

Pentecost 17, September 27, 2020

Greeting In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

Psalm 25:1-9 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God. Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse. Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Remember, O Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: With masked voices, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another:

C: Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ! Led by the Holy Spirit, live now in freedom to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* (public domain) LBW 248, ELW 520

*Dearest Jesus, at your word we have come again to hear you;
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you
As the promises here given draw us wholly up to heaven.*

*All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
Till your Spirit breaks the night, filling us with light unclouded,
While we here on earth await you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.*

*Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most: your blest Gospel's consolation,
That our prayers and songs may please you, as with grateful hearts we praise you.*

The Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise ***Praise God, from Whom*** (public domain) LBW 565, ELW 885

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Prayer of the Day: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

A reading from Ezekiel, the 18th chapter (18:1-4, 25-32) Ezekiel challenges those who think they can't change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they can't reverse their own patterns of behavior. God persistently invites people to "turn and live." And now the reading Word of God, word of life.

Hymn *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.*

A reading from Philippians, the 2nd chapter (2:1-13) Paul calls for harmony rather than self-seeking, quoting a very early Christian hymn that glorifies Christ's selflessness. His obedient death on the cross should be our model in living together as Christians. And now the reading Word of God, word of life.

Alleluia ***Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!***

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, the 21st chapter (21:23-32)

Sermon (page 4)

Hymn of the Day ***O Master, Let Me Walk with You*** (public domain) LBW 492, ELW 818

*O Master, let me walk with you in lowly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*Teach me your patience; share with me a closer, dearer company.
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.*

*In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broad'ning way,
In peace that only you can give; with you, O Master, let me live.*

The Apostle's Creed God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

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.

Prayers

Sharing God's Peace (in any appropriate way)

Service of Holy Communion (at St. John, first and third week of the month)

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

Sending Hymn *Jesus Loves Me!* (public domain)

ELW 595

*Jesus loves me! this I know, for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong.*

Refrain: *Yes, Jesus loves me; yes, Jesus loves me; yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! he who died heaven's gates to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, let his little child come in. **Refrain***

*Jesus loves me! he will stay close beside me all the way;
When at last I come to die, he will take me home on high. **Refrain***

Dismissal With joy and thanksgiving, go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Note: An offering plate is at the end of the aisle if you wish to leave a gift. All donations are welcome!

If you wish to chat with family or friends after worship, please do so outside. Thanks!