

Southwest California Synod Digital Worship
18th Sunday after Pentecost, October 4, 2020

Gathering Song - What We Need is Here

Welcome – Pastor Brenda Bos

Poem of the Squirrel

“I once spoke to my friend, an old squirrel, about the Sacraments –
he got so excited

and ran into a hollow in his tree and came
back holding some acorns, an owl feather,
and a ribbon he had found.
And I just smiled and said, “Yes, dear,
you understand:

everything imparts
His grace.”

St. Francis of Assisi

Song: “He/Christ Came Down” – Paul Vasile

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the
inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful
guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Children’s Chat – LRCC

Gospel Acclamation: “Alleluia”

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

[Jesus said to the people:] ³³“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

This is the gospel of Lord,
Praise to you o Christ.

Let us pray: Holy God, help us to welcome you. Help us to see you in people who do not look like us, who do not act like us, who may even annoy us. In Jesus name, Amen.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – “Lay Me Low”

Prayers of God’s People

With the whole church, let us pray for the world, the church, and all those in need. I will say "Hear us O God, and your response is "Your Mercy is Great."

Here in your nature, in your beauty, in your abundance, we praise you, O God, for all you have given us. We pray your mercy upon trees and flowers, upon streams and rivers, upon our ocean and our mountains. We pray especially for those affected by wildfires: animals, plants and insects and people. We pray that you will keep them safe. Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

We pray today for President Trump and his wife Melania and all those infected with COVID-19. We pray for healing and hope. We pray also for a vaccine. Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

We also pray for Joe Biden and his family and for all those who are seeking office in this land. We pray that our election process will go through appropriately, safely and that we can feel confident that the voting process has gone well and legally. We ask that all who are able will be able to vote, so that their voices may be heard, and that chaos will not come to be. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

We pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and for all organizations of faith, that they will trust in you, that your Spirit will prevail over all of us, all who seek your face. We pray for our presiding bishop Elizabeth, we pray for our interim bishop Murray and we pray for the bishop that you will send to us next year. We ask for wisdom and courage and resiliency. Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

For what else do the people of God pray? *Pause for your prayers, said aloud or in your heart.* Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

WE pray for all of us who are getting lonely and angry and sad and tired. We pray that you will bring your hand upon our souls and our bodies and our minds and our children who are in school at home and our frontline workers who must put themselves in harms' way. We pray for families for whom this much time together is straining them desperately and we pray for families that this time much apart is almost more than they can bear. Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

We pray for the families in Thousand Oaks who have tragically lost the two boys in the traffic accident this week. We pray for the community of Ascension Lutheran in Thousand Oaks and all those who know that family. We pray that You will be enough as they make sense of it. We pray for those who were shot and killed this week by gun violence, we pray for those who died this week because of poverty or because of poor medical care. WE pray O God, that you will bring healing, but more than that, we pray that you will bring us an understanding that we have the resources to make a difference. Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, the hands that made all around us, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, our brother, our friend and our savior. **Amen.**

Sending Song – “Open My Heart”