



THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Bethel & Hemnes Lutheran Churches

June 21, 2020

In today's gospel reading, Jesus gives a brief teaching on the nature of discipleship: do not be afraid, for I am with you; tell others what you hear Me say; give your life to the good news and you will discover the riches of life. This teaching appears simple, yet it is spoken in an anxious and troubled world where it is easier to be fearful than courageous and more common to look out for oneself than to care for the neighbor in need.

Today the Church commemorates Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, 1931. A former Ethiopian slave educated by Swedish missionaries, he translated the Bible into the language of his people and returned home to preach the gospel.

†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, God forgives you 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 our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue Your people from despair, deliver Your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. C. Amen.

† WORD †

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah's message of doom earns him only contempt and persecution. Having been beaten, placed in stocks, and then released by Pashur, one of the temple priests, Jeremiah cries out in heart-wrenching lament. Nevertheless, the prophet remains confident of God's care and concludes with resounding praise.

O LORD, You have enticed me,
and I was enticed;

You have overpowered me,
and You have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸For whenever I speak, I must cry out,
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹If I say, "I will not mention Him,
or speak any more in His name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him,
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹²O LORD of hosts, You test the righteous,
You see the heart and the mind;
let me see Your retribution upon them,
for to You I have committed my cause.

¹³Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For He has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

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

Psalm 69:8-20

Surely, for Your sake have I suffered reproach,
and shame has covered my face.

⁹**I have become a stranger to my own kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.**

¹⁰Zeal for Your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn You has fallen upon me.

¹¹**I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach.**

¹²I put on sackcloth also,
and became a byword among them.

¹³**Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,
and the drunkards make songs about me.**

¹⁴But as for me, this is my prayer to You,
at the time You have set, O LORD:

¹⁵**“In Your great mercy, O God,
answer me with Your unfailing help.**

¹⁶Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;
let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.

¹⁷**Let not the torrent of waters wash over me,
neither let the deep swallow me up;
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.**

¹⁸Answer me, O LORD, for Your love is kind;
in Your great compassion, turn to me.”

¹⁹**Hide not Your face from Your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.**

²⁰Draw near to me and redeem me;
because of my enemies deliver me.

SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11

In the first part of his letter to the Romans, Paul says that God sent Christ to die for us while we were sinners and so, by grace, accepts us through baptism just as we are. Now, he clarifies that baptism also brings freedom from the slavery of sin and the possibility of beginning a new life.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with Him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. ¹⁰The death He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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 10:24-39

Moved by compassion for the crowds, Jesus has commissioned His twelve disciples to continue His work of preaching and healing. Now He warns them that their ministry will meet with opposition, requiring absolute trust in God and unswerving commitment to their Lord.

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

[Jesus said to the twelve:] “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; ²⁵it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

³²“Everyone therefore who acknowledges Me before others, I also will acknowledge before My Father in heaven; ³³but whoever denies Me before others, I also will deny before My Father in heaven.

³⁴“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

³⁵For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

³⁶and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; ³⁸and whoever does not take up the cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. ³⁹Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake will find it.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus



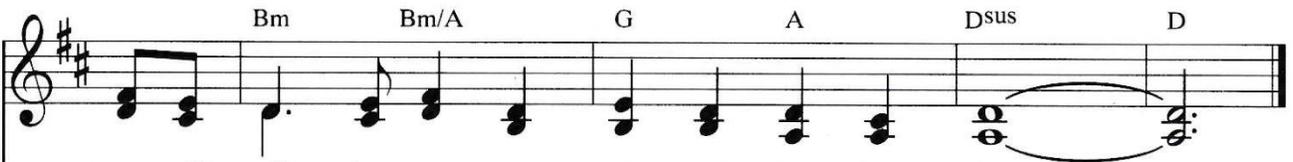
1 We were bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we were bap - tized in his death;
 2 In the wa - ter and the wit - ness, in the break - ing of the bread,
 3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ was raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
 in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
 glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread - ful death like his,
 God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re - sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
 in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
 in a song that has no end - ing. A - men

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
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,

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.

Gracious God, You bring diverse voices together to form Your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another, that differences might not overshadow our baptismal unity. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world. Revive and strengthen organizations dedicated to care for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Guide all who speak Your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted for being who they are. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

Wrap Your arms of comfort and healing around all who are suffering from illness, violence or neglect. Be with those who are suffering from the coronavirus. Uphold the medical personnel working amidst a rise of virus infections and give Your wisdom to medical researchers as they

search for a vaccine. Strengthen those who are unemployed as they look for work. Keep both the police and the protestors safe. Give patience to all for whom healing does not come quickly, and strong faith to those nearing death. We pray also for those we name here: Merv, Emily, Angie, Lynette, Shirlee, and Lisa. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

You are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as You do. Comfort all who long to be fathers and all for whom this day is difficult. We pray for parents and families everywhere in the world. Give courage and help to those who struggle to feed their children, to shelter them, and to protect them from violence and war. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

You bless us with guides and caretakers in the faith. As we give thanks for those who have died, especially Onesimos Nesib, translator and evangelist. Increase our care for one another until we walk with all the saints in newness of life.
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
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine 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 *How Firm a Foundation*

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

Is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent Word!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
My grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
My sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
And then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
Up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
Like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne.

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

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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 14, 2020

General: \$2,349.50 (\$449.50 received through eGiving)



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

Acknowledgements

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Prayers of Intercession: Gail Ramshaw & Sundays and Seasons, lightly edited by Pastor Munter.