

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 10, 2021

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The rich man who comes to ask Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life is a good man, sincere in his asking. Mark's gospel is alone in saying that Jesus looked on him and loved him. Out of love, not as judgment, Jesus offers him an open door to life: sell

all you own and give it to the poor. Our culture bombards us with the message that we will find life by consuming. Our assemblies counter this message with the invitation to find life by divesting for the sake of the other.

✠ GATHERING ✠

OPENING HYMN

Seek Ye First

#783 (blu)

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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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us Your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of Your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

Seek the LORD and live,

or He will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.

⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.

¹²For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.

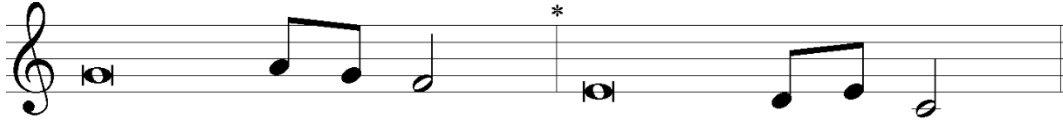
¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

¹⁴Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.

¹⁵Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

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

Psalm 90:12-17



- ¹²So teach us to num- | ber our days,
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.
- ¹³Return, O LORD; how long | will You tarry?
Be gracious | to Your servants.
- ¹⁴Satisfy us by Your lovingkindness | in the morning;
so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days | of our life.
- ¹⁵Make us glad by the measure of the days that You af- | flicted us
and the years in which we suf- | fered adversity.
- ¹⁶Show Your ser- | vants Your works
and Your splendor | to their children.
- ¹⁷May the graciousness of the LORD our God | be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; pros- | per our handiwork.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because He also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before Him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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HOLY GOSPEL: St. Mark 10:17-31

Jesus has been teaching His disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings His message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

C. Glory to You, O Lord.

As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" ²⁰He said to Him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow Me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

²⁸Peter began to say to Him, "Look, we have left everything and followed You." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for My sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Son of God, Eternal Savior

#364 (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 | <i>Let the vineyards...</i> | 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 | | |
| | 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. | |
| 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 | <i>Take My Life, That I May Be</i> | #406 (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: Terry Dybsetter

Camera: Josh Sumption

Acolytes: Haley Noyes/Izzy Kamrath

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter

Reader: Tracy Went

Projection: Sara Wollum

Sound Room: Ken Jeremiason & Jerome Bruns

How to reach us:

Church Office: 507-296-4658

Pastor's Cell: 507-828-1000(call or text)

Bethel email: bethel@bethelofporter.com

Pastor's House: 507-296-4558

Pastor's email: pastormunter@gmail.com

Bethel web page: www.bethelofporter.com

October 3, 2021

General: \$2,161.75 (\$779.50 received through eGiving)

Includes: \$2.25 from greeting card sales.

Savings: \$200.00 for Cemetery.



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, Sonja (Knutson) Gabriel, and Maurice Bieschbach {Hailey(Moeller)& Kenny Bieschbach's grandfather}

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

Limitless Possibility

For the young, life can feel like a limitless landscape of possibilities. It can seem there is nothing we cannot do or become if we simply set our minds to it. But as we age, the possibilities may appear to shrink, whether through the choices we make or through the limits of a world beyond our control. At certain points in life, we may look at ourselves—who we are and what we have become—and see not possibilities but, rather, inevitabilities. It may seem impossible to live any other way than how we are currently living or for people to see us in any other way than they currently do. We may struggle to see any way beyond our habits or patterns, our history, or our current roles.

In today's gospel, Jesus invites a man to leave behind everything he has known and thought about himself to become Jesus' disciple. To the world, the man is defined by his wealth, but Jesus sees the man behind the possessions and loves him. He sees past what seems inevitable about the man, to what God can make possible. Yet, tragically, the man can only see the world's vision of him, a vision of limited possibilities. When Jesus calls him to leave his wealth behind, the man thinks he is being asked the impossible and goes away heartbroken.

In the Christian assembly, the voice of Christ calls us to look past one another's worldly inevitabilities to the divine possibilities present among us. No matter what moment of life we are in, it is never too late. No matter what our history of failures or addictions, there are still more chances. No matter what we have been to this point, there is still something new we can become. Jesus calls us to leave ourselves behind in order to follow Him, to rediscover who we are with a God for Whom all things are possible.

Upcoming Commemorations

Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582
Friday, October 15, 2021

Teresa of Ávila (AH-vee-la) is also known as Teresa de Jesús. She chose the life of a Carmelite nun after reading the letters of Jerome. Frequently sick during her early years as a nun, she found that when she was sick her prayer life flowered. Steadily her life of faith and prayer deepened, and she grew to have a lively sense of God's presence with her. She worked to reform her monastic community in Ávila, which she believed had strayed from its original purpose. Her reforms asked nuns to maintain life in the monastic enclosure without leaving it and to identify with those who are poor by not wearing shoes. Teresa's writings on devotional life have enjoyed a wide readership.