



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

1187 C.R. 128 & U.S. Rt. 20

Fremont, Ohio 43420

Pastor Tim Miller

93.1FM

Church: 419-332-6820

faithchurch@amplex.net

www.faithfremont.org

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

October 20, 2024

Setting 3 with Holy Communion

*Congregation please stand as you are able.

Introduction

Today's gospel starts with disciples obsessing over who will be closest to Jesus, leading to Jesus teaching his followers about God's take on importance and power. Here Jesus makes it explicit that the reversal of values in God's community is a direct challenge to the values of the dominant culture, where wielding power over others is what makes you great. When we pray "your kingdom come" we are praying for an end to tyranny and oppression. We pray this gathered around the cross, a sign of great shame transformed to be the sign of great honor and service.

Prelude: *All Things Bright and Beautiful* **James D. Esmond**

Welcome & Announcements: Joys and Concerns

Signing of the Pew Register by all present.

Noisy Offering: The Noisy Offering is given so children from our Companion Parish of Bumila Lutheran Church have the opportunity to attend school in the Mpwapwa Region. Thank you for your support of the children of our sister congregation in Bumila, Tanzania.

***Opening Hymn:** *You Servants of God* **ELW 825**

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have honored you with our lips,
but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.**

**The cravings at war within us
cause conflicts and disputes.**

**In our desire to be first
we make distinctions among ourselves.**

We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last.

In your great mercy, forgive us our sins.

**Draw near to us with grace in time of need,
and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity
and to remember our sin no more.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ,
the source of eternal healing,
your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

*Canticle of Praise

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

C: Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading:

Isaiah 53:4-12

This reading is from the last of four passages in Isaiah that are often called “servant songs.” Christians are probably most familiar with this servant song. In light of Christian faith, the servant’s healing ministry and redemptive suffering are understood to be fulfilled in the life and death of Christ.

R: A reading from Isaiah, the 53rd chapter.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 91:9-16

⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,

¹⁰**no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**

¹¹For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.

¹²**Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**

¹³You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.

¹⁴**I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**

¹⁵They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

¹⁶**With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

Second Reading:

Hebrews 5:1-10

Using imagery from scripture and from Jewish worship practices, Jesus is presented as the great high priest who was obedient to God's saving plan. Through his suffering and death he has become the source of eternal salvation.

R: A reading from Hebrews, the fifth chapter.

¹Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

²He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; ³and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. ⁴And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



On the way to Jerusalem the disciples ask Jesus to grant them seats of honor. Jesus responds by announcing that he and his followers will “rule” through self-giving service.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ³⁵James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”
³⁶And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” ³⁷And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” ³⁹They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; ⁴⁰but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

⁴¹When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴²So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

***Sermon Hymn:**

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

ELW 659

***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**

R: Challenged by God's Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

R: Holy One, we give thanks for all servant leaders of the church. Bless bishops, pastors, and deacons with humble wisdom and ground them in your love. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Creative One, we give thanks for the delicate balance of the natural world. Kindle in us a spirit of caring strength in the preservation of habitats, food availability, and centers of refuge, that all wildlife may thrive. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Empowering One, fill the leaders of governments with a spirit of service that prioritizes those on the margins due to job loss, underemployment, unsafe working conditions, and immigration status. May economic equity be achieved for all people. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Restoring One, send your angels to watch over, rescue, and protect those who are injured or ill. Nurse those who suffer hardship, disease, injury, or difficulty with your comfort and peace, *especially those we name at this time (Pause for people to be named)*. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Abiding One, you call pastors to shepherd the congregation toward faithful living as servants and followers of Jesus. Inspire all ordained ministers and seminarians to ministry that challenges, engages, and comforts those in their care. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Saving One, we give thanks for the disciples James and John and all saints who have faithfully served you. We rejoice in a promised place at the feast of victory that we receive by your grace alone. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

R: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in the saving grace you freely give, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

(10:30) Sr. Choir: *May the Mind of Christ* arr. L. Smith

Offering *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Offering Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God,
source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,
help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*Thanksgiving at the Table

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus welcomes you to this table.

Come, here is your God.

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

Distribution of Communion

Communion will be continuous. The ushers will invite you to come forward by the center aisle. You will be handed the bread with the words, "The Body of Christ given for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!". Step to the Communion Assistant and take the cup. They will speak the words, "The Blood of Christ shed for you." You may respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God!" Empty cups may be placed in the basket as you return to your seat by the side aisle.

If you prefer gluten-free bread, please let the Pastor know. If you prefer grape juice, please let the Communion Assistant know. If you prefer not to receive or have children who have not yet received, please let the Pastor know and he will offer a blessing.

Communion Hymn:

ELW 676 *Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak*

ELW 708 *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

***Post Communion Blessing**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

***Prayer After Communion**

P: Holy God,
you have welcomed us to this meal
and fed us with dignity at your table.
Send us now to welcome others
and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***Blessing**

P: God all mighty,
God most merciful
✠ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

C: Amen.

***Closing Hymn:** *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* ELW 551

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God.

