

Roots of Life Community, ELCA

Sunday, October 19, 2025

We welcome Heather Roberson

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

Welcome

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made!

ALL: We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Poem

The Call to Worship

The possibility that the zero gave birth to the universe,
that all our somethings come from nothing, the fear
of being alone like that, children of chance, orphans
down to our atoms, is mother to the idea of god. God

is a dress we slip over solitude, a mask
for oblivion to wear, a rule-giver in a world
where no flower or bear cares that we are here
or what we do.

I prefer a theology of silence, the eschatology
of the shrug, a religion of holding my wife's hand
for now.

But, if the industry of the church is what it took
to give me bells ringing Sunday mornings,
to which crows sometimes rise and deer turn,
I'm grateful for a sound that pulls me out of myself,
lifts my head toward sun and clouds, into the up
and all, the blue, the on and on of it, when I bend
the only knee I have to bend, feel
happily small, contingent, and held, by what
I can't say, short of everything.

— Bob Hicok

Gathering Song

Let Justice Flow like Streams

ELW 717

- 1 Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water, pure,
enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.
- 2 Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,
an ever-flowing stream of faith translated into deed.
- 3 So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,
and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

ALL: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection. Merciful and loving God,

ALL: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Pastor: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, our sins are forgiven!

ALL: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

ALL: Amen.

First Reading

Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

Leader: The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. A Word of God that is still speaking.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Children's Song

I've got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy

- 1 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart (where?) Down in my heart
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy Down in my heart (where?)
Down in my heart to stay

Chorus **And I'm so happy, so very happy,
I've got the joy of Jesus in my heart.
And I'm so happy, so very happy, I've got the joy of Jesus in my heart.**

- 2 I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus... *Chorus***
3 I've got the peace that passes understanding... *Chorus*

Children's Message

Heather Roberson

Gospel

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

Pastor: Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you O Christ.

Message

Heather Roberson

Hymn of the Day

Give Me Jesus

ELW 770

- 1 In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,
 in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.**

Refrain **Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.
 You may have all the rest, give me Jesus.**

- 2 Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry,
 dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus. *Refrain***

- 3 Just about the break of day, just about the break of day,
 just about the break of day, give me Jesus. *Refrain***

- 4 Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die,
 oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus. *Refrain***

- 5 And when I want to sing, and when I want to sing,
 and when I want to sing, give me Jesus. *Refrain***

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Prayers of the People

Leader: God of grace,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Moment of Gratitude & Announcements

- **Reformation Sunday is next week! Wear red! :)**
- **Book Study** *Tears of Things* by Richard Rohr, Thursdays 6:30-8 pm (until Nov 20th) See Gail for details
- **Book Club** *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon. October 28, 7:00 at Panera on Mercantile See Nikki for details
- **Meditation Group** is being formed. Contact Alex for details
- **Advent Devotional** sign ups for submissions of art and writing are starting today! We would love your words or artwork to be included. See Pat

Pastoral Transition Update

Randy Cox

Offering Prayer

Pastor: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

Song of Praise

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

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Communion

Pastor: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall not thirst. With Christians around the world and throughout the centuries, we gather around these symbols of bread and wine—simple elements that speak of nourishment and transformation.

Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you that you are as close to us as breath, that your love is constant and unfailing. We thank you for all that sustains life, and especially for Jesus Christ, who teaches us how to live out an ethic of justice and peace, and for the promise of transformation made manifest in his life, death and resurrection. We ask you to bless this bread and this cup. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, that we may join with you in promoting the well-being of all creation. Amen.

We remember on the night when Jesus and the disciples had their last meal together, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and gave it to the disciples, saying “This is my body, which is broken for you. Take and eat it, and as often as you do, remember

me.” In the symbol of the broken bread, we participate in the life of Christ and dedicate ourselves to being his disciples.

In the same way he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to the disciples, saying: “Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant, poured out for you and for all people. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. In the symbol of the cup, we participate in the new life Christ brings. And as often as we gather in Jesus name let us pray as he taught us by praying:

The Lord’s Prayer

ALL: Our Creator, 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.

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Invitation to Communion

Pastor: Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

Prayer after Communion

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another. As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope.

ALL: Amen.

Blessing

Pastor: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, bless you now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

Sending Song

Take My Life That I May Be

ELW 583

**Refrain Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**1 Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee. *Refrain***

**2 Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect and use ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose. *Refrain***

**3 Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King;
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee. *Refrain***

**4 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. *Refrain***

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Sending

Pastor: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

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