

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

It's All About Jesus
August 19-20, 2017
5:00pm & 9:00am

AS WE GATHER

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." (John 1:1,14a). "For I the Lord do not change;" (Malachi 3:6). We live in a world that is filled with change; it seems that it's the one constant we can count on. And that leads us into doubts about the past, anxiety about the present, and fear of the future. But *it only seems* like change is the one constant we can count on. The *real* constant in our world and lives is our God, and especially our Lord Jesus Christ. Past, present, and future, it's still all about Jesus. We can always count on Him.

WELCOME

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you.
Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:7-8)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #862 "Oh, Blest the House"

Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly His How sad and poor and dark it is!
Oh, blest that house where faith is found And all in hope and love abound;
They trust their God and serve Him still And do in all His holy will!
Oh, blest the parents who give heed Unto their children's foremost need
And weary not of care or cost. May none to them and heav'n be lost!
Oh, blest that house; it prospers well. In peace and joy the parents dwell,
And in their children's lives is shown How richly God can bless His own.
Then here will I and mine today A solemn promise make and say:
Though all the world forsake His Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

DEDICATION OF SCHOOL STAFF & RECOGNITION OF TEACHING ANNIVERSARY

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our gracious God has promised to hear and forgive for Jesus' sake. Let us therefore go to Him, confessing our sins. Creator God,

People: we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and deeds, as well as our sinful condition. We are not the creatures you intend us to be. Forgive us and rescue us from our unrighteousness that we may reflect your righteousness and holiness.

Pastor: Promised Savior,

People: we confess that we are not only in the world, but too often act as part of it. We are as aliens in your kingdom of grace. Forgive us and graciously treat us as your own people for your own name's sake.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, Comforter,

People: we confess that we have wandered from the truth and sought to fulfill our own wants and desires. Forgive us, renew in us pure hearts, and guide us to walk in your ways each day as long as we live.

Pastor: Our heavenly Father sent His Son into the world to bear the sins of all. He has opened the kingdom of heaven to all who trust in Him for salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #791 "All People That on Earth Do Dwell" Stanzas 1,2,4

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell; Come ye before Him and rejoice.
Know that the Lord is God indeed; Without our aid He did us make.
We are His folk, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
For why? The Lord our God is good: His mercy is forever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood And shall from age to age endure.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting Father, although we do not deserve to be heard, you invite us to call out to you in every circumstance.

People: Grant us confident faith that you hear us and peace in our hearts that your answers will meet our deepest needs;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

BAPTISMAL HYMN #592 “Dearest Jesus, We Are Here” (9:00)

Dearest Jesus, we are here, Gladly Your command obeying;
With this child we now draw near In response to Your own saying
That to You it shall be given As a child and heir of heaven.

Your command is clear and plain, And we would obey it duly;
“You must all be born again, Heart and life renewing truly,
Born of water and the Spirit, And My kingdom thus inherit.”

Therefore we have come to You, In our arms this infant bearing.
Truly here Your grace we view; May this child, Your mercy sharing,
In Your arms be shielded ever, Your on earth and Yours forever.

Gracious Head, Your member own; Shepherd, take Your lamb and feed it;
Prince of Peace, make here Your throne; Way of Life, to heaven lead it;
Precious Vine, let nothing sever From Your side this branch forever.

Now into Your heart we pour Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.
Our petitions heav’nward soar; May our hearts’ desires be heeded!
Write the name we now have given; Write it in the book of heaven!

BAPTISM of John Thomas Belsha III (9:00)

Please refrain from taking photos during the worship service.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 56:1, 6–8* (God promises to listen to the prayers of Gentiles.) This is what the LORD says: "Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed. And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant--these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." The Sovereign LORD declares-- he who gathers the exiles of Israel: "I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered."

EPISTLE *Romans 11:1–2a, 13–15, 28–32* (God’s mercy extends to all people.)

I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 15:21–28* (A Canaanite woman begs Jesus for help and is granted her request.) Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. (Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – BACKPACK BLESSING

SERMON HYMN "Yesterday, Today, Forever"

Yesterday, today forever, Our Lord Jesus is the same.
He, the Alpha and Omega, Christ, the Lamb of God, His name;
Who was there in the beginning And will be there at the end,
The almighty One, our friend, There, with all the saints and angels,
We shall stand before His throne, Where unending joy is known.

