

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 29, 2024

Greetings and Welcome

The Story – “The Lamb”

GATHERING

**Call to Worship*

P: The Spirit of God passed over, and it was terrible and wondrous. The Spirit of God came, and saved God’s chosen people. The Spirit of God calls us here to worship – Father, Son, and Spirit.

C: We come. We worship.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Today we remember God’s presence in the Passover of Exodus, when death passed over the Israelites and Pharaoh let them go free.

C: We remember God’s presence in bread and wine, Christ’s body and blood, broken and shed for us.

P: We remember God’s presence as we confess our sins, asking that death would pass over us and the gift of God’s grace in our eucharistic meal would re-member us into the body of Christ.

C: O God of might and mercy, pass over our faults, and help us to pass over the faults of others. Pass over our failings, and help us to pass over the failings of many. Set us free from guilt and shame, that all your children would be re-membered, one to another, by your life-giving grace.

Silence for confession

P: Dear Family in Christ, through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, God has passed over your sin, and you are forgiven. As God’s beloved children, you have been re-membered into the body of Christ. May you remember God and God’s promises for you. Amen.

**Gathering Song – “Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling” ELW 631 (organ)*

- 1 **Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.**
- 2 **Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**
- 3 **Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**
- 4 **Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!**

**Prayer of the Day*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray...

C: Lord God of grace and liberty, on the night of the Passover the sacrificed lamb became a sign of freedom, and you freed the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. In Jesus, you sacrificed your son as a gift, thereby freeing all humanity from sin and death. Help us live into this new life, teaching us to serve you in faithfulness as you have served us. To you we offer our gratefulness in the name of the one who turned slavery into new life, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Sharing Christ’s Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

WORD

Reading: Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8

Reader: Marilyn Dichsen

¹The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: ²This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. ³Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. ⁴If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. ⁵Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. ⁷They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. ¹⁰You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. ¹¹This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. ¹²For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgements: I am the Lord. ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

¹³The Lord said to Moses: ²Consecrate to me all the firstborn; whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites, of human beings and animals, is mine.

³Moses said to the people, 'Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the Lord brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten. ⁴Today, in the month of Abib, you are going out. ⁵When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, which he swore to your ancestors to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, you shall keep this observance in this month. ⁶For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festival to the Lord. ⁷Unleavened bread shall be eaten for seven days; no leavened bread shall be seen in your possession, and no leaven shall be seen among you in all your territory. ⁸You shall tell your child on that day, "It is because of what the Lord did for me when I came out of Egypt."

Reader: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Reading: John 1:25-29

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵They asked him, ‘Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?’ ²⁶John answered them, ‘I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.’ ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, ‘Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’

P: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Israel: God's Passover Promise

Song of the Day – “The Feast Is Ready” (piano)

**1. The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin;
The gates of heav’n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.**

*Refrain: Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight,
come and revel in heaven’s love and light;
Take your place at the table of the King,
the feast is ready to begin, the feast is ready to begin.*

**2. Tables are laden with good things, O taste the peace and joy he brings;
he’ll fill you up with love divine, he’ll turn your water into wine. Refrain**

**3. The hungry heart he satisfies, offers the poor his paradise;
now hear all heav’n and earth applaud the amazing goodness of the Lord. Refrain**

*Prayers of Intercession

Stewardship Time

“There Is a Redeemer,” *arr. Melody Green*
Faith Singers

–Please take a moment to sign into the Welcome Folder in your pew–

**Great Thanksgiving*

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 our thanks and praise.

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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.

Communion Songs

“Just As I Am, without One Plea” ELW 592 (*organ*)

- 1 **Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 2 **Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 3 **Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come,**

- 4 **Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

“Lamb of God”

(piano)

1. **Your only Son no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod And to become the Lamb of God.**
2. **Your gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died,
The humble King they named a fraud And sacrificed the Lamb of God.
*O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.***
3. **I was so lost I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God.
*O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God.
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.***

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: May your week be one of blessing, with your heart full, your mind at rest, and your soul stirred to action. May you find God the Father guiding you, Jesus the Son walking with you, and the Holy Spirit inspiring your days. Amen.

**Sending Song – “Praise to You, O God of Mercy” ELW 208* *(organ)*

- 1 **Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!**

- 2 **From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you forever!**
Truth and justice you have taught us: thanks be to you forever!

*Strong is your faithfulness, strong is your love,
rememb'ring your covenant of life with us.*

- 3 **Praise to you, O God of mercy: thanks be to you forever!**
Raising high the weak and lowly: thanks be to you forever!
Thanks be to you forever!

