

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2020

Trinity Free Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

INTROIT: PSALM 116:12-13, 15-17 (ESV)

¹² What shall I render to the LORD
for all his benefits to me?

¹³ ***I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,***

¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his saints.

¹⁶ ***O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.
You have loosed my bonds.***

¹⁷ ***I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call on the name of the LORD.***

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word. We pray that You will open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Christ's sake.

Amen.

#140: "PRAISE TO THE FATHER, THE GLORIOUS KING"

1 Praise to the Father, the glorious King of creation!
Swell the loud chorus, ye chosen of every nation!
O my soul, wake!
Harp, lute and psaltery take,
Sound forth thy true adoration.

- 2 Praise to the Son: for the cross that once shamefully bore Him!
Now, on the throne of His power let all creatures adore Him!
Man reigns on high!
Lo! all the hosts of the sky
Bow down and worship before Him!
- 3 Praise to the Spirit, whose strong, rushing wind, ever blowing,
Still through the world, wheresoever it listeth, is going:
Darkness and death
Drink from Thy quickening breath,
Life, light and joy overflowing.
- 4 Lord God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Giver,
Thy praise resounds by the shore of the bright crystal river:
We, too, would fain,
Echoing humbly the strain,
Praise Thee forever and ever.

CONFESSION OF SIN

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool" (Is. 1:18).

With promises like this God invites us to come and wash our robes in the blood of the lamb. Let us bow before the Lord and confess our sins.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy and ask You for Christ's sake, grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

O God the Father in heaven, have mercy upon us!

O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy upon us!

O God the Holy Ghost, true Comforter, have mercy upon us!

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name, He gives power to become sons of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes, and is baptized, shall be saved. Grant this, LORD, to us all.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: ISAIAH 55:6-9 (ESV)

- ⁶ “Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way,
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

EPISTLE LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14, 19-30 (ESV)

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is

gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from where He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

June Thompson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING RESPONSE

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. Amen.

#410: "SALVATION UNTO US HAS COME" (STANZAS 1, 2, 7, & 10)

- 1 Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.
- 2 What God did in His Law demand
And none to Him could render
Caused wrath and woe on ev'ry hand
For man, the vile offender,
Our flesh has not those pure desires
The spirit of the Law requires,
And lost is our condition.
- 7 Let me not doubt, but trust in Thee,
Thy Word cannot be broken;
Thy call rings out, "Come unto Me!"
No falsehood hast Thou spoken.
Baptized into Thy precious name,
My faith cannot be put to shame,
And I shall never perish.
- 10 All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise
To Father, Son, and Spirit,
The God that saved us by His grace—
All glory to His merit!
O Triune God in heaven above,
Who hast revealed Thy saving love,
Thy blessed name be hallowed.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

June Thompson

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 20:1-16 (ESV)

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵ So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶ And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸ And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹ And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹² saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first last."

SERMON: "JUST NOT FAIR"

#407: "JESUS PAID IT ALL"

- 1 I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small!
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

Refrain:

Jesus paid it all,
All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain—
He washed it white as snow.

2 Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.

3 For nothing good have I
Whereby Thy grace to claim—
I'll wash my garments white
In the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb.

4 And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.

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.

BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:24-26)

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

THREE-FOLD AMEN

Amen. Amen. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.***