(Teachers) Yesterday in Beth' em's manger Jesus made His earthly bed;
Giving up His heav'nly mansion To become our Living Bread.
With His blood He paid our ransom; Died and rose that we might be
Freed from Satan's tyranny To inherit life eternal;
Thus, our praises we employ, Bathed in endless grace and joy.

(Women) Here on earth today we wander Knowing not what may betide.
Even so our Savior's near us, Never changing, by our side.
Though our pilgrim path's uncertain, We remain in His embrace
As we run this earthly race. Therefore, trust in Jesus solely,
In His grace now rest secure Joyful in God's promise sure.

(Men) Christ will stay with us forever; With Him we shall e'er remain.
When our time on earth is over He will call us by our name;
For our Savior will remember How in Him we were baptized.
He will say to us, "Arise! Come, partake of God's own promise
That was made so long ago, And My joy forever know."

Rise

Glory be to God the Father, Author of all life and light;
Honor bring to Christ the Savior Who has set all things aright.
Praise sing to the Holy Spirit For the gift of faithfulness.
To the Three in One address All our thanks and adoration
Till that joyous day when we Dwell in god's infinity.

SERMON "It's Still All About Jesus" Hebrews 13:8

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today, and forever."

(Rise)

HYMN #941 "We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God"

We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord,
The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.
To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing,
The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:
"O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!"

The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise;
The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.
The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng,
Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song:
"O all majestic Father, Your true and only Son,
And Holy Spirit, Comforter forever Three in One!"

You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son,
Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev'ry one:
You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin's womb,
Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb;
Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve
You opened heaven's kingdom to all who would believe.

You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God's right hand,
Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command.
We know that you will come as our Judge that final day,
So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray;
May we with saints be numbered where praises never end,
In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord of the Church, we pray for the Light of Christ to shine brightly through the proclamation of gospel and the grace and mercy found in Christ.

People: Grant that the disobedient may receive mercy, and that those who hear may become branches grafted onto the true vine, Jesus Christ.

Pastor: God of grace, we pray for our church and school, especially as we soon enter into another school year. Bless the prayers, praise, and offerings of your people. Bless our principal and teachers to be diligent in their instruction and our students to use their God-given talents to learn.

People: May St. Paul's be a house of prayer for all people, where all are accepted by grace, grow in the knowledge of Christ, and receive spiritual blessings from God's hand.

Pastor: Father of all, we give you thanks for adopting us into your family through the waters of Holy Baptism. We especially rejoice as John Thomas Belsha III is baptized into Christ this weekend.

People: Bless his parents to bring him to worship in your house, to raise him in the faith, that he may walk with you all his days.

Pastor: Lord of all, we pray for the government and those who protect us, praying that they may keep justice and do righteousness.

People: Bless them to carry out their duties in accord with your will, and bless also our land with honest industry, truthful education and an honorable way of life.

Pastor: God of compassion and hope, we pray for all the sick and afflicted and particularly for all who have asked for our intercessions, namely Charles, Debbie, Ruth, Mary Anne, Jeannie, Shirley, Richard, Gladys, Pat, Herb, Cliff, Doris, Carol, Ervin, Matthew, Arlene, Mae, Dorothy, John, Arlene, LuEva, Kathleen, Jean, Russ, Helen, Leonard, Linda, Jack, Shirley and Sarah.

People: Grant them healing and comfort in their time of need. For those beset with grief and sorrow, for those in pain or trouble, hear their cries and answer them according to your good and gracious will.

Pastor: Eternal God, we pray for all those who grieve the passing of loved ones, especially the family and friends of Warren Schwenner. Comfort them and fill them with hope and peace through faith in Christ.

People: For those who have died trusting in the Savior and sharing in His endless life, we give you our thanks and praise, asking that we might one day receive our portion with the saints in glory.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (5:00)

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #922 "Go, My Children, With My Blessing"

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.

In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.

Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, Saw His glory.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me;

Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.

Here My Spirit's power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.

Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace.

I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;

I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolyte
Organist

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Pastor Harold Bender
Russell Hurst, Jane Adams
Laura Quigley
Michelle Prince

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Part 3. Copyright © 2017 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.