



THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 26, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Someone is casting out demons in Jesus' name who isn't part of Jesus' own circle, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in His name, even when it is not under His control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.

✠ GATHERING ✠

OPENING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

#507 (grn)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as we begin.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P. Gracious God,

C. we confess that we have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. We have turned away from You. We have not kept Your commandments. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have neglected the poor, and we have not welcomed all people in Your name. Forgive our sin, increase our faith, strengthen us in service, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

P. God, Who is rich in mercy . . . of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

GREETING

P. Holy people of God, called through the gospel of Christ, enlightened by the Spirit:
grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast...

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³You have set up a stronghold against your | adversaries,
to quell the enemy and | the avenger.
⁴When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,
⁵what is man that you should be mind- | ful of him,
the son of man that you should | seek him out?
⁶You have made him but little lower | than the angels;
you adorn him with glo- | ry and honor;
⁷you give him mastery over the works | of your hands;
you put all things un- | der his feet:
⁸all | sheep and oxen,
even the wild beasts | of the field,
⁹the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,
and whatsoever walks in the paths | of the sea.
¹⁰O | LORD our Lord,
how exalted is your name in | all the world!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Quoting from the psalms, this passage from Hebrews emphasizes that Jesus, the one through whom God created everything and who sits at God's right hand, is also the one who experienced human suffering and death in order to blaze the path of salvation for us.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and He sustains all things by His powerful word. When He had made purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name He has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

^{2:5}Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere,
 "What are human beings that You are mindful of them,
or mortals, that You care for them?
⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
 You have crowned them with glory and honor,
⁸subjecting all things under their feet."

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through

sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying,
“I will proclaim Your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise You.”

L. The Word of the Lord. C. Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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HOLY GOSPEL: St. Mark 10:2-16

Jesus announced and enacted in history the new reality of God's surprising activity. These two stories demonstrate this new reality: Women and children are accepted and valued, not dismissed as inferior to adult men.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test Him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” ³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart He wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked Him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

¹³People were bringing little children to Him in order that He might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to Me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

God! When Human Bonds are Broken

#735 (grn)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P. ... Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING /OFFERTORY *Let the vineyards...* page 86

OFFERTORY PRAYER page 87

✠ MEAL ✠

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING page 88

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. Holy God, our Bread of Life ... bread for the world.

C. Amen.

P. In the night in ... the everlasting feast.

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. By Your Spirit ... both now and forever.

C. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER page 91

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING page 92

POST-COMMUNION SONG *Thank the Lord* page 92

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P. Blessed are You . . . to work in Jesus' name.

C. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BENEDICTION

P. God Almighty send you light and truth to keep you all the days of your life. The hand of God protect you; the holy angel accompany you; and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *Our Father, by Whose Name* #357 (grn)

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

THOSE WHO SERVE:

Ministers: All the People of God

Musician: Lou Knutson

Camera: Josh Sumption

Acolytes: Ryann Karstens / Grace Horner

President: Pastor Ellen Munter

Reader: Terry Dybsetter

Projection: Sara Wollum

Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason & Jerome Bruns

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September 26, 2021

General: \$5,191.12 (\$694.50 received through eGiving)

Includes: \$4,086.82 from savings for lighting updates in Social Hall. \$123.80 from savings for Bibles.

YEAH FOR THE NEW LIGHTS IN THE SOCIAL HALL



The attached QR Code can be used to directly access the online giving form for Bethel Lutheran.

Just one way of our continuing effort to modernize so you can give conveniently to Bethel.



Emily Morton, Angie Denelsbeck Anderson, Bill and Karen Pohlen, Carol Moon, Kendon Knutson, Sonja (Knutson) Gabriel

New Community Outreach effort.

The Deacons have chosen to expand our current monthly food shelf outreach. Each month the Deacons will feature a community group to support through our **"SPARE COINS FOR COMMUNITY"** effort. A receptacle in the narthex will be the coin drop. This month we are serving the Canby Food Shelf. If you have ideas for future outreach organizations, please contact a Deacon with your idea. *(note: the coin drop will change persona frequently so watch for the changes).*

Setting the Table for Hospice

Support the Sanford Hospice, Canby/Madison through the virtual auction October 3-17, 2021. Information to bid virtually is posted at Bethel. Cash donations can be sent to: Sanford Hospice, 112 St, Olaf Ave, Canby, MN 56220

Softening Hearts

At first, the two episodes in today's gospel may seem disjointed: a challenging, even unsettling passage about divorce is followed by a much-loved image of Jesus telling His disciples to let little children come to Him. Yet in both passages, Jesus puts rules and conventions aside to challenge His followers' hearts to greater openness and vulnerability.

When legal experts attempt to reduce the challenges of divorce to legal minutiae, Jesus reframes their questions in the context of our created need for human relationship. In a broken world, opening our hearts to others can bring some of our deepest pain, but if we don't take that risk, we can lose out on the human love and companionship for which God created us. These verses should never be used to judge those who have gone through the heartache of divorce, but rather as a caution for all of us against letting the pain of relationships harden our hearts to the care we were created to both give and receive.

Similarly, in the second passage, Jesus praises the openness of children's hearts to God's kingdom when the disciples attempt to shoo them away. As adults, we have accumulated a lot of knowledge about how the world works. Yet this confidence in what we know can also harden our hearts against perceiving a God Who moves in mysterious ways and challenges our fixed ideas of how things are. Once again, Jesus calls us to risk our hearts with humility and openness to being taught the ways of God's kingdom by those we thought needed us to teach them.

Through the rhythms of worship and the cadence of liturgy, in the vibrations of music and the gifts of bread and wine, we invite one another to relax our hearts, drop our defenses, and leave behind what we thought we knew. Here, the Spirit of God comes to open our hearts, to heal our pain, and to draw us ever more deeply into relationship with God and one another.

Upcoming Commemorations

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226

Monday, October 4, 2021

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching “using words if necessary.” Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864

Monday, October 4, 2021

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787

Thursday, October 7, 2021

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.