

Introduction

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

WELCOME

Welcome in the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who welcomes people of every race, culture, sexual/affectional orientation, and gender identity.

If you're new here, we are glad to see you.

If you've been away for a while, we're glad you are back.

If you attend regularly, we are glad you're here too.

If you're joining us on YouTube,

especially our new friends from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Salem, we appreciate your presence too.

In Holy Communion, Christ's table is open to all. During the distribution, individuals may choose to receive gluten-free wafers and/or grape juice.

We welcome you into our midst; you are a blessing to us.

Please see an Usher for directions to a gender neutral restroom.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Chickasaw, Illini, Ioway, Kickapoo, Osage, Otoe-Missouria, and Quapaw peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Cover Art

Cover Design (Year C, 2022): Judi Klingsick (1948-2024) ClipArt: iStock



In the Holy Communion, the Lord Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. Jesus invites all the faithful to join him at his table. In this Sacrament, God offers forgiveness of sins, strengthening of faith and the promise of eternal life. Unity Lutheran Church welcomes all Christians to receive our Lord's Body and Blood, to share in the Holy Communion with us.

TIME AFTER PENTECOST

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion Setting SIX





10:30 AM

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome - Leah Harris

Prelude: "What If" by Diane Warren

with Pat & Lauren Amick

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the # Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly. Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God. you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness. You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of

⊕ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

All Creation Sings, Hymn 1062

Build a Longer Table



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOEL NOUVELET, French carol

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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.

HYMN OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

A reading from Ecclesiastes.

²Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹²I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem.

¹³I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven;

it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with.

¹⁴I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18}I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹and who knows whether my successor will be wise or foolish? Yet my successor will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity.

²⁰So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it.

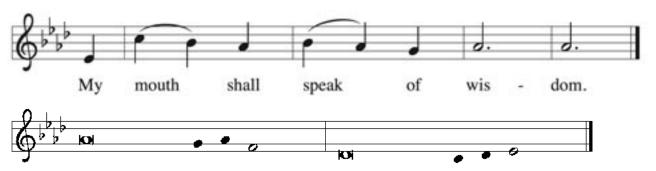
This also is vanity and a great evil. ²²What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The reading concludes: Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 49:1-12

The cantor sings the refrain, then the assembly repeats it.

Refrain



The assembly joins the cantor in singing the **boldface** verses.

- ¹ Hear this, | all you peoples; give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,
- ² you of high de- | gree and low, rich and | poor together.
- ³ My mouth shall | speak of wisdom, and my heart shall meditate on | understanding.
- ⁴ I will incline my ear | to a proverb and set forth my riddle up- | on the harp. Refrain
- ⁵ Why should I be afraid in | evil days, when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds me,
- ⁶ the wickedness of those who put their trust in | their own prowess, and boast of | their great riches?
- ⁷ One can never re- | deem another, or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life;
- 8 for the ransom of a life | is so great that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,
- ⁹ in order to live forey- | er and ever and never | see the grave.
- ¹⁰ For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- | pid they perish and leave their wealth to those who come | after them.
- ¹¹ Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation to | generation,

though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.

¹² Even though honored, they cannot | live forever; they are like the | beasts that perish. Refrain

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

A reading from Colossians,

¹If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew,

circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

The reading concludes: Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly welcomes the gospel.





The cantor sings the verse—a setting of Matt. 5:3.

Blessed are the | poor in spirit,* for theirs is the king- | dom of heaven.

All repeat the acclamation.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,]

"Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me."

¹⁴But Jesus replied,

"Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?"

¹⁵And Jesus said to them, "Take care!

Be on your guard against all kinds of greed,

for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

¹⁶Then Jesus told them a parable:

"The land of a rich man produced abundantly.

¹⁷And he thought to himself, 'What should I do,

for I have no place to store my crops?'

¹⁸Then he said, 'I will do this:

I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods.

¹⁹And I will say to my soul,

Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'

²⁰But God said to him, 'You fool!

This very night your life is being demanded of you.

And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The gospel is concluded.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly proclaims the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW, Hymn 757 "All My Hope on God Is Founded"



Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; para. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt. Music: Herbert Howells, 1892-1983

MICHAEL 8787337

APOSTLES CREED

God's word is further proclaimed as we confess our faith with the whole church. 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

An assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer.

