

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Bethel & Hemnes Lutheran Churches June 28, 2020

Without God's loving presence, we are like a parched and waterless land. In the waters of baptism, Christ becomes our life-giving spring, quenching our thirst and pouring God's love into our hearts. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ Himself. Our baptism leads us to hear Jesus' words as words concerning our baptismal mission to serve the little ones of this world—with a gesture as simple as offering a cup of cold water.

Today the Church commemorates Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, c. 202. Irenaeus was the first to argue that the Church's message was for all people in every country around the world.

✠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. O God, You direct our lives by Your grace, and Your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome Your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C. Amen.

† WORD †

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

The prophets Hananiah and Jeremiah were at odds because of their differing views of upcoming events. Hananiah announces peace and restoration within two years; Jeremiah sees the path to peace as one that requires repentance—recognition of one’s sins and reliance on God’s forgiveness. Jeremiah knows that when Hananiah’s comforting prediction does not come true, all will know that Hananiah has not been sent by God.

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; ⁶and the prophet Jeremiah said, “Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 69:8-20

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim Your faithfulness.

²For I am persuaded that Your love is established forever;
You have set Your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

³“I have made a covenant with My chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David My servant:

⁴‘I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.’ ”

¹⁵Happy are the people who know the festal shout!
They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your presence.

¹⁶They rejoice daily in Your name;
they are jubilant in Your righteousness.

¹⁷For You are the glory of their strength,
and by Your favor our might is exalted.

¹⁸Truly, the LORD is our ruler;
the Holy One of Israel is our king.

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

Sin is an enslaving power that motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin’s final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin’s slavery to live obediently under God’s grace, Whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. ¹³No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

¹⁵What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

¹⁶Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of

the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, ¹⁸and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

²⁰When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²²But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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: Matthew 10:40-42

When Jesus sends His disciples out as missionaries, He warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid His followers and support their ministry.

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

Jesus said to the twelve:] “Whoever welcomes you welcomes Me, and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. (*spoken*) Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and fa -
 2 Theirs was a false, mis - lead - ing dream Who thought God's law was giv -
 3 And yet the Law ful - filled must be, Or we were lost for - ev -
 4 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone And rests in him un - ceas -

vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They help and save us
 en That sin - ners might them - selves re - deem And by their works gain
 er; There - fore God sent his Son that he Might us from death de -
 ing; And by its fruits true faith is known, With love and hope in -

nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, Who did for
 heav - en. The Law is but a mir - ror bright To bring the
 liv - er. He all the Law for us ful - filled, And thus his
 creas - ing. For faith a - lone can jus - ti - fy; Works serve our

all the world a - tone; He is our me - di - a - tor.
 in - bred sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
 Fa - ther's an - ger stilled Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.
 neigh - bor and sup - ply The proof that faith is liv - ing.

Verse 5: All blessing, honor, thanks, and praise, to Father, Son and Spirit,
 The God Who saved us by His grace; all glory to His merit.
 O triune God in heav'n above, You have revealed Your saving love;
 Your blessed name we hallow.

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, our nation, and for all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of compassion, encourage our relationships with our siblings in Christ. Bless our conversations. Shape our shared future and give us hearts eager to join in a joyous shout of praise.
Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

God of abundance, You make Your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire us to care for our beautiful yet fragile home. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

God of mercy, Your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities, judges, and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope and meet hate with love. Open our hearts that we may welcome the unloved, refugees and immigrants, those of different races and cultures, and those persecuted or imprisoned as we would welcome You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are lonely, grieving, or abandoned. Strengthen those who are in prison or awaiting trial. Visit the sick with Your healing power, we pray especially for Merv, Emily, Angie, Lynette, Shirlee, and Lisa, and for all who are struggling with coronavirus. Give courage to those working in medical fields and wisdom to our leaders. Renew the spirits of all who call upon You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. **hear our prayer.**

God of community, we give thanks for our congregations. Give us passion to embrace Your mission and the vision to recognize where You are leading us. Teach us how to live more faithfully with each other. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. **hear our prayer.**

God of love, You gather in Your embrace all who have died, especially Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyon. Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in Your promise. 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.

