

Half Truths - *“Everything Happens for a Reason”*

September 17, 2023 9:00 a.m.

Baptism – Ellen Marie Brinker and Jackson Matthew Brinker

Altar Flowers in Memory of Sue Hoffman

GATHERING WORSHIP MUSIC *“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”* Fred Bock

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

(Please kneel or stand as you are able.)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *“O God Beyond All Praising”* v 1,3

ELW 880

THE 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you are the source of all truth and wisdom, and we seek your guidance and direction. We ask that you lead us into all truth, that we may know you more fully and follow you more closely. Open our eyes to see your ways clearly, to be discerning,

and to be filled with your light and truth. Help us to live lives that honor and please you and to be faithful witnesses in all we do. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who is the way and the truth and the life.

C: Amen.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR MISSION STATEMENT

P: Although as individuals we are unique in many and various ways, we gather as a congregation for a common mission.

C: In Jesus's name, we:

Bring Glory to God through fulfilling worship,

Serve God's people, both within our congregation and without,

Learn about the Lord's will for us through sharing and teaching, and

Connect within our membership and reach out to connect with others.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ellen Marie Brinker

Jackson Matthew Brinker

*Ellen Marie and Jackson Matthew's parents, Jonathan and Melissa Brinker
bring their daughter and son forward for the sacrament of baptism.*

Ellen Marie and Jackson Matthew's sponsors are Steven and Michelle Luck

PRESENTATION

P: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Steven and Michelle: We present Ellen and Jackson for baptism.

P: Ellen Marie... Jackson Matthew, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Ellen Marie... Jackson Matthew: I do.

P: Jonathan and Melissa, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your children baptized into Christ?

Jonathan and Melissa: We do.

P: As you bring your children to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help them grow in the Christian faith and life?

Jonathan and Melissa: We do.

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Ellen and Jackson in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Steven and Michelle: We do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Ellen and Jackson and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

C: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

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

P: 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, and 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 the baptism of Jesus's death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that these children who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BAPTISM

P: Ellen Marie... Jackson Matthew...I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your child new birth, cleanse her/him from sin, and raise her/him to eternal life. Sustain Ellen... Jackson ...with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C: Amen.

ANOINTING

P: Ellen Marie... Jackson Matthew... child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

C: Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle is given to Ellen Marie and Jackson Matthew:

P: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

C: Amen.

P: Let us welcome our newly baptized sister and brother.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

(Please be seated.)

MISSION MOMENT

"Navigation Team"

Margie Turowski

CHORAL ANTHEM

"God and God Alone"

McHugh/Fettke/Grassi

MEMORY VERSE

John 8:31-32

Louise Green

A: Together, let us recite the memory verse:

C: Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

A: The first reading is from the book of Deuteronomy, the thirtieth chapter.

¹⁵"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you

shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-35,37-39

A: The second reading is from the book of Romans, the eighth chapter.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able.)

VERSE – from “*You Are the Way*”

You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.

GOSPEL

Matthew 23:29-39

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁹ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous, ³⁰ and you say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ ³¹ Thus you testify against yourselves that you are descendants of those who murdered the prophets. ³² Fill up, then,

the measure of your ancestors. ³³ You snakes, you brood of vipers! How can you escape the judgment of hell? ³⁴ For this reason I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, ³⁵ so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶ Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. ³⁷ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸ See, your house is left to you, desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Karyn Parker, Children's Ministries Coordinator

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack, Senior Pastor

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY

"We Praise You, O God" v 1,2,3

ELW 870

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Louise Green

A: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

A: We pray for the church. Bless the missions and ministries of diverse congregations, that they uplift the good news of salvation in ways that can be understood. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and healing to rivers clogged with pollution. Enrich the soil for trees and plants. Protect the crops needed to feed those who hunger. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for all who govern. Encourage those in positions of power to lead with empathy, practice forgiveness, and care for those who struggle. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for our neighbors who face illness of any kind. For those strained financially; for all living with chronic pain, mental illness, the disease of addiction, or are otherwise afraid or in harm's way. Protect all who cry out for mercy (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We pray for this congregation. Open our hearts to practice intentional invitation. Help us to forgive each other, practice patience, and choose welcome over judgment. Move us to care for those in our community seeking refuge and safety. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: We give thanks for the saints who died in faith (*especially those we now name aloud or in the quiet of our hearts*). Show us how to live faithfully, creatively, and lovingly in your church and world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated.)

STEWARDSHIP READING *2 Corinthians 9:8*

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

OFFERING *“Little Fugue #1”* G. F. Handel

(Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. God of love, you abide with us; you provide for all our needs and guide us in your ways. Out of gratitude for your love, we bring our gifts before you. Use them for your work of caring, that all may feast at the table of abundance, walk without fear, and drink deeply from the cup of compassion.

C: Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

C: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

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

C: Our Father,

(Please be seated.)

HOLY COMMUNION *“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” v 1,2,3*

ELW 461

POST HOLY COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

(Please stand as you are able.)

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"In Thee is Gladness"

ELW 867

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

"In Thee is Gladness"

J. S. Bach

SERVING THIS MONTH

Readers

September 3 Bob Hoffman
September 10 Nancy Geik
September 17 Louise Green
September 24 Dennis Eurich

PowerPoint

September 3 Gwen Fitzgerald
September 10 Tim Jehowski
September 17 Nancy Geik
September 24 Lori Calbeck

Ushers

September 3 John Wenskay & Les Deyer
September 10 John Wenskay & Les Deyer
September 17 John Wenskay & Les Deyer
September 24 John Wenskay & Les Deyer

Communion Assistants

September 3 L & R Green/S. Siems
September 10 T. Dukatz/G. Fitzgerald/N. Geik
September 17 J. Herbst/A. Bazil/L. Wade
September 24 K & D Eurich/A. Venola