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Revitalize and protect the treasures of wild places. Teach all people to value the earth, winds, waters, trees, and animals, the gifts that make life possible on this planet. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Speak wisdom to any in positions of power, that they cease practices of divisiveness, insult, and oppression. Clothe all people in your image, and establish equity and peace. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Reveal your loving presence in the lives of people suffering hunger and need, illness and grief, pain and fear (especially). Give strength to those who give care, and equip them with compassion as they make your love known. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Store up in this congregation a full measure of gratitude and generosity. Guide the work of treasurers and all who attend to financial matters. Support those whose work in our community is difficult and demanding; make us mindful of the toil that goes unnoticed. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, hear us when we pray ... A time is provided for individuals to offer an intercession. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Receive our thanks for the lives of your saints who now rest from their labors. Give us wisdom through their witness and encourage us in love as we continue our lives in the world. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

In Christ we have been reconciled to God, let us now be reconciled with one another. The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERTORY

Choir: "Bread of Love, Cup of Grace" -Carol McClure

Bread of love, Cup of grace, Refrain:

Broken and offered by Christ our Lord;

Bread of love, Cup of grace,

Bring us together with Christ, face to face.

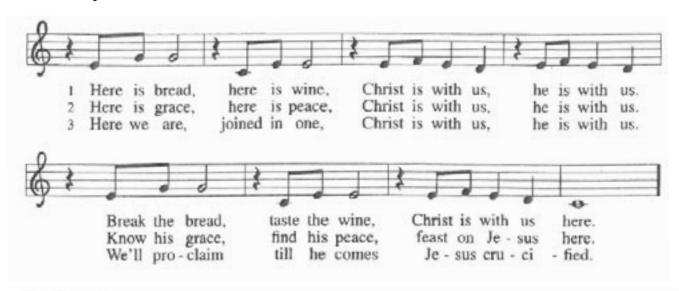
Come to the table prepared for all those who believe; Here at the table are places for all who receive God's grace. *Refrain*

Open your hands to join hands with all those in place; Open your heart to take part as we share in this Feast of Grace. Refrain

The assembly stands.

SETTING THE TABLE

Bread, wine, money, and other gifts may be brought forward as the hymn is sung. ELW, Hymn 483 "Here Is Bread"



Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950 Music: Graham Kendrick



OFFERING PRAYER

An assisting minister leads the prayer. Let us pray.

Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks. The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

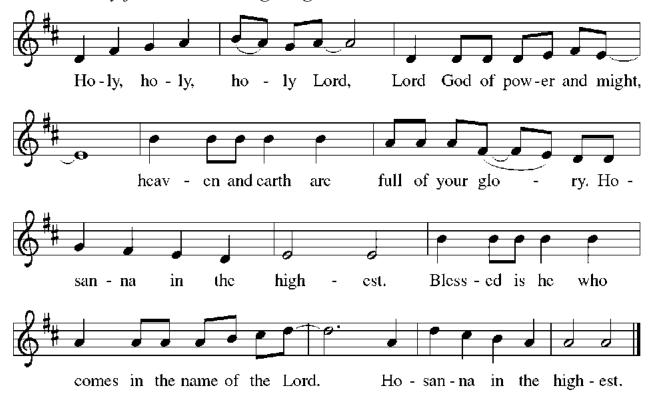
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface for the day or season: ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS

The assembly joins the thanksgiving.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

Words of Institution.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray: 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 forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

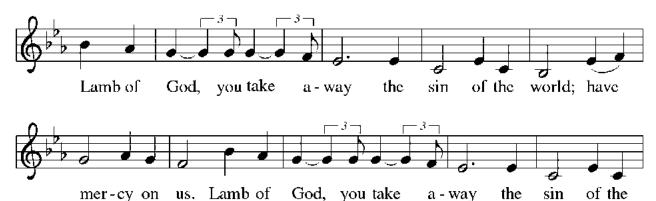
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated for the distribution. In the distribution, individuals may choose to receive gluten-free wafers and alcohol-free juice (purple in color).

The assembly sings as the bread is broken.

LAMB OF GOD





Assembly song during the communion.

ELW Hymn 515

Break Now the Bread of Life



TABLE BLESSING

The presiding minister may say a table blessing. All respond "Amen."

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

When all have communed, the assisting minister continues: Let us pray.

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING HYMN

ELW, Hymn 449 "We Know That Christ Is Raised" (See following page)

Text: John B. Geyer, b. 1932 Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924 Text @ John B, Geyer, Used by permission. One License.net #A-717904

We Know That Christ Is Raised



BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

The love of God abound in you;

the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;

and the life of the Spirit

⊕ bless you and give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Brief announcements may be made, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world, then the assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Meditation on Colossians 3:15" by Brenda Portman with Tom Winter, violin

> "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body, you were called to Peace. And be Thankful"

> > + + +

Mini-Book Fair follows the service! All are invited to head downstairs to the Fellowship Hall to get refreshments and browse or make purchases. A big thank you to all who made donations, helped to plan, promote, set up, work shifts, or helped with the Book Fair in any way!

