**20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** **OCTOBER 11, 2026**

GREETING
P: Gathered in Christ.
**C: We serve with grace.**

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
**C: Amen.**

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God,
**C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
**C: Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *"Now We Join in Celebration"*..... #462

PRAYER OF THE DAY
**C: O Lord, sustain your Church with your perpetual mercy. Without you, in our weakness we will surely fail. Therefore, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: GISAIAH 25:6-9
6On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. 7And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 8He will swallow up death forever; and the LORD God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away

from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. [9]It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation." The Word of the Lord.
**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23

[1]The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
**[2]He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**
[3]He revives my soul and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.
**[4]Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;**
**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
[5]You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
**[6]Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,**
**and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:4-13
[4]Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. [5]Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; [6]do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7]And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. [8]Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. [9]What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me — practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. [10]I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. [11]Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. [12]I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. [13]I can do all things through him who strengthens me. The word of the Lord.
**C: Thanks be to God.**

KIDS TALK

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 22:1-14
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.
**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**
[1]Again Jesus spoke to {the chief priests and the Pharisees} in parables, saying, [2]"The

kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son,
[3]and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they
would not come. [4]Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited,
"See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered,
and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.'" [5]But they paid no attention and
went off, one to his farm, another to his business, [6]while the rest seized his servants,
treated them shamefully, and killed them. [7]The king was angry, and he sent his troops
and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. [8]Then he said to his servants,
'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. [9]Go therefore to the
main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' [10]And those servants
went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the
wedding hall was filled with guests. [11]But when the king came in to look at the guests,
he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. [12]And he said to him, 'Friend, how
did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. [13]Then the
king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer
darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' [14]For many are
called, but few are chosen." The gospel of the Lord.
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*..... #773

*APOSTLES' CREED
**C: 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
P: O Shepherding God, grant that we would hear your voice and follow you, trusting in your protection and leading in our lives. Give us the ability to discern your voice amidst all the other voices in the world that seek to lure us away from you and your flock. Lord in your mercy,
**C: hear our prayer.**

P: God of life, we ask for your care and watchful eye on all those who are first

responders. Give them the ability to think quickly and act adeptly as they rescue those in danger. Protect them from harm as they serve those in need. Lord in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: God our ever-present help, our rock and our salvation, deepen our faith in your promise of salvation. May your grace have free reign among us that we might be emboldened to witness to your saving grace in our homes, our communities, and to all nations. Lord in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: God you are our shield and our strength. Be our protector in all the uncertainty and tragedy of life. Pour out your healing upon all who are sick or suffering [particularly …]. Keep us mindful that no evil can win the day for through the cross of your dear Son, Jesus, the kingdom is ours forever. Lord in your mercy,
**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**C: Amen.**

PEACE
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
**C: And also with you.**

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY SONG "*GIVE THANKS*"
**C: Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the holy one. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say I am strong. Let the poor say I am rich; because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks. Give thanks.**

*OFFERING PRAYER
P: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
**C: Amen.**

*LORD'S PRAYER
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
**C: 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.**

BLESSING
P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
**C: Amen.**

P: The god of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.
**C: Amen.**

P: The God of grace +bless you now and forever.
**C: Amen.**

SENDING SONG *"Be Thou My Vision"*..... #793

RINGING OF THE BELLS

SONG OF PEACE
**C: My peace I give unto you. It's a peace that the world cannot give. It's a peace that the world cannot understand; peace to know; peace to live. My peace I give unto you.**
DISMISSAL
P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
**C: Thanks be to God.**