

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 27, 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 147:1-6 (ESV)

- 1 Praise the LORD!
For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.
- 2 ***The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.***
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
- 4 ***He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.***
- 5 Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
- 6 ***The LORD lifts up the humble;
he casts the wicked to the ground.***

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.

#228: "FATHER, AGAIN IN JESUS' NAME WE MEET"

- 1 Father, again in Jesus' name we meet,
And bow in penitence beneath Thy feet;
Again to Thee our feeble voices raise
To sue for mercy, and to sing Thy praise.
- 2 O we would bless Thee for Thy ceaseless care,
And all Thy work from day to day declare;
Is not our life with hourly mercies crowned?
Does not Thine arm encircle us around?
- 3 Alas, unworthy of Thy boundless love,
Too oft with careless feet from Thee we rove;
But now, encouraged by Thy voice, we come,
Returning sinners to a Father's home.
- 4 O by that Name in Whom all fulness dwells,
O by that love which ev'ry love excels,
O by that blood so freely shed for sin,
Open, blest mercy's gate, and take us in.

CONFESSION OF SIN

"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9) And so with confidence we bow before the Lord to 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: EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32 (ESV)

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰“Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

EPISTLE LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-18 (ESV)

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

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

Marilyn Lee

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.***

#218: "JESUS, NAME OF WONDROUS LOVE"

- 1 Jesus, name of wondrous love,
Name all other names above!
Unto which must ev'ry knee
Bow in deep humility.
- 2 Jesus, name of priceless worth
To the fallen sons of earth,
For the promise that it gave,
"Jesus shall His people save."

- 3 Jesus, only name that's giv'n
Under all the mighty heav'n,
Whereby man, to sin enslaved,
Bursts his fetters, and is saved.
- 4 Jesus, name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above:
Pleading only this we flee,
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Sara Taylor

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 21:23-32 (ESV)

²³ And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴ Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶ But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁸ "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹ And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him."

SERMON: "REPENTANCE FOR ALL"

#206: "WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES"

- 1 When morning gilds the skies,
My heart, awaking, cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
When evening shadows fall,
This rings my curfew call:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
- 2 When mirth for music longs,
This is my song of songs:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
God's holy house of prayer
Hath none that can compare
With: Jesus Christ be praised.
- 3 No lovelier antiphon
In all high heaven is known
Than: Jesus Christ be praised.
There to th' Eternal Word
Th' eternal psalm is heard:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

- 4 Ye nations of mankind,
In this your concord find:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Let all the earth around
Ring joyous with the sound:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
- 5 Sing, suns and stars of space,
Sing, ye that see His face,
Sing: Jesus Christ be praised.
God's whole creation o'er,
For aye and evermore
Shall Jesus Christ be praised.

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.