

15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 5, 2021



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"God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday

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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

Prelude: *"I Love to Tell the Story"* arr. Robert Hobby

Lois Theesfield, organ

Acolyte: Emilia Stage

Words of Welcome

Gathering Hymn: *"God is Here"* ELW #526

God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's





world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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LEADER: "You are the salt of the earth."

**ALL: Sprinkle us across our town, God,
across our world,
to bring the flavour of your Kingdom wherever we go.**

"You are the light of the world."

**Uncover the radiance that is
within us, God,
to shine the truth of your love
wherever we go.**

"Let your light shine before others"

**that everyone we meet
may see our lives of worship
and glorify you,
our Father in heaven. Amen.**

Reading: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Lector: Steve Lekwa

1My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? 2For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, 3and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," 4have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5Listen, my beloved brothers

and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? 6But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? 7Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

8You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” 9But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [11For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. 13For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

14What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Gospel Acclamation: *“Spirit, Open Our Hearts”*

***Spirit, open our hearts to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may we love, in receiving and in giving.
Spirit, open our hearts.***

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

The Gospel according to Mark
Glory to You, O Lord

24[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 28But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” 29Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” 30So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

31Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 32They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. 33He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. 34Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” 35And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. 36Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. 37They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Prayers

Trusting God at work in and among us, we raise our hearts and voices in prayer for the needs of the world.

For your work in the church, we give thanks. Plant and tend relationships among faith communities, both ecumenical and interfaith, that in faithful listening, speech, and action, our hands work to bear fruit for the sake of all in need. God of grace, we pray,
hear us when we call.

For your work in creation, we give thanks. Sustain peoples and places affected by climate change, ecological devastation, and natural disasters. Prosper the work of creation-care ministries locally and globally, that with our minds and hearts opened, our hands work to lovingly care for the earth. God of life, we pray,
hear us when we call.

For your work among the nations, we give thanks. Direct leaders in paths of honest service, that both their words and actions are carried out on behalf of those whom they serve. God of righteousness, we pray,
hear us when we call.

For your work in places of need, we give thanks. Sustain all who are wearied by unemployment or lack of adequate food or housing, that we advocate for relief and just policy. Bring healing to all who are sick through the skillful hands and compassionate hearts of physicians, nurses, therapists and caregivers (We pray especially for...) God of restoration, we pray,
hear us when we call.

For your work in our neighborhoods, towns, and cities, we give thanks. Guide our common life together so that children, youth, and adults of all ages flourish. Teach us to listen attentively to our neighbors, that any new endeavors consider those who may be left out or under served. God of wisdom, we pray,
hear us when we call.

For your work in this worshiping community, we give thanks. Bless the service project(s) of this day and throughout the year. Foster deeper connections among those who serve and a spirit of accompaniment as we work alongside those in our community. Strengthen our faith, that we trust God moving in and among us. God of love, we pray,
hear us when we call.

For your work among those who came before us, we give thanks. We remember those who have died and are held forever in your loving hands. Hold us in your presence now and always. Receive these and all our prayers, Gracious God. We pray in the name of Jesus and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

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.**

Announcements

Blessing for Service

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we are sent as servants to various activities.

Bless those who go out from this space to labor within and beyond these walls. Prosper the work of their hands. Bless those who will receive the fruits of their labor, and may those who are sent receive blessing in return. May the gifts they use and share be signs of your love to all people.

To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever.

Amen.

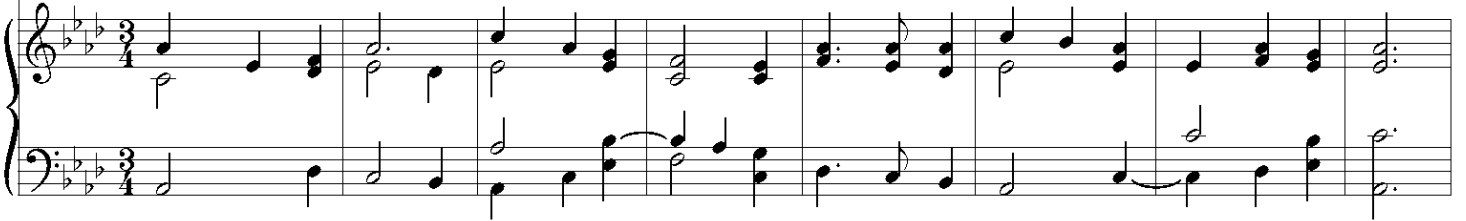
Sending Hymn: *"God's Work. Our Hands."* (*"Earth and All Stars"* ELW #731)



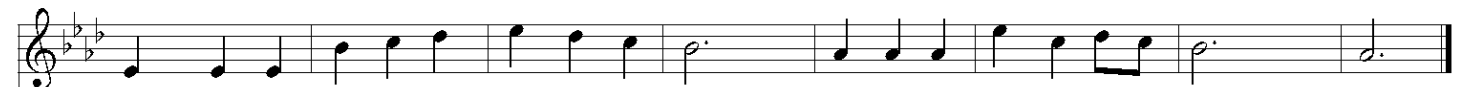
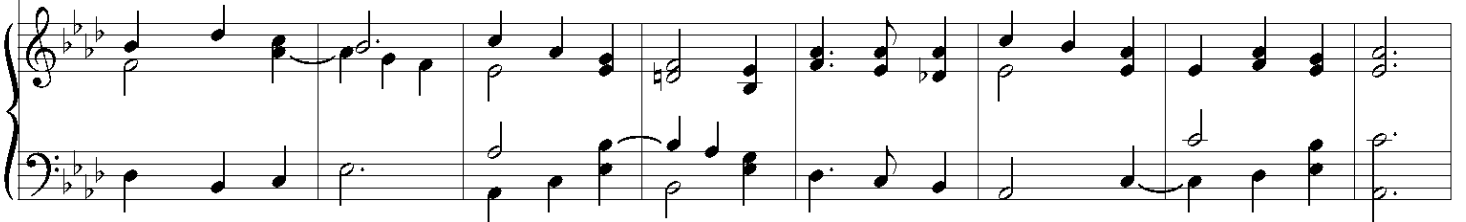
God's Work, Our Hands



