September 25, 2016 10:00 a.m.

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Liturgical color for the Sundays of Ordinary time is Green, representing Growth and Vitality of the Christian Church.

GATHERING
We extend a special welcome to our visitors. Nametags and information packets are available at the welcome table at the main entrance to the sanctuary. Childcare is available in the nursery for children ages birth through seven. Please see an usher for location if you wish to use the nursery.

GREETING
“Fundraising is, first and foremost, a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. As a form a ministry, fundraising is as spiritual as giving a sermon, entering a time of prayer, visiting the sick, or feeding the hungry.”

~Henri Nouwen

TIME OF FRIENDSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Jacob’s Ladder” arr. Greg Sewell

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES Their flames symbolizing God’s Spirit.

This symbol invites the congregation to stand in body or spirit

Bold type indicates a unison response

CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER

ONE: God of Promise and of Hope, we gather in this place to remind one another of our common need.

ALL: We all need to find our way into acceptance and love, so that we may live fully as your children.

ONE: We gather in this place to share our stories of challenge and blessing.

ALL: Our lives are rich with stories of new life, and tales of unimaginable woe.

ONE: We gather in this place because we have received much, and so we have much to share with one another.

ALL: All of the promises of God are before us! The Presence of God awaits us! Let us worship the One who restores us to life!
OPENING HYMN  “Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good”  Hymnal 6

INVOCATION

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM  “Fill A Me Up”  Pepper Choplin
Ken Hanson, soloist

SCRIPTURE LESSON  Luke 16:19-31 (The Inclusive Bible)

19. ‘Once there was a rich person who dressed in purple and linen and feasted splendidly every day.
20. At the gate of this person’s estate lay a beggar named Lazarus, who was covered with sores.
21. Lazarus longed to eat the scraps that fell from the rich person’s table, and even the dogs came and licked Lazarus’ sores. 22. One day poor Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to the arms of Sarah and Abraham. The rich person likewise died and was buried. 23. In Hades, in torment, the rich person looked up and saw Sarah and Abraham in the distance, and Lazarus resting in their company.
24. ‘Sarah and Abraham,’ the rich person cried, ‘have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am tortured by these flames!’
25. But they said, ‘My child, remember that you were well off in your lifetime, while Lazarus was in misery. Now Lazarus has found consolation here, and you have found torment.
26. But that’s not all. Between you and us there is a fixed chasm, so that those who might wish to come to you from here can’t do so, nor can anyone cross from your side to us.’
27. ‘The rich person said, ‘I beg you, then, to send Lazarus to my own house where I have five siblings. Let Lazarus be a warning to them, so that they may not end in this place of torment.’
28. But Sarah and Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets. Let your siblings hear them.’
29. ‘Please, I beg you,’ the rich person said, ‘If someone would only go to them from the dead, then they would repent.’
30. ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the prophets,’ Sarah and Abraham replied, ‘they won’t be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead!’’

“The Bosom of Abraham” is a rich image from scripture and a literal translation of the phrase Luke uses in verse 22. As we include Sarah in the metaphor, many translators find it inappropriate to conjure up a woman’s breast in the minds of their readers, but it makes the imagery even more powerful as to the comfort and sustenance received by a nursing child from a loving parent. The phrase is also brought to mind at the Last Supper as the Disciple that Jesus Loved has an honored place at the “Bosom” of Jesus (John 13:23). In the context of a feast or banquet, this position implies the best food and drink will be served to the person who enjoys such a distinction.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

SERMON  “Let Lazarus Be a Warning”  Pastor Dave

HYMN  “Wakantanka Taku Nitawa”  Hymnal 3
(Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works)

RESPONSE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Abba 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.