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Portions of today's liturgy come from "Spill the Beans: worship and learning resources for all ages" and Luther Seminary's Narrative Lectionary worship resources.

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Glen VanderKloot

Greeter: Hallie Mayner

Reader: Marilyn Dichsen

Usher: Larry Kuster

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Pianist: Jean Welch

Drummer: John Demien

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Malinda Carlson & Greg Kimler

Chancel Committee: Pat Glyshaw

Coffee Host: Kay Schnitker



Singers:

Benen Dichsen	Kelly Hartz	Kris Roth	Carol VanderKloot
Louis Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Cole Street	
Marilyn Dichsen	Adam Krohe	Melissa Street	

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Kelly Hartz	Gaylon Martin	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kelly Street
Marilyn Dichsen			

The altar plants are given today by
the Roth family in celebration of Laura's birthday on September 27

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, September 29, 9:30am: Worship

10:30am: Youth Sunday School

4:30pm: Bible Boot Camp

5:30pm: Faith Inkubators

Wednesday, October 2, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

3:00pm: Staff Meeting

5:30pm: First Communion class

Thursday, October 3, 5:30pm: First Communion class

Saturday, October 5, 8:00am: Cook for

9:00am: Men's Breakfast

Sunday, October 6, 9:30am: Outdoor Worship

10:30am: Indoor Potluck

Wednesday, October 9, 7-8am: Men's Prayer Group

6:00pm: Women of Faith at Kitchen 63 (1265 Sandusky Rd.)

Saturday, October 12, 10:00am: Soup Carry Out preparation

News Updates

Men's Breakfast

Come and connect with other men as we share our faith and enjoy some good food on **Saturday, October 5**. At 8:00, we hang out in the kitchen, helping to cook, drink coffee, and visit. At 9:00, we sit down for some conversation and discussion on a specific topic.

One more time! Outdoor Worship and Indoor Potluck on October 6

Temperatures are perfect to worship outdoors, so we are going to do it again on October 6. Following the service, we will move indoors for a potluck meal in the Great Room. Come early if you'd like to help set up chairs. Invite a friend and join us for this wonderful time together! **We are in need of volunteers to help set up and clean up for both the service and the meal.** Please bring a dish to share. If you can help, please sign up by the Total Ministry Center.

Women of Faith

The next Women of Faith gathering will be dinner together on **Wednesday, October 9 at 6:00pm** at Kitchen 63 at K's Creek Golf Course. Please RSVP to Monica (217-737-0475) **by Sunday, October 6** if you can make it. We'd love to have you join us!

Men's Prayer Group

Help us grow our group! You can meet in person at Faith on **Wednesday mornings at 7:00**, or on zoom. Contact one of the guys to let them know you are coming: Kevin Krohe or Larry Kuster.

Soup Luncheon - Carry-Out Style

Our Carry-Out Soup Luncheon was a success last year, and we will be offering that style again! Carry-out soups and desserts will be available on **Sunday, October 13, from 10:30am - 1:00pm.** We could use your help!

Signup sheets are available for a variety of ways you can volunteer from providing soups/desserts to helping in the building: we'll need help to package food on Saturday morning (October 12), then help with the carry out after church on Sunday. Please sign up at the table in the gathering area just outside the sanctuary.

Tickets are available there for you to purchase or sell to your family and friends.

Posters are also available for you to take around town to help us advertise.

Let's work together to serve our community and share some delicious Lutheran Love! (Please bring in any cardboard trays or small boxes for us to use.)

Discipleship Group

Join our monthly discussion at **10:00am on Wednesday, October 16**, in the Faith Library. Enjoy good food, great discussion, and a lovely, vibrant community of believers. For more information, please contact Kelly Hartz at (217) 502-1979 or by email at khartz@sompo-intl.com.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

The **Chancel Choir** will sing for **Reformation Sunday, October 27**.

Rehearsal will be **Thursday, October 24 at 6:30pm**. Hope you will join us!!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts: jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

“Faith’s Little Flock”

The new format for Sunday School is going well! Children ages 2-6 are invited to join a volunteer in a classroom during a portion of worship. The children are walked to the Sunday school room after the children’s sermon, and then parents are asked to pick them up for communion. This gives some education and fun for the kids and allows parents the option for more focus in worship. We realize this is a significant change from the past. We value having our children in worship, and they are always welcome. Over the last few years, with so few volunteers, it has become increasingly difficult to staff a nursery and offer Sunday school after worship. This new format is an opportunity to meet some of the needs of both. We are thankful to already have three volunteers who have stepped forward and would like to find a few more. Interested? Please talk to Melissa or Mariah Street.