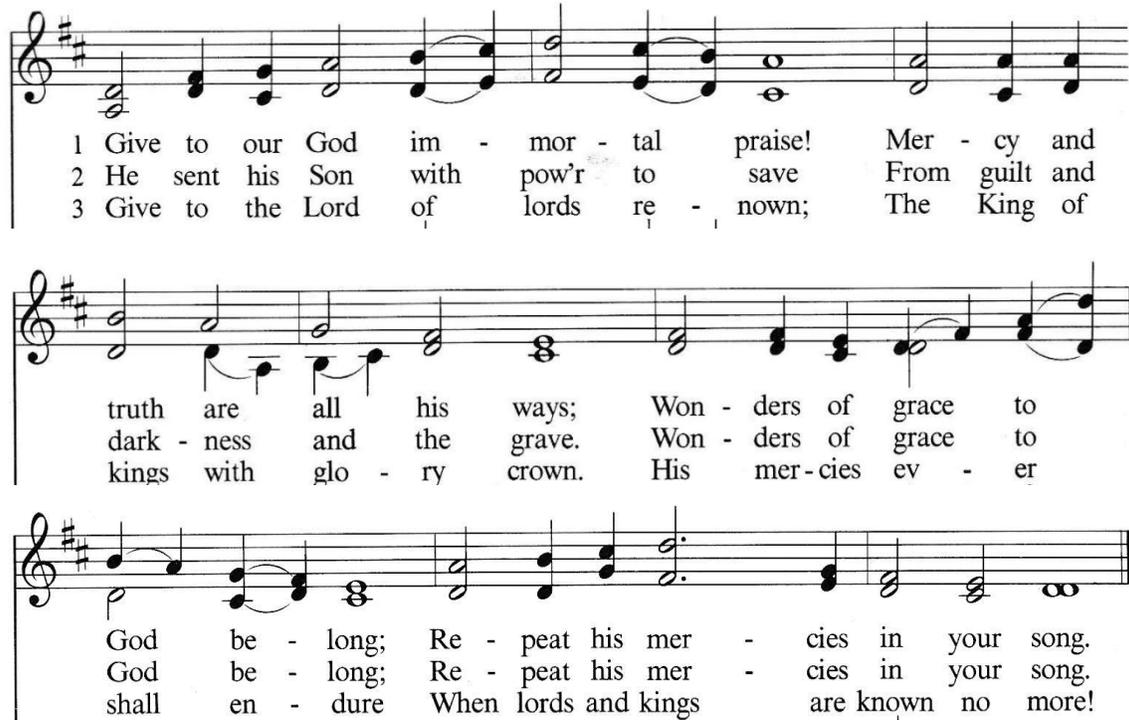
✠ SENDING ✠

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**

CLOSING HYMN *Give to Our God Immortal Praise*



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save From guilt and
3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; The King of

truth are all his ways; Won - ders of grace to
dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; Re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
God be - long; Re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
shall en - dure When lords and kings are known no more!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God

Organist: Terry Dybsetter

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter

Reader: Terry Dybsetter

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

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 21, 2020

General: \$1,065.00 (\$465.00 received through eGiving)

Savings: \$205.00 in memory of Beatrice Heise.



Merv Anderson Emily Morton
Angie Denelsbeck Anderson Shirlee Gabbert
Lynette Christie Lisa Melrose

Acknowledgements

From Sundays and Seasons © 2019 and © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

“Salvation unto Us Has Come” Text © 1941 Concordia Publishing House.

“Give to Our God Immortal Praise” Text and tune in the common domain.

“Remember and Rejoice” Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947; Music: in the public domain. Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

Hymns reprinted using OneLicense #A-718771

Permission has been granted for churches to use liturgical and musical material without licensing during this time of pandemic.

Prayers of Intercession: *Sundays and Seasons*, lightly edited by Pastor Munter.

The Message © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson

Council Update

The Council met on Monday night out on the church lawn to discuss returning to congregational worship at Bethel. The Council will be researching and formulating guidelines for these worship services to provide a safe environment for all. You will be updated when these guidelines are developed, reviewed and ready to allow us to gather as God’s family within our church building.

We are all getting a little impatient, but planning is important. Worship will look a little different when we return but one thing never changes – “we are God’s children”.

Worship will continue remotely through July 12.