Support Flood Response & Recovery in Texas – The ELCA stands ready to walk with our neighbors in the Texas hill country as the floodwaters recede and rebuilding begins. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) is coordinating with the Southwestern Texas Synod and will work with them and other partners to respond to urgent needs, provide emotional and spiritual care, and support cleanup and long-term recovery. Gifts to Unity designated for LDR will be matched with Unity's Mission Endowment funds (MEF) throughout July & August.

THANK YOU to all who supported the Feed My Starving Children project this year. We raised over \$54,000 for our supplies and packed food to feed 511 children for a year.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday, 7 September 2025

Word and Witness will be assembling Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief on God's Work Our Hands Sunday. Flyers are on the table with the items needed. They are: One Bath Towel 52" X 27" Dark color recommended. Be sure to check the size of the towel. JC Penney has the correct size bath towel. Two or three bath size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz. One adult size toothbrush. One sturdy comb, and one metal nail clippers. Please place the items on the table in the narthex (Debbie Neustadt).

August Birthdays:		August Anniversaries:	
Lucille Husmann	August 13	Angela & Peter McDonnell	August 8
Mike Grupe	August 19	Jerry & Kathy Arana	August 22

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Friday, August 8, 2025

Linda Meyer

Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221

August 24

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.



Our congregation will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 8,500 congregations participating in "God's work. Our hands." on Sept. 7. Across the country, thousands of members will work to make a positive change in our communities, build and deepen relationships and share God's love. Join us as we do God's work with our hands! Contact us for more information:

Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief

One Bath Towel 52" X 27" (Dark color recommended) Two or three bath size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz. One adult size toothbrush. One sturdy comb One metal nail clippers.

Shop for items needed now.

Help assemble the kits following the service at Unity on September 7.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

For the grieving

the family of Joda Fogerson (friend of Gail Engelhardt)

For restored health and healing (recent concerns)

Dennis Bean, on palliative care (Jeanine Arrighi's brother-in-law)

Sean Johnson and family

Carol Schmidt (Salem)

Barb Dilly and family, bone cancer (Kemper and McMullen)

Evelyn Williams, hospitalized for blood clots, now recovering at home

Susie Shevitz (mother-in-law of Paul Reise)

Alice Vlietstra, health challenges & home (house) challenges

Ongoing prayer concerns

Danny Payne

Emily Booker

Rich Claybaker

Franny LeVeigne

Charlie and Liz Duncan

Renard Smoots

Lisa Reeves

Steve Reise

Gary Schulz

Mark Schuler

Deborah Asberry-Chua

Dan Lilienkamp

Christine Kamprath

Kathy Fangmann

Janis Hutchinson

Sharon Repp

Rachel Wolf

Gwen Harris-Hall

Jackie Green

Peter Schneider

Beth Sommers Klingsick

Eliza Metcalf

Ron Neustadt

Karen Hubbard

Aquilla Tinglin

Joel Grumm

Nancy Grumm

Mark Steitz

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cellphone: (314) 723-2946

Church Office: (314) 382-4241 email: unitybelnor@gmail.com Website: www.unitybelnor-elca.org



Service Participants

The people of God at Unity, Shepherd of the Hills & St. Mark together with:

Presiding Minister The Rev. Kristen E. Koch

Music Ministers Barbara Klingsick & S. Blake Duncan

Choral Minister Nicholas Bashaw

Assisting Minister Pat Ligon

Crucifer Ron Oldham

Lectors Eunice Halverson & Susan Erickson

Eucharistic Ministers The Rev. Kendra Nolde, Carl Shiller & Candy Travis

Vocalists Pat & Lauren Amick

Instrumentalist Tom Winter, violin

Greeter/Usher Barb Hohl

Altar Guild Steve Webb & Steve Reise

Breadbaker Christine Kamprath

Audio Production Steve Reise Video Production Ron Oldham

Counters Leah Harris & Steve Reise

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THIS WEEK AT UNITY August 3, 2025

Holy Communion - Lectionary 18 Sunday 10:30a

Time of fellowship follows the service

Mini-Book Fair following the service (Fellowship Hall)

Monday Book Fair Clean-up (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday 7:00p Stewardship Team via ZOOM

6:30-8:30p Slideshow *Thursday*

10:30a Holy Communion - Lectionary 19 Sunday

Time of fellowship follows the service

Unity Senior Center (this week)

Tuesday - Friday 9:00a - 4:00p

Lutheran Family & Children's Services

Monday – Friday (summer hours may vary)

Office Hours The Rev. Kristen E. Koch, Pastor

> Tuesday 9:00a - 2:00p Thursday 9:00a - 2:00p

Mark Steketee, Office Administrator

Monday 9:00a - 2:00p

Tuesday 9:00a - 2:00p

Wednesday 9:00a - 2:00p

Thursday 9:00a - 2:00p