Bible Boot Camp – our next session is this afternoon!

In an effort to offer more opportunities for fun and learning with our elementary school aged children, we are offering an exciting new program called “Bible Boot Camp.” We will be meeting in the Great Room on various Sundays from 4:30-5:30pm. Each session kicks off in the Great Room with some active singing, so come ready to jump and move! Next, we will dive into a Bible story, retelling it together and engaging in some activities to bring it to life. Finally, we’ll close with prayer as we bring our praises and desires to God. Then, stick around for supper! Our middle school and high school youth will be meeting later that evening for their Faith Inkubators session and will be joining us for supper from 5:30-6:00. Here are some details to note:

Kids are welcome and encouraged to invite friends!

Parents, you are welcome to stay for the lesson and meal, but are not required to do so.

We would like to have an idea on how many to expect at the session and meal, so please sign up or contact the office by the Friday before if you plan to attend. But don't let that stop you or a friend from coming!

The remaining dates of our sessions will be the following Sundays: **September 29, October 13, October 20, November 10, and December 15** for a fun Christmas session.

Please join us for these wonderful opportunities for our kids! If you have questions or would like to get involved in any way, please contact Pastor Adam.

Faith Inkubators – our next session is this afternoon!

Faith's Confirmation Ministry is starting up again, but it's not just for confirmation students! For the last few years some upper elementary and high school students have joined us for some youth time of food, learning, and fellowship. This year we will have six sessions in all as we take a closer look at the Old Testament. We meet at 5:30pm with a meal (overlapping with our Bible Boot Camp kids), then jump into our session from 6:00-7:30. If you have a middle school or high school student interested in joining us, let them know, and friends are welcome! Our remaining sessions will be on Sundays, **September 29, October 13, October 20, November 10, and December 15** for a fun Christmas session.

Youth Sunday School

Last month, Marilyn Dichsen (high school senior) shared about our youth Sunday school plans. They are looking for volunteers to meet with them after worship on Sunday mornings. Don't worry, no teaching is necessary! Some Sundays we will follow a discussion guide that reflects on the readings and sermon of the day. Some Sundays we will be interviewing guests from our congregation as we get to know them and their faith journey. Some Sundays we want to do service projects, either at church or at someone's home. If you are interested in joining us for any of these on a Sunday morning, please contact our Youth Ministry Team of Adam Krohe, Marilyn Dichsen, and Barb Davenport.

Reformation Sunday -- October 27

Let's roll out the red carpet (or paraments) as we celebrate Reformation Sunday! It will be a special morning with traditional Lutheran liturgy, a musical offering from our Chancel Choir, and an opportunity (or two) to belt out "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." Celebrate Reformation Sunday with us and wear red, the color of the Holy Spirit, as we trust that God's reforming work and refining fire continue to be at work in us and throughout Christ's church.

Trunk-or-Treat at Faith - Need Volunteers!

This year Faith is hosting its first trunk-or-treat! Save the date for **Sunday, October 27, 2-4 pm**. This free, family-friendly event will be a great way for us to connect with the community, but we need your help to make it a success! We need people to sign up to decorate their trunks and hand out candy/trinkets, people to donate candy/trinkets, and for everyone to help spread the word. Please talk with Monica Proefrock or the Youth Ministry Team if you have any questions. And sign up now to volunteer for this fun outreach event!

Women of the ELCA Biennial Convention

Please consider attending the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA 2024 Biennial Convention on **Saturday, October 19** at St. John's Lutheran Church (2477 W. Washington St., Springfield, IL 62702), sponsored by the Women of the ELCA (WELCA). Contact Sharon Zuiderveld for more information or if you would like a ride.

Doorbell Dinners: October 28 - November 1

Thank you to all who helped with Doorbell Dinners in September. Our next opportunity will be coming up from OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 1. We are in need of drivers & deliverers to cover the needs of five routes — time commitment is 11:15-12:30 each day. For more information and to sign up, visit the signup counter by the Fair Trade coffee sales.

All Saints Sunday

On November 3, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday, an opportunity to remember all the saints of God, specifically recalling members and loved ones of members of our congregation who have died or were baptized in the last year. If you would like the name of your loved one shared, please submit it to the church office **by Friday, November 1**.

Stewardship Spotlight

A big “Thank You!” to all for your generosity and response to our special appeal for donations to our Building Fund. As of August 31, we have received over \$36,300 which brings us right on track for our budgeted needs for the same period, and we have even received more donations since then. This has been a huge help in meeting our mortgage payments, and we are making preliminary plans for a debt reduction campaign to eliminate all debt. Our current mortgage balance is \$548,851.