the church, our community, and our world...

L: God of grace,
C: **Hear our prayer.**

L: All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.
C: **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Assistant*)

C: 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.

SENDING

INSTALLATION OF VICAR STEPHANIE LUEDTKE

Leader: Let us pray:

O God, through the Holy Spirit you illumine the minds and sanctify the lives of those who are called to be pastors and teachers. Look with favor upon the seminaries of the ELCA and upon all seminaries as they seek to instruct those preparing to serve in the ministry of your Church. Bless your people in this congregation who by word and example aid your servant, Stephanie Luedtke, in learning to do the ministry for which she is being prepared. As we diligently work together, grant that our lives may be enriched and our ministries fulfilled with joy, to the glory of your holy name. Amen. The Apostle Paul writes, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone." (I Cor. 12:4-6 NSV) In the coming year, the intern will work with the supervising pastor and this congregation to be formed as a pastor and to develop skills for pastoral ministry.

Leader: I ask you, Stephanie, are you willing to assume your partnership in ministry here, and will you seek to engage in that ministry to God’s glory? If so, answer, "I am ready, and I ask God to guide and help me."

Intern: I am ready, and I ask God to guide and help me.

Leader:

In the coming year, the members of this congregation and the supervising pastor, are asked to accept this intern as a partner in ministry: welcoming her into their homes, sharing in her learning and growth and encouraging, supporting and praying for her. Now I ask you, will you receive as a partner in ministry and uphold and support her in every way? If so, answer, "Yes, by God’s help."

All: Yes, by God's help.

Leader: Almighty God, by whose call we are at work, bless us in our labors together.

Let us pray. God, we ask you to bless this congregation, and to sustain all who labor in it: make us faithful to your word; empower us to show one another and all creation your justice and love; and bring all at last to your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

BENEDICTION

L: Go out into the world in peace; Love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind; and love your neighbor as yourself. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

“My Savior Lives”

*Jon Egan & Glenn Packiam/
Dan Galbraith*

DISMISSAL (*Assistant*)

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE