



“Our God Patiently Seeks Fruits!”

*Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church
Oxford, FL*

October 18th, 2020

NOTES ON TODAY'S SERVICE

Our God patiently seeks fruits. The Lord came to his city and his temple to teach his people, but the leaders of Israel rose up against him. During Holy Week, Sadducee and Pharisee put aside their differences to join in opposing this man who threatened their worldview and their worldly positions. When they questioned his authority, Jesus responded with three parables meant to drive the leaders to self-evaluation and self-condemnation. The parable of the two sons, the tenants in the vineyard and the wedding banquet were addressed to these men who had been given the trust of spiritual leadership in Israel but had failed. 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.

WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS AND VISITORS THIS MORNING! We are honored by your presence and invite you to return to worship with us again. If you do not have a church home, consider making ours – yours! If you would like more information about Open Bible Lutheran Church, please feel free to speak to Pastor Schulz or to one of the Greeters. You may reach Pastor Schulz at 352-753-9038. Or go to our web site:

www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com.

FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

Restrooms can be found on the right side of the Welcome Center.

Personal Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Ask an usher.

Also “The Hearing Loop System” is installed. Please turn you hearing aid or cochlear implant to “T” (Telephone.)

Please turn off all cell phones Personal and other electronic devices. Thank you.

Applause: Please refrain from any applause during the service.

Photos: Please refrain from taking any pictures during the service.



✝ For respect of those who use the sanctuary for meditation before the service, please refrain from any unnecessary noise once the pre-service music has begun. ✝

Lord's Supper Practice: *In I Corinthians 10:16, it tells us that we who are one body, are one loaf in communion. What that means is that we share a unity in what we believe from God's Word when we take communion. If you are a guest, we would like to have an opportunity to speak with you first to see if what you believe from the Scriptures is the same as what we believe. If it is the same, then we welcome you to join us for the Lord's Supper. Also, we are demonstrating love by asking you to refrain from the Lord's Supper until we have a chance to talk with you. In I Corinthians 11:27, we are told that the Lord's Judgment comes upon those who eat or drink in an unworthy manner. We want to protect you from that possibly happening to you. So give our pastor a call, and he will come by to discuss our practice of close communion.*

WE GATHER FOR PRAISE

Welcome and introduction

Greet Your Neighbor (Please practice social distancing)

Gathering Rite:

Lord, to You I Make Confession

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**


Ensemble only:


We have come into God's presence; Maker of the heav'ns and earth.

He created us to love him; to serve him as his precious child.

We have disobeyed and erred, thus deserving wrath and anger.

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C:  **Ensemble & Congregation** *Christian Worship 302:1*



Lord, to you I make con - fes - sion; I have sinned and
gone a - stray I have mul - ti - plied trans - gres - sion,
cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by you to see my er -
rors, Lord, I trem - ble at your ter - rors.

P: “This is the one I esteem; he who is humble and contrite in spirit, and trembles at my word,” declares the Lord. *Isaiah 66:2*

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Ensemble & Congregation

Christian Worship 302:4

Lord, on you I cast my bur - den; Sink it in the
depths be - low! Let me know your gra-cious par - don;
Wash me, make me white as snow. Let your Spir-it leave me nev -
er, make me on - ly yours for - ev - er.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for all of our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

For your Son has suf-fered for me, giv'n him - self to
 res - cue me, died to save me and re - store me,
 rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a - lone can van -
 quish these dark fears and soothe this an - guish.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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: A - - men.

WE GATHER AROUND HIS WORD

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 5:1-7

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Like the vineyard, Israel lacked nothing. God took her from Egypt and planted her in the Promised Land. Yet when he came to harvest, there was no fruit. When God looks for fruits of faith in our life and finds them lacking, couldn't he ask the same question of us. Let us never receive God's grace in vain but pray that we might produce fruits that our beloved seeks.

THE SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 12:1-3

page 1816

Running the race of life requires perseverance because the Word of God brings division and persecution and violence. There will be hardships that cause the heart to grow weary. But God promises that these trials-even to the point of shedding of blood-are meant for our good.

VERSE OF THE DAY

C: Alleluia. I will proclaim your name to my people; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Alleluia.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! These words are
 writ - ten that we may be - lieve that Je - sus is the Christ, the
 Son of God. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

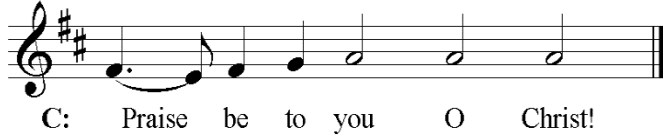
THE GOSPEL LESSON : Matthew 21:33-43

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(Please stand out of reverence for Christ)

The Lord sent prophets to his people, but the Jewish leaders persecuted them and killed them. Then Jesus, the Son, was sent to try and show them their sins and need for a Messiah. But they put Him to death as well. They brought forth no fruits of faith. As a result, the vineyard is now rented out to other tenants, the Gentiles.

P: This is the Gospel of Our Lord.



C: Praise be to you O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY: CW # 467 “May the Mind of Christ My Savior”

SERMON:

Sermon Text: Hebrews 12: 1-3

“A Lesson in Perseverance!”

Pastor William Balza

NICENE CREED

CW pg. 31

Ensemble: “Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You”

Director Randy Cochran

Chorus 1

Lord I stretch my hands to You

No other help I know

If You should leave me all alone

Where then shall I go

Oh Lord

Verse

I give my soul to You

I seek Your care and love

No other blessings do I need

But those from You above

Lord I ask You give me faith

And help me understand

And Lord when I this life shall leave

Just hold me in Your hand

Chorus 2

Lord I stretch my hands to You

No other help I know

If You should leave me all alone

*Where then shall I go
Oh Lord
I stretch my hands to You*

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WE GATHER FOR THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray to the Lord on behalf of His Church and for all people as they have need.

God our Father, You have invited us to raise our prayers to You in the name of Jesus, Your beloved Son, and have promised to hear and answer us with all that is best for us. Give us confidence, that we may call upon You as the people of Your name, and teach us to be content with what Your wisdom and love supply. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, You have appointed on earth governments and institutions that are accountable to You. Bless our nation and those in authority over us, and teach us to be good and faithful citizens who willingly supply the resources needed to provide for the common good. Though we are quick to judge and condemn what we dislike, give us patience and wisdom, that we may encourage and support those who carry the heavy mantle of leadership. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, You have set apart a people for Yourself and washed them in the blood of the Lamb to be Your own, to live under You in Your Kingdom forevermore. Give us faith, that we may daily be restored through repentance and forgiveness, and renew our hearts and spirits in the causes of holiness, righteousness and faithfulness all our days. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, You daily and richly supply all things needful for this body and life, and You have provided for us everlasting life in Christ. Give us a clean heart and a new heart so that we may not be deceived or distracted by things temporal, but rejoice and remain focused on the eternal things won for us by our Savior's death and resurrection. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, You have loved and chosen us according to Your mercy and called us through the living voice of Your Word. Grant to us the healthful Spirit of Your

grace, that what You have begun in us may be brought to completion when Christ appears in His glory on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, Your Son has borne the weight of our sins and carried the weakness of our flesh in His body on the cross. Be with the sick, the suffering, the grieving and the dying in their hour of need. [*We especially remember before You _____ and those we name in our hearts.*]

We ask that everyone who calls on You may find comfort in Your presence, healing according to Your will and be sustained through their afflictions. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We commend all things to Your mercy in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, trusting that You will hear us and answer us through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER (*traditional*)

WE GATHER AROUND THE LORD'S TABLE

Guests and visitors please read the note about our Communion Practice on the page 2 & 3.

P: Words of Institution

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

Agnus Dei

O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Christ, Lamb of God" (Agnus Dei). It consists of seven staves of music in a single system, all written in treble clef. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The music is in a simple, melodic style with a clear 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men. A - men."

Distribution – “Be Thou My Vision” “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Stacy Vance -Flute

At the close of distribution and at the direction of the Pastor, we will sing:

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

P: 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: A - men.

Open Bible Evangelical Lutheran Church

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“Growing in Christ through the Word, making His Salvation Known”

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) www.openbiblelutheranchurch.com



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