

**Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost  
November 8, 2020**



**GOLD HILL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

*A CONGREGATION OF THE MONTANA SYNOD OF  
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)*

*Welcome to Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
and a special welcome to our guests and those returning after a time away.  
We're gathered as a Christian community to worship the Lord!*

*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning!  
Please let us know if there are other ways we can be of service.*

***Our Congregation's Mission Statement:  
EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, UNITED TO SERVE***

***The Guiding Principles of God's People at Gold Hill Lutheran***

*Principle 1: Jesus Christ is our Lord & Savior*

*Principle 2: The Holy Spirit & worship strengthen us*

*Principle 3: We are a welcoming & inviting community in Christ*

*Principle 4: We share the Word with confidence and courage*

*Principle 5: Our faith leads us to serve joyfully*

*Principle 6: We are generous with our gifts*

**[www.Facebook.com/GoldHillLutheranChurch.ELCA.ButteMT](http://www.Facebook.com/GoldHillLutheranChurch.ELCA.ButteMT)**

**Check out our GROWING website at [www.GoldHillLutheran.org](http://www.GoldHillLutheran.org)**

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**Today's Worship Leader**

<b>Worship Leader:</b>	<b>Pastor Marlow Carrels</b>
<b>Lector:</b>	<b>Julie Corbin</b>
<b>Music Leader:</b>	<b>Dave Coleman</b>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>Chris Ketchum, Lynn Aniksdal</b>

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Bolded texts are said in unison.

**Gathering**

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

**Invocation**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood  
you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel  
from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John  
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

## Announcements

### Entrance Hymn: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* ELW 632

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.
  
- 2 Under the shadow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is your arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.
  
- 3 Before the hills in order stood  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting you are God,  
to endless years the same.
  
- 4 A thousand ages in your sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.
  
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.
  
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

## 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.**



<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm:**

**Psalm 70**

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;  
O LORD, make haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded.**

Let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back  
and be disgraced.

<sup>3</sup>**Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me  
turn back because of their shame.**

<sup>4</sup>Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”

<sup>5</sup>**But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.  
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.**

**Second Reading:**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call and with the sound of God’s trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Gospel:**

**Matthew 25:1-13**

*As the gospel is announced:*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

*As the gospel is concluded:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Marlow Carrels

**Hymn of the Day: *There Is a Balm in Gilead ELW 614***

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

- 1 Sometimes I feel discouraged  
and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit  
revives my soul again.

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

- 2 If you cannot preach like Peter,  
if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus  
and say, "He died for all."

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

- 3 Don't ever be discouraged,  
for Jesus is your friend;  
and if you lack for knowledge,  
he'll ne'er refuse to lend.

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead  
to make the wounded whole;  
there is a balm in Gilead  
to heal the sin-sick soul.

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**  
**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**  
**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**  
**He descended into hell. \***  
**On the third day he rose again.**  
**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**  
**He will come again 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**

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*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

## **The Prayers**

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation,  
let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

*Each portion of the prayer concludes:*

**Hear our prayer.**

## **Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **Offering Prayer**

God of goodness and growth,  
all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.  
Water and word, wine and bread:  
these are signs of your abundant grace.  
Nourish us through these gifts,

that we might proclaim your steadfast love  
in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Although our road has been stony going, you have given us the power to stand firm in the face of wickedness and to rejoice in triumph over death and the grave. And so, with the multitude from east and west, from north and south, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we lift our voices in the unending hymn:

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts to establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to receive our Redeemer who comes to us in his body and blood.

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.

**Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours,  
almighty Father, now and forever. Amen**

## **The 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**

## **Distribution of Communion**

### **Prayer**

Let us pray.

God of the welcome table,  
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness  
and have been united by your presence among us.  
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts  
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,  
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

**Amen**

*Silence for reflection.*

## **Sending**

### **Benediction**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,  
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen**

**Sending Hymn: *Blessed Assurance ELW 638***

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God.**