



THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Bethel & Hemnes Lutheran Churches

July 05, 2020

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with the lowly and those often excluded from the religious community. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather this day to be

refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to Me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens." In the Christian community gathered around word, water and meal, we find rest for our souls.

✠GATHERING✠

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. Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P. Loving God,

C. we confess that we have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to worship You with our whole being and to share the abundance of grace You give us. We have acted out of selfish ambition rather than the interests of others; we have nursed grudges rather than seeking reconciliation and peace. Forgive us and renew in us the mind of Christ Jesus, that we may live according to Your will. Amen.

P. Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of Almighty God, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us; and for His sake, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. (*Rom. 5:1a, 5b, 8b*)

C. Amen.

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You. Send us as peacemakers and witnesses to Your kingdom, and fill our hearts with joy in Your promises of salvation, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

† WORD †

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, they are designated as "prisoners of hope."

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your King comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is He,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the warhorse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and He shall command peace to the nations;

His dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of My covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 145:8-14

The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹The LORD is loving to everyone
and His compassion is over all His works.

¹⁰All Your works praise You, O LORD,
and Your faithful servants bless You.

¹¹They make known the glory of Your kingdom
and speak of Your power;

¹²that the peoples may know of Your power
and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
Your dominion endures throughout all ages.

¹⁴The LORD is faithful in all His words
and merciful in all His deeds.

¹⁵The LORD upholds all those who fall;
He lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25

In his letter to the Romans, Paul argues that we are made right with God through Christ's action rather than through our own works. To illustrate our need for Christ, he offers us a picture of one who tries to do what is right, only to discover good intentions are not enough.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I

hate. ¹⁶ Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹ So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²² For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³ but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴ Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

^{8:1} There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 151a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

In Matthew's gospel, John the Baptist and Jesus are described as having very different approaches to ministry, though they both proclaim the same message of God's kingdom. Here, Jesus chides people who seem to find fault with all preachers as an excuse for ignoring the word of God. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

C. (spoken) Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

²⁵At that time Jesus said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was Your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to Me by My Father;

and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.

²⁸“Come to Me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.”

P. The Gospel of the Lord. C. (*spoken*) Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come, Gracious Spirit, Heavenly Dove*

1 Come, gra - cious Spir - it, heav'n - ly dove, With light and
 2 The light of truth to us dis - play And make us
 3 Lead us to Christ, the liv - ing way, Nor let us
 4 Lead us to heav'n, that we may share Full - ness of

com - fort from a - bove. Come, be our guard - ian
 know and choose your way; Plant ho - ly fear in
 from his pas - tures stray; Lead us to ho - li -
 joy for - ev - er there; Lead us to our e -

and our guide; O'er ev - 'ry thought and step pre - side.
 ev - 'ry heart, That we from God may ne'er de - part.
 ness, the road That we must take to dwell with God.
 ter - nal rest, To be with God for - ev - er blest.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
 our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the
 Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was

crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated
 at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge
 the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,

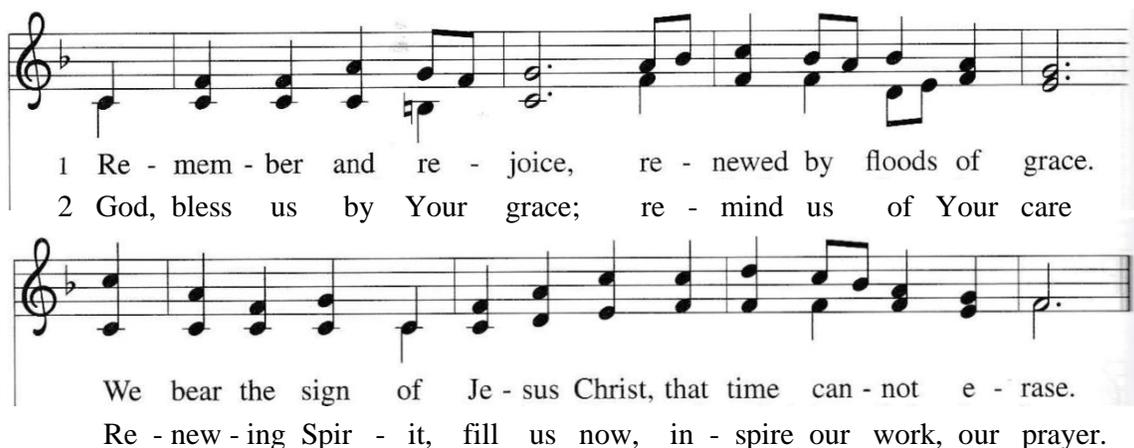
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

✠ PRAYER ✠

OFFERING

If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website (www.bethelofporter.com).

OFFERTORY



1 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.
2 God, bless us by Your grace; re - mind us of Your care

We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Gracious God,

C. You open Your hand, filling our lives with all good things and renewing the face of the earth. We offer our gifts in thanksgiving for all that we have received from Your bounty. Accept them for the sake of Him who offered His life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us join together to pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the Church. Sustain us as we share Your Word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations, especially the United States as we celebrate 244 years as a nation. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Lead our nation to use its resources in honor, justice, peacefulness, and generosity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, oppressed or sick, especially Merv, Emily, Angie, Lynette, Shirlee, and Lisa. Strengthen those who labor, encourage the unemployed, and support those in want. Take their yoke upon You and ease their burdens. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. **hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died in the faith (*especially*), and look with joyful anticipation to the resurrection of the body to life everlasting. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. **hear our prayer.**

O God of justice and love, receive these prayers, and those desires too deep for words. We give thanks to You that You illumine our way through life with the words of Your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to Your feast; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. **Amen.**

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

P. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. May you be rooted and grounded in His love.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. **Amen**

Coda

CLOSING HY. ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

1 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -
 2 From of old you loved and sought us: thanks be to you for -
 3 Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: thanks be to you for -

ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
 ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
 ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:

3rd time to Coda *Coda*

thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for - ev - er!
 thanks be to you for -

Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -

mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

Coda

ev - er! Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

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

Organist: Lou Knutson

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter

Reader: Terry Dybsetter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering: During this period of suspended in-person worship services, Bethel and Hemnes continue to have recurring expenses. Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>

June 28, 2020

General: \$2,514.50 (\$414.50 received through eGiving)



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Acknowledgements

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