

## PRELUDE

“Impromptu on “Brining In the Sheaves”” ~ Livingston Jr.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

### RINGING OF THE BELL

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come. **Amen.**

If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

God our helper,

**we confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples. We have not finished what we began. We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers. We have been captivated by our possessions. Lift our burdens, gracious God. Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin. Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news. **Amen.**

#### \*GATHERING SONG (verses 1&2)

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

No. 693

*Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.  
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.  
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.  
Come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.  
All the world is God’s own field, fruit unto his praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.  
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.*

## **\*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.**

## **\*KYRIE (ELW p. 138)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY** Let us pray.

**O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **FIRST READING:** **Genesis 50:15-21**

A reading from Genesis.

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>"Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.'" Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I

myself will provide for you and your little ones.” In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **HARVEST HOME PRAYERS**

Let us pray. God, in the beginning you created the universe and it was good. You created us to live in that universe not as the only one but in a society dependent upon each other.

**Help us to realize that we need each other--farmers, retailers, consumers, business people, workers in all walks of life. One cannot function without another.**

Thank you for farms and farmers who toil for endless hours using the land you provide to feed our bodies.

**Educate us to be good stewards of the land, prayerfully considering its wise and proper use.**

Help your church to be effective in sharing the living Bread that comes from you alone O God, that we may feed and care for others in the midst of their physical and spiritual needs.

**Give us and all your people the Bread of Life, that we may never hunger but always serve you in joy and thankfulness.**

Enable us to share your love with others in all of life, offering them the good news of your love and your never failing care.

**You, O God, are always a sure source of comfort and help for all of us.**

**Hear our prayers in your wisdom. Amen.**

### **PSALM 103:[1-7] 8-13**

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
**and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name.**

<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
**and forget not all God’s benefits—**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
**and heals all your diseases;**

<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the grave  
**and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies your desires with good things  
**so that your youth is renewed like an eagle’s.**

<sup>6</sup>O LORD, you provide vindication

**and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>You made known your ways to Moses

**and your works to the children of Israel.**

<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,

**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

<sup>9</sup>**you will not always accuse us,**

**nor will you keep your anger forever.**

<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,

**nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth,

**so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

<sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,

**so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children,

**so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD**

## **SECOND READING:    Romans 14:1-12**

A reading from Romans.

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord,

and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"This Good Earth"*

*~ Strommen*

### **\*GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?"  
<sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times."  
<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I

forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** (vs. 1&4)

*"O Christ, Our Hope"*

*No. 604*

*O Christ, our hope, our hearts' desire, creation's mighty Lord, redeemer of the fallen world, by holy love outpoured, by holy love outpoured:*

*Oh, let your mighty love prevail to purge us of our pride, that we may stand before your throne by mercy purified, by mercy purified.*

### **\*APOSTLES CREED**

**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**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth

ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. For those in any need we pray (especially). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you (*especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **\*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.**

**\*BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG** (*verses 1&4*)

*"Praise and Thanksgiving"*

No. 689

*Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things living, you have made good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.*

*Then will your blessing reach every people, freely confessing your gracious hand. Where you are reigning, no one will hunger; your love sustaining showers the land.*

**\*POSTLUDE**

*"God Be With You till We Meet Again"*

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