



Lawrence W. Ladd, *Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard*,  
ca. 1880, watercolour and pencil on paper, Smithsonian American Art Museum,  
Gift of Bates and Isabel Lowry, 1986.70.2. Used by permission.

Congregation of Mark the Evangelist  
24 September 2023  
Sunday 25A

### *Preparing for Worship Today*

- Welcome to this service of worship at Mark the Evangelist!
- Today's service is being live-streamed for the participation of those who can't join us physically today.
- Congregational responses are printed in ***bold italics***.
- Pray for those who will be leading us in our worship today!

## A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

**Prelude** JS Bach, *fantasia super "Komm, heiliger Geist, Herre Gott" BWV 651*

### *The Gathering of the People of God*

#### **Processional**

*If you are able, please stand as the Scriptures are brought into the worship space.*

#### **Call to Worship**

The Lord be with you!  
***And also with you!***

Give thanks, acclaim God's name,  
tell all that the Lord has done.  
Make music and sing  
the Lord's mighty wonders!

**Revel in God's holy name,  
delight in seeking the Lord.  
Look always for the power,  
for the presence of God.**

Recount the signs and wonders,  
the just decrees of God,  
you heirs of Abraham and Jacob,  
the chosen of the Lord.

**Prayer of invocation**

**Hymn** 107 Praise and thanksgiving

*The Word Spoken: Scripture and Preaching*

**The Testimony of Scripture**

Your word, O Lord, is a lamp to our feet,  
**and a light to our path.**

Exodus 16:2-18 Bread from heaven

Psalm 105:36-44: God's faithfulness

God struck Egypt's firstborn,  
the first fruit of their strength,  
leading Israel forth with silver and gold;  
not one among them faltered.  
Egypt, struck with fear,  
was glad to see them go.

**A cloud shaded them by day,  
a fire glowed by night.  
Israel prayed and God sent quail,  
fed them with bread from heaven,  
opened a rock and water gushed,  
streams flowed through dry land.**

Yes, God remembered his sacred word  
to Abraham, his servant,  
and brought forth his people,  
the chosen ones, singing for joy.

**Hallelujah!**

Tr. ICEL1994

The Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16 The labourers in the vineyard.  
This is the gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**The Preaching of the Word**

*The sermon text will normally be available  
after worship and online.*

*A 'sermon of stillness' – a moment for  
quiet reflection – usually follows the preaching.*

**Prayer of Confession**



**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

*(Please stand if you are able)*

God shows his love for us, in that,  
while we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.

Hear, then, Christ's word of grace to us:  
'Your sins are forgiven.'

**Thanks be to God!**

**Doxology**



sins of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the  
 Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone. are the  
 ho - ly one, You a - lone. are the Lord, you a - lone are the most high,  
 Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther.  
 A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

### The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
***And also with you.***

### Affirmation of faith:

***We are not alone,  
 we live in God's world.***

***We believe in God:  
 who has created and is creating,  
 who has come in Jesus,  
 the Word made flesh,  
 to reconcile and make new,  
 who works in us and others  
 by the Spirit.***

***We trust in God.***

***We are called to be the Church:  
 to celebrate God's presence,  
 to live with respect in Creation,  
 to love and serve others,  
 to seek justice and resist evil,  
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
 our judge and our hope.***

***In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
 God is with us.  
 We are not alone.  
 Thanks be to God.***

*The United Church of Canada,  
 General Council 1968, alt. 1998*

### Prayers of the People

#### *The Visible Word: Eucharist*

### Hymn 508 Jesus, we thus obey

*(If you are able, please remain standing until after the Lord's Prayer)*

### The Invitation

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.  
***And also with you.***  
 Lift up your hearts.  
***We lift them to the Lord.***  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Thanks and praise, glory and honour are rightly yours,  
 our Lord and God,  
 for you alone are worthy.  
 In time beyond our dreaming  
 you brought forth life out of darkness,  
 and in the love of Christ your Son  
 you set man and woman at the heart of your creation.

...And so we praise you  
 with the faithful of every time and place,  
 joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation  
 in the eternal hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, hea - ven and earth are  
 full of your glo - ry, ho - sa - na in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
 hosanna in the highest.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
 Hosanna in the highest!  
 Hosanna in the highest!***

*(The prayer continues...)*

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain.

***Christ has died.  
 Christ is risen.  
 Christ will come again.***

*(The prayer continues...)*

...Through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
 in your holy church,  
 all honour and glory are yours, Father almighty,  
 now and for ever.

Bless - ing and hon - our, glo - ry and pow'r are yours for - e - ver and ev - er, are yours for - e - ver and ev - er.

***Blessing and honour, glory and pow'r  
 are yours forever and ever,  
 are yours forever and ever.***

## The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven,  
 hallowed be your name,  
 your kingdom come,  
 your will be done,  
 on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins,  
 as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial  
 and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
 now and for ever. Amen.***

*(The people sit)*

## The Breaking of the Bread

Christ is the bread of Resurrection,  
 new life for all.

Christ is the cup of salvation,  
 poured out for our healing.

The gifts of God for the people of God....

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on  
 us, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world: have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us Lamb of God, you  
 take a - way the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace, grant us peace.***

...Let us receive what we are,  
let us become what we receive:  
***The body of Christ***

### **The Communion**

*The Uniting Church recognises this Table as the Lord's and, so, open to all who would normally commune in their home congregations.*

**GATHERING:** *We'll gather in a circle around the table for the distribution of the elements; please wait until all have received and the prayer is said before returning to your seats.*

*If you can't stand or walk to the front but would like to receive communion, please raise your hand if the presider has not already noticed you.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

### **Offering**

*Many members now make their offering by electronic transfer; the plate will be passed for those who prefer to make cash/envelope offerings. The prayer dedicating the offerings 'captures' the full range of gifts.*

### **Notices**

## ***The Sending Forth of the People of God***

### **Hymn**

O Father, Son and Spirit, one  
in common love, a mystery,  
you draw us to your life divine  
and feed us with Christ's bread and wine.

O give us, Lord, a generous heart,  
a graciousness shaped by your own,  
a lavish generosity  
that shares your love for land and town.

O grant us, Saviour of the world,  
a passion for your mission here,  
a knowledge of your truthful word  
and courage to confront our fear.

Go with us Spirit, to the world,  
empower us by your presence there,  
to serve all people with your Word  
and willing, too, his cross to bear.

So may our work in ministry  
be shaped like Christ's in deed and word,  
that all the world may learn your truth,  
your name alone be glorified.

Tune: MELCOME. TIS 213ii  
#28 from Rod Horsfield, *Songs in Season* (2023)

### **Word of Mission and Blessing**

### **Postlude JS Bach, *Praeludium et Fuga in C BWV 531***

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We'd love to hear your feedback on the service.

Our email address is:

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