***Postlude:** *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus* Martha Sobaje

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GOD, YOU HAVE PROMISED: “When [those who know my name] call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble” (Psalm 91:15, NRSV). I pray for anyone here today who needs this assurance. Amen.

ALTAR FLOWERS this morning are given to wish a Happy Anniversary to Lilly and Chris Riehl. Love Dad, Mom, Myla and Macie.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS are as follows: Vice President, Marie Reiselt; Secretary, Laurie Krynock; Treasurer, Ann Waggoner; Elder, Amy Wagner; Deacon, Mike Fought; and Endowment, Roy Burgoon. The 2025 Spending Plan was accepted as well.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY is November 3rd, 2024. We will be remembering all the Saints who have entered the church triumphant since our last All Saints Sunday last year. If you would like to add a loved one's name to those we recognize on this day, please call the office at 419-332-6820.

OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, a member of council has brought up the idea of having TV screens installed in the sanctuary to be utilized during worship. These would be large screens and would have the bulletin shown on them, along with all the lyrics for the hymns we sing. The large font would make it easier for many members to read and having the bulletin and hymns on the screens would make it easier for many members, especially those with small children, to participate more fully in the service. The congregation council assembled a team of 5 people to look into this as well as look into updating the sanctuary sound system. On Sunday, November 3, during fellowship time, in between services, the team will have a Q & A meeting for any who would like to attend. **This will just be a Q & A meeting, we will not be voting on anything.** During this meeting, there will be a demonstration on the TV in the fellowship hall of what the bulletin would look like. The team has done extensive work and has compiled a list of 29 questions & answers relating to this project. Copies of those will be available beginning this Sunday, in the narthex. If anyone has a question that is not on this list, please speak with one of the team members, and you don't need to wait until the meeting. The team members are: Jackie Seibert, Deb Fahle, Marissa Northrup, Mike Tooman, and Cole Dymond.

FLCW DELIVERY TO LWR: On Oct 12, Jim & Kim Smith & Larry & Teri Hine line delivered 65 boxes filled with 150 quilts, 29 fabric kits, 22 personal care kits and 15 baby kits to the LWR semi in New Rochester, OH. We had a very productive year and now starting over for next year's delivery. THANK YOU to everyone involved. We are always in need of big boxes, sheets, blankets, material and cash donations. Other items needed are listed in the Women's 2024 booklet.

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL DINNER OUT will be held on Tuesday, November 19th, at 6:30 p.m. at Buffalo Wild Wings in their party room. You will be ordering from the menu and can get a burger or large salad for \$10 to \$13. There is a sign-up sheet on the Women's Bulletin Board in the coat room area. Please consider joining us for this festive night out.

FAITH LUTHERAN WOMEN'S THANK OFFERING SUNDAY will be Sunday, November 10th, 2024, at both services. We look forward to Cheryl Paeth sharing the sermon this day. We will also honor our veterans by recognizing them on this Sunday. Please pick up your Thank offering envelopes in the Narthex for our special offering. Thank you.

A SWISS STEAK DINNER will be held, drive-thru only, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 450 N. Rocky Ridge Rd., **TODAY**, Sunday, October 20th, from 11:30 a.m. until sold out. Cost is \$12 per meal and includes Swiss Steak, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dinner Roll and Homemade Pie! Proceeds to benefit Ottawa County Holiday Bureau. A Thrivent Action Team grant will be used toward expenses.

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH: FINAL WORSHIP

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Hessville will be dissolving as a congregation. The building is being gifted to Luther Home of Mercy, a ministry dedicated to helping adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The final worship service at Emmanuel (3557 US-20, Lindsey, OH 43442) will be on Reformation Sunday, October 27 at 2:00 PM.

IF MY PEOPLE – As our prayer group gathers we have our conversations with God, praising him, offering thanks for all he is and all he does and putting our cares and concerns before Him. One of those concerns is this country of ours and the cares of the entire world. We ask that you join us in a 40 day prayer journey for our leaders and the future of our country, using the 'If My People' devotional.

“If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

(2 Chronicles 7:14)

These devotionals will be distributed on Sunday mornings at worship and will be available on the shelf in the narthex. We hope that you will pray with us as we continue our faith journey. Blessings to you.

TERRA STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FALL CONCERT will be held **TODAY**, Sunday, October 20th, at 3 p.m. in the Student Activity Center. It is open to the public with free admission. The Symphonic Band, Concert Choir and Orchestra will be performing featuring Patriotic Music.

CALLING ALL SINGERS. Whether you're in the senior choir, praise choir, or not in a choir, we need you for our Christmas Cantata which will be at the 10:30am service on December 22. We currently have 6 people, and we need to have at least 12 to make it work. We'd love to have more than 12, and we know there are a lot of you out there that can sing. If you're interested, there's a sign-up sheet in the coatroom. Please sign-up by October 13. Practices for the cantata will be on Wednesday nights from 7:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., and there may be some Saturday morning practices as well.

THE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS is studying the importance of making time for God using the Impact Video Series. We meet in Room 8 on Sundays, and start around 9:30 a.m., giving you plenty of time to have some breakfast! Due to the congregational meeting, we will not meet on October 13th. Thank you.

A GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP will be meeting on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the church lounge starting October 17 - November 21. Please consider joining this group to talk about grief and to just talk. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the coat room area.

THE TOLEDO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, 705 W. State St., Fremont, on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Organizers are hoping for sponsors to help with the cost of \$13,000. Please help us bring this fine musical program to Fremont. There are tiers for how many free tickets you receive with sponsorship. Please see the letter on the bulletin board in the coat room area. Checks should be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church, earmarked for the Toledo Symphony and mailed to the above address. Tickets will be mailed 3 weeks prior to the concert. We thank you for your consideration.

ASSISTING TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Paeth Family Alta Olmstead & Ruth Gerber

Lector: Cheryl Paeth Ken Walker, Jr.

Acolyte: Karly Paeth

Communion: C. Paeth/B. Fox C. Trick & B. Kocsis

Counters: Dave Kocsis* & Judi Neill

Fellowship Time Host: Paeth Family

Altar Guild: Sarah Quaintance & Nicole Weiker

ASSISTING NEXT WEEK

Pastor: Rev. Tim Miller **Organist:** Parm Boyer **Pianist:** Becky Fox

Sr. Choir Director: Darla Brown **Flautist:** Marilyn Ring

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Greeter: Roy & Shelli Burgoon Paul Antesberger & Cindy Zorn

Lector: Kim Smith Julia Norris

Acolyte: Robert Fought Julia Norris

Communion: A. Miller/M. Fought P. Antesberger & Annie Gazdecki

Counters: Annie Gazdecki* & Anne Gerner

Fellowship Time Host: Harder/Seibert Families

Altar Guild: Sarah Quaintance & Nicole Weiker

PRAYING DAILY



For healing and hope: Pat Copley, Connie Diekman, Della Humbarger, Denny Krumnow, Bill Leutenegger, Stan Moyer, Nancy Mylander, Letty Rusch, Bob Schneider, Dorothy Swedersky, Janet Tressler, Carnetta Weber, Linda Woessner, Jay Kinchy, Bethanie Wichman.

For the Family of: Tonya Ickes

For our Military: Noah Egbert, Troy Halfhill, Jade Kayser, Daniel Linder, Katie Olmstead, Tony Rozzi, Christopher Templeton, & Joshua Tooman.

For our Bishops: Bishop Christian Ndossa, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and NWOS Bishop Daniel Beaudoin and Staff

For our partner congregation in Bumila, Tanzania

And its pastor: Pastor Peter Magasi

FAITH ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF –Oct. 20 to Oct 27

Sunday

Oct. 20-----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE

Monday

Oct. 21----- 10 a.m. Valley View Worship & Holy Communion
 7:30 p.m. Dartball at Home vs. Elmore

Tuesday

Oct. 22-----6:30 p.m. Executive Council
 7:00 p.m. Church Council
 7 p.m. Esther Circle - Sermon on the Mount #4

Wednesday

Oct. 23-----6:30 p.m. Bell Choir
 7:30 p.m. Praise Choir
 7:30 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday

Oct. 24----- 3 p.m. Christ Care
 7-8 p.m. Grief Share in Lounge

Friday

Oct. 25-----5 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal – Reed/King

Saturday

Oct. 26-----9:15 a.m. Christ Care
 1:30 p.m. Wedding – Justin Reed/Madison King

Sunday

Oct. 27 -----8 & 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship Time

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024: ATTENDANCE: 111 – OFFERING: \$3,409.52

GOSPEL MESSAGE

October 20, 2024

Savior from Scratch

Have you ever made something from scratch—a cake, a meal, a table? There is something special about the words “I baked this cake from scratch” or “It’s a family recipe” or “This is a hand-crafted solid-oak table.” You could have bought the cake from the store, ordered the same meal for delivery, or bought a table from a manufacturer, but you chose to give of your time and effort to make it yourself.

God made a savior from scratch. God could have popped into Jerusalem and declared, “Everyone is saved!” Or even had a full-grown man formed out of the dust ride into Jerusalem and get crucified. The gospels would be a lot shorter if this were how God worked. All those chapters and details about God’s Son that come before the Holy Week accounts are there to tell us something important about God and what God wants us to learn from Jesus: relationships.

In today’s gospel reading, you can almost see Jesus rolling his eyes over the disciples’ lack of understanding. James and John are acting like teenagers in a school cafeteria, trying to reserve themselves the best seats next to the coolest kid.

But Jesus says to them, “You do not know what you are asking.” Jesus shares with them the key to being his followers: it’s not about being first, coolest, or at the top of the hierarchy; it’s about serving. Once again, Jesus points us to relationships.

The cake is special because it was crafted carefully with love for someone special. The meal is so delicious because it was cooked with a family recipe passed down from generation to generation through relationships. Jesus is who he is because he built relationships with the disciples and those he met along the way. He sat with the woman at the well, held little children, and went fishing with his friends. Loving relationships that led him to the cross to make salvation from scratch.