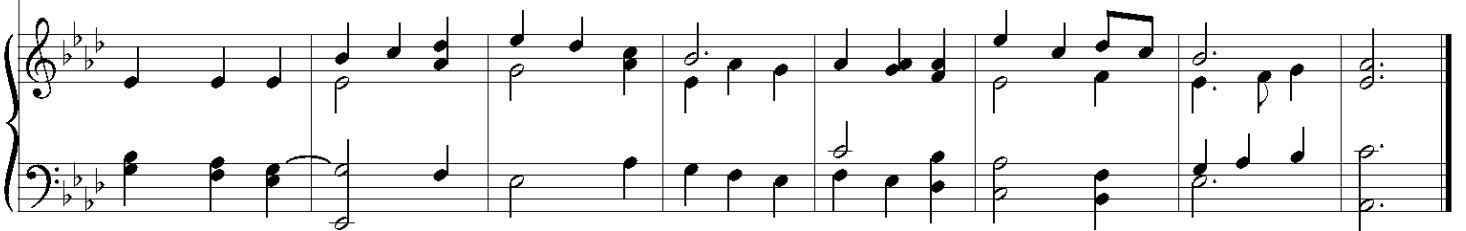
1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er, build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er, fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er, prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
4 God is at work in and a - round us: seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens, feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom, run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice, claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored, gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way, shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Lift High the Cross" arr. Michael Burkhardt
Lois Theesfield, organ

Announcements

TODAY: “God’s Work. Our Hands” Service Projects Following Worship

Today’s the day! Take a look at the service project activities and leaders listed below—all ages are invited to join in!

- **Clean and set up Sunday School rooms**
Leaders: Kim Stieler, Wendy Long, Chris Nady
- **Wash church windows**
Leaders: Mike Coverdale, Deb Parker
- **Create cards for care home residents and healthcare workers (Fellowship Hall)**
Leader: Emily Dalthorp
- **Sort and hang clothes at Harmony Clothing Closet***
Leader: Jenny Helland
*Please go directly to Harmony following worship
Masks are required

Intergenerational Faith Formation (Sunday School) Kickoff and Back to School Blessing Sept. 12

Kids and adults of ALL ages are invited to learn and grow in their faith through lessons and activities offered both Sundays following worship and Wednesday evenings this Fall, beginning Sunday, September 12. A full schedule is available in the Narthex and more information will be emailed and shared in the coming weeks. There will also be a special blessing for all students, teachers, and support staff.

All Ages “Back to Fall” Kick-off Event Sept. 12, 2:30pm—4:00pm

People of all ages are invited to come to participate in a scavenger hunt! We will meet at Evergreen Lane and receive clues that will take us to different churches in Nevada. Come along and learn some interesting facts about different faith communities in town and enjoy some ice cream at the end of the scavenger hunt. This event is free!

Church Office Closed Monday in Observance of Labor Day + New Hours

The church office will be closed this Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day. New office hours of 8:30am—4:30pm will start Tuesday, September 7th.

Join Memorial's Music Ministry

The Memorial Choir and Memorial Handbells are looking for singers and ringers! Handbells meet Wednesdays from 6:00—7:15pm, followed by choir from 7:30—8:45pm. Rehearsals begin September 1. Please contact Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry (loistfield@gmail.com) for more information.

Men at Prayer

Join us to read scripture and pray. This group meets here at Memorial Saturday mornings in the Lounge from 7:30—8:30am. Contact the office with any questions. No RSVP required. Hope to see you there!

Home Communion Ministry

Memorial's Home Communion Ministry is preparing to share Communion with those who are homebound or living in care facilities. If you are interested in taking Christ's gift of Communion to people in our community, or if you know of anyone who would like to receive Communion in their home, please call or e-mail Pr. Kathleen at PastorKathleen@mlcnevada.org. Thank you!

A Reminder Regarding Offering

It's been some time since we've all been regularly worshipping in person together, so here's a quick reminder of how our loose offering is distributed each month:

First Sunday: World Hunger

Second Sunday: Good Samaritan Fund

Third Sunday: Dorcas Fund

Fourth/Fifth Sunday(s): MLC General Fund

Memorial's Ministry Teams Need You!

Through our newly reinstated Ministry Teams, there are a variety of ways to become involved with the life of the church. We ask that you prayerfully consider joining one of the following teams:



- Education/Faith Formation
- Remembrance
- Outreach & Fellowship
- Audit
- Stewardship
- Property
- Worship
- Finance

Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org or emily@mlcnevada.org, or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

Judy Coverdale	Larry Christian	Janeen Driscoll
Lisa & Chuck Rodgers and family	Jaylee Bartleson	Lynn Harris
Patricia Barrance <i>mother of Vanessa Borwick</i>	Jeff Sebring <i>son-in-law of Ernie and Marlene Ruhde</i>	Julie Sutherland
Carsrud family following death of De's brother, Dave Olinger	Norma Gandrup	Cassie Harrell
Family of John and Tanya Sorem	Glenda Day	Jan Cook
Jami Tharp	Sheila Collingwood <i>mother of Lyndsey De Vos</i>	John Snitko <i>son-in-law of Bob and Liz Meimann</i>
Fred Samuelson	James Stephens	Ken Johnson
	George Forsyth	Jim Pappas





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Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry
Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement
Mike Coverdale, Custodian