

God's Service Sunday, September 15, 2024

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Chicago Folk Service



WELCOME

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of *messiah*) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

We worship today using the liturgy of the Chicago Folk Service. if you do not have a booklet please raise your hand and the ushers will make sure you receive one.

Before we begin, let us take a moment to prepare our hearts and minds to meet Jesus in God's Service this morning as we listen to our prelude.

PRELUDE "Now Thank We All Our God" arr. by Staszkeski

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GREETING P.4

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

ACT OF RECONCILIATION P.4

Dear members of God's family, branded in baptism and united in Christ, let us come together honestly to tell God that we have not lived as we could and ask God to forgive us.

Our Father, we have not fulfilled the hope in which you created us. We repent and ask your mercy that our sin be forgiven and our guilt removed.

Help us to learn from scripture and from one another your will for our lives, so that with your help we can claim the inheritance of unlimited freedom which you have willed to us through your son.

You came to our world in Jesus. Come to us now.

God our Father does care about us. He sent his son Jesus Christ to us, and for us Jesus gave his life. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creature. Old things have passed away and all things are new. And all things are of God who has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and who has entrusted to us the ministry of reconciliation.

PARDON P.5

In Christ we are forgiven.

In Christ we are free to forgive.

In Christ we are free to worship God.

In Christ we are free to live.

Live without excuses.

La, la-la, al-le-lu-ia,

We worship God with open hearts.

La, la-la, al-le-lu-ia.

Dance now the weight is lifted.

La, la-la, al-le-lu-ia.

Cleansed and fresh, we will share His gifts.

La, la-la, al-le-lu-ia,

Singing, la, la-la, al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE P. 8

Glory be to God on high,

Praise to you most Holy!

O Lord God, Heav'nly King

God the Father Almighty!

O Lord God, Lamb of God,

Only Son of the Father

Christ who takes away our sin,

have mercy upon us.

For you only Lord, O Christ,

with the Holy Spirit, are most high

in the glory of God the Father.

Glory be to God on high! Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.

⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.

⁶I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

⁷The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
⁸he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.

^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9

¹I love the LORD, who has ^lheard my voice,
and listened to my ^lsupplication,
²**for the LORD has given ^lear to me**
whenever ^ler I called.

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ^lcame upon me;
I came to ^lgrief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name ^lof the LORD:**
“O LORD, I pray you, ^lsave my life.” R

⁵Gracious is the ¹LORD and righteous;
our God is full ¹of compassion.

⁶**The LORD watches o-¹ver the innocent;
I was brought low,¹ and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest,¹ O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt ¹well with you.

⁸**For you have rescued my ¹life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my ¹feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence ¹of the LORD
in the land ¹of the living. **R**

SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

A reading from James.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

AL-LE-LU-LE, ALLELUIA P.9

Sing praise to the Lord, all the earth!

Al-le-lu-le, Al-le-lu-ia!

Play music to praise his name!

Al-le-lu-le, Al-le-lu-ia!

GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY *Lift High the Cross* (ELW 660)

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

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CREED P.10

We all believe in one true God
Maker of Earth and Heaven,
the Father who to us in love,
hath the name of children given,
He in soul and body feeds us.
All we need his hand provides us,
through all snares and perils leads us,
sees no harm betides us.
He cares for us by day and night,
All things are governed by his might.
(And) we believe in one true God
Christ, his Son our Lord and Savior,
who with the Father equal might,
hath pow'r and glory forever.
Born of Mary Virgin Mother
by the working of the Spirit,
he became our elder brother,
that heaven we might inherit.
Was crucified by sinners all,
And raised to God by life again.
(And) we in the Holy Ghost believe,
who Grace and Comfort giveth,
and with the Father and the Son
in eternal glory liveth.
Who all Christian people even keeps
in unity of Spirit, sins are truly forgiven
through the Blest Redeemer's merit.
All flesh shall rise again
and we shall live with God eternal.

THE PRAYERS

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this church and our community. Lead us where you want us to go and open our eyes to the people in need of your church, your grace, your love and your forgiveness.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve *especially Shirley, Anna, Kay, Carolyn, Cheryl, Gene, Lars, Darla, Jim, Carol, and these we name now in our hearts and with our voices...(pause for names to be spoken)*. Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And with you too.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

As creatures created by God all that we have, all that we are is from God. As stewards of God's abundant creation let us be bold in giving back a portion of the abundance that we might help mend the world and re-align our hearts with the God who is love.

If you have abundance to share today raise your hand and our ushers will come by to collect. If

you are joining us online you may give at landerlutherans.org, or even mail a check to the church. Let us generously share the abundance of our God.

OFFERING MUSIC “Now Thank We All Our God” arr. by Laurin

OFFERTORY P. 12

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 spirit free.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.

PRAYER P.12

Let us pray.

Gracious Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us: ourselves, our time and our possessions. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

THANKSGIVING P.13

The Lord be with you.
And with you, too

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

Give thanks to the Lord.
It is good and right to do.

PREFACE

It is truly right and proper at all times and places to give thanks to you, Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Ever living God. Therefore with Angels and Archangels and all the company of heav'n we laud and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY P.13

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Hosts.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Glory be to you, O Lord most high.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosannah in the highest!

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER P. 15

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, Hallowed be thy name.
On earth as it is in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
give us this day our daily bread, Hallowed be thy name.
and forgive us our trespasses, Hallowed be thy name.
as we forgive those who trespass against us, Hallowed be thy name.
Lead us not into temptation, Hallowed be thy name.
but deliver us from evil, Hallowed be thy name.
for thine is the kingdom and the power, Hallowed be thy name.
and the glory forever and ever Hallowed be thy name.
Amen, amen it shall be so, Hallowed be thy name.
Amen, amen it shall be so, Hallowed be thy name.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD P.16

Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, give us your peace.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC "Simple Gifts" arr. by Peterson

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

TABLE BLESSING P. 16

The Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep us in hi Grace. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SEND US FORTH IN PEACE P.18

Lord, we have your peace.

Lord, we have your peace.

Lord, we have your peace.

Just as your said we have heard it,

Just as you lived we have felt it.

Lord we have your peace.

Sustain us in your peace, O Lord,

As we go our separate worlds.

Keep this peace with us

as we try to love in our troubled worlds.

Send us forth in peace.

Send us forth in peace to be a light

To show your beauty forever.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING P.20

The Lord be with you.

And with you, too.

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,

And be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you.

And give you peace,....

In the name of the Father,

And of the Son,

And of the Holy Spirit.

DISMISSAL P.20

Go in peace. Follow Jesus

Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258

Monday, September 16, 2024

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179

Tuesday, September 17, 2024

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF)

Friday, September 20, 2024

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Saturday, September 21, 2024

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

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