

Worship in the Home

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 2020



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Prelude

Announcements

The Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

O God beyond All Praising

ELW # 880



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...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.**

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm 25:1-9

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

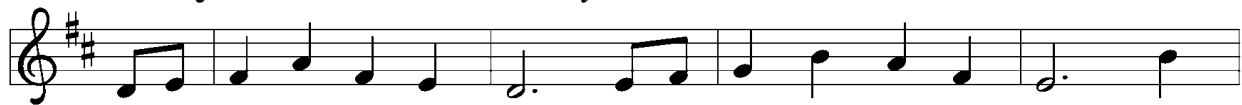
Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the dominion of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Homily



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
 Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Reflection

Though the Ten Commandments say that punishment for the iniquity of parents will go on to the third and fourth generation, the prophet Ezekiel says otherwise. We shall be punished for only our own sins. Then the prophet counsels us to get a new heart. This prophetic word is still very hard: our own sins are way enough for serious punishment. Like the sons in the parable, we are often the ones who boldly say yes to the will of God and then do nothing. And how shall we get a new heart? But the Gospel according to Matthew has begun to turn toward the story of the cross, and in this Sunday's narrative Jesus stands in the temple, mysterious in his authority, warning the world's authorities, and showing mercy to serious outsiders and sinners. Paul shows us where that mystery goes: through Christ's death and resurrection, God is at work in us. For a new heart, we are together given the mind of Christ. There is indeed much consolation, compassion and sharing of the Spirit in this word. Starting again, in humility, we may look to the needs of others in a profoundly needy world.

Prayers of Intercession

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need:

Throughout the globe is the church: many assemblies are postponed by the virus, our songs quieted, our leaders searching for new ways forward. That you will continue to inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ, we pray to you, faithful God. **Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Around us nature is strained: polar ice is melting, excessive rains ravage the land, fires consume forests, fields, and homes, and animals are deprived of habitat. That you will preserve and protect the earth, we pray to you, mighty God: **Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Around us is a needy world: governments allow injustice, violence threatens stability, people experience prejudice, reforms are thwarted, workers are unemployed, medical facilities are strained, children are abused. That you will save the people in all the nations of the world, we pray to you, compassionate God: **Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

In our nation's courts, we see justice delayed and justice denied. Yet we thank you for the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and for her passion for equality under the law. That you will uphold honest judges and insightful juries throughout our criminal justice system, and that you will assist our nation in its task of filling the Supreme Court, we pray to you, righteous God: **Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Around us are the sick: there is starvation, the virus continues, many persons receive no medical attention, our neighbors and dear ones are ill. That you will bless all ministries of care and will relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, we pray to you, merciful God. **Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Nearby are needs of which we are unaware. That you will send your holy angels to uphold all who face personal troubles, we pray to you, benevolent God: **Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Inside many hearts there is both joy and sorrow. We pray now for ourselves:...That you will give us new hearts and a new spirit, we pray to you, loving God. **Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Before us lived countless of the faithful — the famous and the forgotten, our relatives and strangers. We lament their deaths, and we praise their witness. That we may confess Jesus Christ as Lord through our life and at our death, we pray to you, eternal God. **Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Savior and Lord who taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

Mothering God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Jerusalem, My Happy Home

#628



- 1 Je - ru - sa - lem, my hap - py home, when shall I come to thee?
- 2 O hap - py har - bor of the saints, O sweet and pleas - ant soil!
- 3 Thy gar - dens and thy gal - lant walks con - tin - ual - ly are green;
- 4 There trees for - ev - er - more bear fruit and ev - er - more do spring;
- 5 Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - ru - sa - lem, God grant that I may see



When shall my sor - rows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?
In thee no sor - row may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.
there grow such sweet and pleas - ant flow'rs as no - where else are seen.
there ev - er - more the an - gels sit and ev - er - more do sing.
thine end - less joy, and of the same par - tak - er ev - er be!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

Join us for fellowship on Zoom: 596-621-1441 Passcode: 8675309

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 28. **Tuesday** (Michael and All Angels) Revelation 12:7-12.

Wednesday (commemoration of Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420) Judges 16:23-31. **Thursday** Psalm 80:7-15. **Friday** Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a. **Saturday** Jeremiah 6:1-10. **Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226; Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864) Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46.

Reflection text: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Jim Calvert, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Gerald Hoover, Janet Kreider, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: John Aljets, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Helena Bassler, Elaine Buchart, Mark Calvert, Diane Cappel, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Jesse Fay, Joe Fay, Brian Fleck, Jim Freyer, Reggie Gilbert, Shari Gilbert, Ryan Guyer, Erika Hallam, Bill Hainaut, Dan Hershberger, Stephen Hinish, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Jenny, Fred Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Kristen Malloy, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Zowe Orczeck, Aunt Mica, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Dan Sinal, Barbara Smith, Luther Steele, Katie Stormer, Wyatt Sweinhart, Cindy Thomas, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Robert Winston, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

Our college students: Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

Serving God and Us Today

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist – Dr. Adam Smith

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Bill Brown

Our Audio/Video Tech – Alex Snyder

Our Offering Counters – Beth Garner, Jim Barley

Third Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*OEW & Missionaries*”

Prayer Vigil

Won't you join us in our 12 hour prayer vigil by giving one half hour in prayer from your home or wherever you may be on Saturday, October 3, 2020. If you would prefer a morning time from 6 AM until noon, please call Elaine Buchart at 793-3953. Les Loomis will be scheduling from noon until 6 PM at 1-570-885-0572.

****Volunteers Needed****

When we resume in-person worship (currently planned for Sunday, October 4th and onward) we will need a designated recorder at each service to take names and phone numbers to help with contact tracing in the event that someone tests positive for COVID-19. This will be a one-person (or one-couple) job for each of the three weekly services (9:00 a.m. Sunday in the nave, 10:30 a.m. Sunday in the fellowship hall, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the nave—a different recorder for each service). Recorders/Volunteers will be able to take information from behind a safety partition. If you are willing to help, please contact Lori at 793-2413 or stmatthewluth@aol.com with your availability.

Blanket Sunday

October 4, 2020

Blanket Sunday is a ministry that is traditionally held on the first Sunday of October. Persons in every congregation of the Allegheny Synod are invited to give a special offering for the purchase of blankets for Lutheran World Relief. You will find this special offering envelope in your offering booklets. If you have an offering number instead of an offering booklet, please write your “**offering number or name**” and “**blankets**” on a **pew envelope**. Your contribution of \$5.00 buys a sturdy blanket which provides shelter, warmth, and security to someone in the world facing disaster. Blanket Sunday is the largest single donation of blankets that takes place throughout the year.