

The Season After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons teach us the characteristics of the Holy Ministry, the Christian, the Church, our God, and the Christian life.

The Sunday The Lord came to his city and his temple to teach his people, but the leaders of Israel rose up against him. When they questioned his authority, Jesus responded with three parables meant to drive the leaders to self-evaluation and self-condemnation. The stories speak of family ties, contractual obligation, and the favor of a royal invitation. Each should have led to a proper response, yet each parable showed that Israel's leaders were refusing to give God the fruits of faith he patiently sought. *Our God patiently seeks fruits.*

Opening Hymn

Day by Day CWS 765

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me,
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me

Bring - ing com - fort to my anx - ious soul.
 Strength to serve and wis - dom to o - bey;

Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me

Draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal.
 O'er the paths I strug - gle day by day.

Love di - vine, be - yond all mor - tal meas - ure,
 I will fear no e - vil of the mor - row;

Brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest;
 I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace.

Sav - ior, lead me to the home I treas - ure,
 Sav - ior, help me bear life's pain and sor - row;

Where, at last, I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 Till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, b. 1936 © 1992 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
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 Tune: BLOTT EN DAG (10 9 10 9 D) Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882



**MORRISON
 ZION
 LUTHERAN**

Wisconsin Evangelical
 Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the Gospel
 to help people

Grow

in the Gospel
 and

Go

with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank

God that you have
 joined us at worship
 today.

Restrooms are
 located in the
 basement. Hearing
 loop headphones and
 Large Print Hymnals
 are available from an
 usher.

If your children
 need to leave worship,
 please take them to
 the basement. A TV
 broadcasts the service
 in the basement.

Today we gather
 together in the
 presence of God. He is
 present among us in a
 special way through
 his Word and
 Sacrament. We
 acknowledge our sin
 and rejoice in the
 good news of
 forgiveness through
 the life and death of
 Christ. This is the
 focus of our worship.

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -

ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson:

2 Kings 21:1-15

Manasseh's story shocks us. Though he was king of God's people, he committed every evil imaginable. His wickedness knew no bounds. In 2 Chronicles 33, we learn that Manasseh finally heard God's call to repentance once the shackles were clamped on and a hook put through his nose. He humbled himself and cried out to God—and God forgave him. That God could forgive Manasseh boggles the mind. So, too, does the change in Manasseh's life. He produced the fruits that his God had patiently sought: he removed the altars, got rid of the false gods, worshiped the true God and encouraged all of Judah to do the same. Recognizing God's mercy and love leads us to produce the fruits he desires

21 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. His mother's name was Hephzibah. ² He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. ³ He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole, as Ahab king of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. ⁴ He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put my Name." ⁵ In the two courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts. ⁶ He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced divination, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger.

⁷ He took the carved Asherah pole he had made and put it in the temple, of which the LORD had said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever. ⁸ I will not again make the feet of the Israelites wander from the land I gave their ancestors, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them and will keep the whole Law that my servant Moses gave them." ⁹ But the people did not listen. Manasseh led them astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.

¹⁰ The LORD said through his servants the prophets: ¹¹ "Manasseh king of Judah has committed these detestable sins. He has done more evil than the Amorites who preceded

him and has led Judah into sin with his idols. ¹² Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I am going to bring such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle. ¹³ I will stretch out over Jerusalem the measuring line used against Samaria and the plumb line used against the house of Ahab. I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. ¹⁴ I will forsake the remnant of my inheritance and give them into the hands of enemies. They will be looted and plundered by all their enemies; ¹⁵ they have done evil in my eyes and have aroused my anger from the day their ancestors came out of Egypt until this day.” (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 118 CWS

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Give thanks to God. He
gives us the vic - to-ry through Je - sus Christ our Lord. Al - le -
lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Give thanks to God. Give thanks to God.

Psalm Tone

The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.

“The LORD’S right hand is lifted high;
the LORD’S right hand has done mighty things!”

I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

Refrain

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Jesus kept his promise and gave the kingdom of God to a new nation, to a people founded by faith and motivated by love. Paul writes as a servant of God to us, the new workers in the vineyard. He warns us not to squander the opportunity before us by receiving the grace of God in vain. Now is the day of salvation. The grace of God leads us to live as tenants who produce the fruits our God seeks. Paul points to his own ministry as an example. The grace of God led Paul to make every effort to bear the cross and suffer for the sake of the kingdom. He pointed to his fruits of faith and encouraged the Church, "Open wide your hearts also." Make us ready, with free hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

6 As God's co-workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. **2** For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you."^[Isaiah 49:8]

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

3 We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. **4** Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; **5** in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; **6** in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; **7** in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left; **8** through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; **9** known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; **10** sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

11 We have spoken freely to you, Corinthians, and opened wide our hearts to you. **12** We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. **13** As a fair exchange—I speak as to my children—open wide your hearts also. (NIV)

Junior Choir (Sunday 10:30 am only)

Refrain

Love, joy, peace, and patience,
Kindness, goodness, faithfulness, too.
Gentleness, and self-control;
These are gifts He offers to you.

The Gifts He Offers to You

When you are weak He is strong and mighty
He wants to use you to share His love.
He will supply your every need;
Just follow Him wherever He leads.
He'll give you...
Repeat refrain.

Verse of the Day (*Thursday and Sunday 8 am*)

M: Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation, I will praise you. Alleluia. (Hebrews 2:12 cf. RSV)

Stand

M: The Gospel according to Matthew chapter 21.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord.

Gospel:

Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus tells us a story of God's reckless patience. Jesus' words in the Gospel highlight the patience of our God as he seeks fruits of faith. Could God have done anything more for Israel? What owner would continue to send servants when they were treated this way? Even Jesus' enemies had to agree that the only just end for such tenants was judgment.

³³ "Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵ "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said.

³⁸ "But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.' ³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰ "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?"

⁴¹ "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end," they replied, "and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time."

⁴² Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

the Lord has done this,

and it is marvelous in our eyes'^[Psalm 118:22,23]?

⁴³ "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ.

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word Hymn 203



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, For you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and



by de - ceit or sword Would seek to o - ver - throw your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
u - ni - ty on earth. Sup - port us in our fi - nal



Son And to de - stroy what he has done.
we May sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife, And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite.

Tune: ERHALT UNS, HERR (LM) Klug, *Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg*, Wittenberg, 1543, alt.

Sermon

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

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.

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

Be Seated

Hymn

Though Thoughtless Thousands Choose Hymn 466:1-3

1 Though thought - less thou - sands choose the road
2 In Christ, by faith, I wish to live,
3 Christ is my ev - er - last - ing all.

That leads the soul a - way from God,
From him my life, my all, re - ceive,
To him I look; on him I call.

To live and die en - tire - ly thine.
Serve him a - lone with all my pow'rs.
In time and through e - ter - ni - ty.

This hap - pi - ness, dear Lord, be mine:
To him de - vote my fleet - ing hours,
He will my ev - 'ry want sup - ply.

Text: Joseph Hoskins, 1745-88, alt.

Tune: WAREHAM (LM) William Knapp, 1698-1768, alt.