

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, October 4, 2020 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship
including Communion and Scripture

If you would like to participate in Communion, please have your bread and juice (or their substitutes) ready before beginning worship.

Seasonal Theme:

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

Theme for the day:

God expects us to do well in the stewardship of all of his creation.

Call to Worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Pastor: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

People: **Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.**

Pastor: There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

People: **Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.**

Pastor: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

Unison: **May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

God of majesty and mystery, you have touched us and transformed us to reach out to those who hunger for what only you can give. By the power of your Spirit, illumine us by your Word that we may behold your likeness. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture: **Matthew 21:33-46**
[texts of Scripture follow the service, beginning on page 5]

Message: **THE VIRTUOUS OWNER**

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed, Ecumenical Version (UMH 882)
(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sacrament of the Holy Communion

In peace and love, in gratitude and faith, I invite you to have your bread (or chips, crackers, etc.) and juice (or water, wine, etc.) ready.

Let us come together to Christ's table.

*(we read together the texts in **BOLD**)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

O God, you are the creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image, to love and to be loved. You made a holy covenant with us and sent prophets to teach us your truth. When we turned away and were unfaithful, you kept faith with us.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we join in your praise, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Taking our form and flesh, Jesus came among us as a servant. He showed us the depth and power of your love. By his suffering, death, and resurrection you delivered us from sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread. He gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering your gracious acts, we offer ourselves to you in service and praise as we keep the feast that Christ prepares:

[lifting the bread] Bread of Heaven,

[lifting the cup] Cup of Salvation,

[lifting bread and cup] Resurrection and Life.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit among us: in this bread, in this cup, in your people; one in the body, one in the blood, one with Christ, one in mission, one in ministry; in this place, in every place, in this world, and in the world to come.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. [Lord's Prayer]

Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Receiving

O God, we give you our thanks and praise. You feed us by your grace. You are with us in all our journeys. Give us courage and faith to serve you in all we do. Fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit. Enable us to be faithful and fruitful servants of the gospel and ministry to which you have called us. In Jesus's name we pray.

Amen.

Come to Christ and offer your gifts, not as a burden, but as opportunity to give rest and renewal to those who yearn to know God's love. Thank you again for all the offerings and pledges you have sent in by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

O Loving and Generous God, you provide for us, and even bless us, in more ways than we can number. We give these tithes and offerings to tell of your wondrous and steadfast love, so that those who do not yet know you may also come to your love. Bless all the hands that send this offering in your son's name. In Jesus the Christ we pray. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction

Stay blessed. Reach out and be a blessing to others. Spread the good news. Stay well-informed of God's grace. It is a free gift.

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Scripture Reading – October 4, 2020

MATTHEW 21:33-46

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.” Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.