



My song is love unknown, My  
Savior's love to me, Love to  
the loveless shown That they  
might lovely be. Oh, who am I  
That for my sake My Lord  
should take Frail flesh and  
die?  
LSB 430:1

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*Serving Christ 54 years in Goderich & 153 years in Dashwood*

A Member of  
Lutheran Church Canada



## **2026 THEME FOR BEREA & ZION**

### **LIVING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23*

The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of His work in our lives, shown by how we serve Christ by serving others. Because of the salvation Jesus bought for us, we are now free. But what **SHOULD** we do? Paul says he (and we) are "slaves" ("servants") to Christ.

By being servants and in gratitude to Jesus for His saving work, we are empowered by the Spirit working in and through us to do what He wants. We praise Him with lives well lived, and bring the message of salvation to everyone around us, bringing Him glory by our actions.

Throughout the year, we will explore the meaning of all nine fruit. Watch for these explorations on the announcement page. We hope you will revisit your understanding of God's gifts, seeing where the Holy Spirit's fruit shine through. You are a work in progress, a work of art that God has not yet finished.

### **BEREA & ZION GUESTS**

*At the end of worship we would like to invite you to please take a moment to sign our guest book in the foyer.*

### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS**

*Welcome in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour! It's great to have you with us today! If you're here because you're looking for a church family to be a part of, we're always excited to unite brothers and sisters in Christ. Talk to Pastor John today.*

## 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ October 4, 2026

### *As We Gather*

*"God loves you." It is not like we have never heard that before. We may even have taken that fact for granted, thinking, "Well, of course He does! That's His thing! 1 John 4:8 says that God is love." Nevertheless, as our lives and circumstances unfold, through the uncertainties of sin and doubt and failure, many have come up short and been forced to wonder, "How can God love me now?" Love, after all, is always in direct proportion to our worthiness of it, to how lovable we are, right?*

*The highest love of God, agape, can commonly be defined as the love of intelligence and corresponding purpose. This definition may seem at first to drain the whole idea of the depth of emotion or the value of love. But we discover the power of God's love even more as we are convinced of the greatness of our need-our own sin and unworthiness. That's when the cross of Calvary and the sacrifice of Christ crucified shines forth as the highest, greatest, and almost unbelievable love of God for you-even you. Notice how many of today's hymns examine the depth and, yes, "strangeness" of the fact that God loves you.*

### WELCOME AND SHARING OF PEACE

#### *Opening Hymn*

LSB 825 Rise, Shine, You People

#### *Invocation and Opening Sentences* Psalm 43:4; 124:8; John 3:16

P: We come together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: AMEN**

P: I will go to the altar of God,

**C: to God my exceeding joy.**

P: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

**C: who made heaven and earth.**

P: God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son,

**C: that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

### *Confession and Absolution*

P: Beloved, "the love of Christ constrains us," because "He died for all." For the sake of the miraculous love of God, let us draw near to Him with a true heart and confess our sins and our need for God's love.

**C: Lord God, heavenly Father, we confess to You that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. So certain are we of our sins that we have wondered at times how You could still love us. But because of Your merciful invitation, we come before You, asking for Your forgiveness for the sake of Your Son, Jesus. O Lord, have mercy on us.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: AMEN**

### *Responsive Psalm*

Psalm 80:7-19

P: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**C: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.**

P: You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.

**C: The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.**

P: It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

**C: Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**

P: The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

**C: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,**

P: the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.

**C: They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!**

P: But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!

**C: Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!**

P: Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now, and will be forever. AMEN**

### *Prayer of the Day*

P: *We pray.* Gracious God, You gave Your Son into the hands of sinful men who killed Him. Forgive us when we reject Your unfailing love, and grant us the fullness of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: AMEN**

### *First Lesson*

Isaiah 5:1-7

*(God's love song for His beloved.)*

Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a

watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!

### *Epistle Reading*

Philippians 3:4b-14

*(The surpassing worth of knowing Christ.)*

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what

lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

### *Holy Gospel*

Matthew 21:33-46

*(The parable of the tenants.)*

[Jesus said:] “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. 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 have his inheritance.’ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore 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 let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.”

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 marvelous in our eyes’?”

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

P: These are the Word of the Lord.    **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### *Profession of Faith*

(Tune: Hymn # 802)

***In God we believe: the Creator whose pow'r  
In mercy has brought us for worship this hour.  
He graciously grants us our years and our days  
And blesses with kindness our work and our ways.***

***In Jesus, the Saviour, our hope is secured.  
True God and true man once the cross he endured  
To grant our lives wholeness, forgiveness of sin,  
With hearts freed from guilt, we know true peace within.***

***God's Spirit at work in our lives we confess;  
With power and truth the church now he does bless.  
As saints, God's forgiven, one day we shall then  
Be living in glory forever. AMEN***

### *Hymn of the Day*

LSB 544 O Love, How Deep

### *Sermon*

### *The Offerings Are Gathered*

*(The Offertory Prayer is sung as the offerings are brought forward)*

***We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.***

***May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!***

### *Prayers of the Church*

P: Lord, we pray for the whole Christian church around the world.  
May they be united in faith and emboldened to witness to the

good news and the forgiveness and salvation that is ours in Jesus.  
Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Father, in our homes, guide husbands and wives to love and forgive one other continually. Strengthen them in their life together. Help parents to be faithful examples for their children, Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Holy Spirit, equip us that we would do what is good and right and live as faithful citizens in our country. Bless our leaders with wisdom. Surround them with voices that will speak to follow Your will and benefit all.. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Jesus, You are our rock in times of trouble. Watch over all in their time of need. Look with favour on those who are suffering through illness and pain. As well, be with those recovering from difficulties. We especially lift to you... and all in our hearts. Give them restoration according to Your will and the assurance that Your grace is sufficient for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Holy Spirit, we rejoice with those celebrating birthdays, baptismal birthdays, and anniversaries this month. We thank you for the blessings of the past and entrust them to your future care. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, we continually lift up to Your care and direction those active, on the fence, or absent from our midst. Send your Spirit to work in their hearts and minds. Use us to encourage them, pointing them to Jesus and His love, inviting them to walk with us together in faith as His family. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: 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**

### *Benediction*

P: The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: AMEN**

### *Closing Hymn*

LSB 912 Christ Is Our Cornerstone

### *Announcements and Dismissal*

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **SERVANTS IN THE LORD'S HOUSE**

### **BEREA**

Organist: Bill Irwin  
Altar Guild: Kevin & Heather Ball  
Elders: Kevin Ball, Chuck Becker  
For Prayer: Lilo 226 421-2436, Elizabeth 237-3622

### **ZION**

Organist: Joanne Maguire  
Altar Guild: L. Snell / B. Reschke  
Elders: Ken Rader, Lorne Koch, Tom Hayter, Randy  
Bowers, Jeff Miller  
For Prayer: Nancy 237-3653, Brenda 237-3789

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