



MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Pastor Amy Truhe
September 19, 2021

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
ELW Setting 3

Prelude

Improvisation (Suite Medievale)

Jean Langlais

Call and Response:

We come here today not because we are clever,

We come because God welcomes slow learners.

We come here not because we are wise,

We come because God loves us in spite of our failures.

We come knowing that the greatest persons will be found
among those who serve humbly, as Jesus served.

We come knowing that the brightest ideas and the deepest truth

Come from those who see themselves as children learning from Christ.

O Lord, open up our mind and our hearts

enable our lives to declare your praise!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

Amen.

Second Reading: James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

The wisdom God gives unites our hearts and minds. Instead of living to satisfy our own wants and desires, we manifest this wisdom in peace, gentleness, mercy, and impartiality toward others.

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.^{4:} ¹Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ²You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ^{8a}Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Acclamation:

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Gospel: Mark 9:30-37 Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus' teaching and action in this text are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world's definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.

³⁰[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again."³² But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. ³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. ³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

(Tune #445) – There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#587

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. We pray for the countries of the Middle East, that your Spirit might empower them to seek peaceful resolutions and long term agreements. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. We especially pray for our members Rolland, Walli, Gloria and Gene, Bob, and Merlyn. We pray for our friends Denise, Bill, Dawn, Stephani, Karla, Danielle, Krista, Meghan, Amy, Sharon, Dan, and Kim and Jill. We pray for those serving in the military: Alex, Vicki, Ben, Jeremy, T.J., Daniel, Miranda, and Luke. We pray for Kaylie as she awaits a call. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. We ask that you be with the friends and family of Bob Ahlstedt. May you strengthen them by the presence of your Spirit. Shine your grace on all your saints. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you all: **And also with you!**

MEAL

Offertory Choir: Children of the Heavenly Father, arr. By Dwight Gustafson

Offering Prayer

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Congregation sings

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Eucharistic Prayer

Lord’s Prayer

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Lamb of God

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Distribution of Communion

Prayer after Communion

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

People of God, you are Christ’s body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, **✠** one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Goodness is Stronger than Evil

#721

Dismissal

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Lord Jesus Christ, We Give Thanks to You

Dietrich Buxtehude

Worship Leaders today:

Steve Gustafson Organist
Kirsten Bruce Liturgist
Joy Janis Lector

Worship Leaders next week:

Steve Gustafson Organist
Kirsten Bruce Liturgist
Cindy Daniels Lector

Messiah Lutheran Church

8/21/2021

| | Actual | Actual | Budget |
|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | Aug-21 | Jan - Aug | Jan - Aug |
| Revenue | 8,112.10 | 92,789.48 | 96,773.32 |
| Expenses | 11,866.09 | 88,738.40 | 106,989.94 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | <u>(3,753.99)</u> | <u>4,051.08</u> | <u>(10,216.62)</u> |
| Reserve Balance | <u>84,717.71</u> | | |

Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray

Members of Messiah:

Rolland Christenson, Walli Ellis, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, Merlyn Hilt, the friends and family of Robert Ahlstedt

Friends of Messiah

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Donna Stejksal | Daniels' friend | Karla Goewert | Friend of Kirsten Bruce |
| Denise | Pari Ford's mother | Danielle | Robbie Peterson's |
| Bill Stephenson | Joy Janis's brother | VanDeVyvere | granddaughter |
| Dawn | Sharon Hoffman's | Krista Bahler | Betty Peterson's Niece |
| | Daughter | Meghan | John & Margaret Presley's |
| Stephani White | Betty Holcombe's | Presley | Daughter |
| | daughter | Amy Wright | Friend of Don Anderson |
| Kim and Jill Hett | Community friends | Sharon Texley | friend of Marla Elmquist, Linda |
| Dan Braum | Warren Olson's friend | | Lewis & many others |
| Matt Forrester | Pastor's Brother | | |

Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp Betty Russin's grandson Vicki Charboneau Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist S Hoffman's nephew Jeremy Guy Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen Barb Malm's child
Daniel & Miranda Norland Randy/Gretchen's son & wife
Luke Hammontree Daniel's grandson

Seminary Kaylie Ines

Wider Church by Jeanne Ahlers

In this time of disruption and displacement of people, and distrust between communities and nations, Bishop Eaton would remind us that similar conditions existed at the time of the early church. At that time, two distinct peoples had to comprehend how they could become one people. One, the Jews, were an ancient people who had endured enslavement, oppression and exile, but still preserved their identity and trust in God. They believed that God had blessed them to be a blessing to all humanity, although the rest of humanity reacted violently against them; they believed God had made an everlasting covenant with them and had given them a sign of that promise. The other people -- the Gentiles -- were hostile, polytheistic and suspicious of them. They rejected the claim that a life lived by covenant obligations could possibly be a good one.

But then something happened. Through the cross, these two peoples became one. It was a seismic shift. The first Christians were Jews, who didn't see themselves as apart from the covenant God; to them the Torah was the living voice of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in their midst and throughout their lives. Circumcision of males was a sign of that covenant. So what about the uncircumcised Gentiles, the "others," literally beyond the pale? Paul and others had witnessed the Spirit at work among the Gentiles. The dispute was heated, and the problem was brought to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. They took counsel from Scripture, tradition and the report of the outpouring of the Spirit. The conclusion was that if the Gentiles "abstained from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication" (Acts 15:28-29), they would be "no longer strangers and aliens," but "citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God (Ephesians 2:19).

As they came to be one body, so are we, the present church, one body, the body of Christ. We have significant disagreement about important issues, but we can take heart from the example of the early Church. If, by the Spirit's power, they could set aside their differences,

which were greater than any of ours, then we, too, can live into the unity that already exists in Christ.

Announcements

Thank you to all who participated in **God's Work, Our Hands** day, Sept. 12. We helped clean out a woman's yard, moved shelving at TACOL to assist their renovations, put together Lutheran World Relief packets for health and school. The balcony was cleaned up as well. We are blessed to have had about 25 people serving on this Sunday!

The Vitality Survey results are in! Please join us on Tuesday, Sept 28 at 6:30 p.m. The Rev. Donna Simon from the Synod will be here to walk us through the corporate picture we created through the survey! Cookies will be served!

Christian Ed News! We are partnering with Bethany Lutheran for our school-age Sunday School this fall. Messiah Lutheran kids PreK - 6th grade are invited to attend Sunday School at Bethany Lutheran from 9-10 each week, prior to 10:00 worship at Messiah. Rally Day was September 12th, and lots of fun for all. We are all excited about this opportunity for our kids to learn and grow in faith together! *We are always looking for additional committee members. Currently we have only three members on our committee. We'd love to have some members who do **not** have children involved in Sunday School/Youth Group. Please prayerfully consider this!*

This Thursday, Sept. 23, at 9:00 AM will be our **Messiah Women's weekly coffee**. This week we will have a short devotional time with a lesson during our coffee hour, and will continue with this each 4th Thursday morning. All are welcome!

We are invited to attend **Bethany Church Women's** regular monthly meeting on Thursday, October 7, at 2:00 in their Fellowship Hall. A Bible Study will be given by Nancy Lundblad, and a special offering will be taken for Papua New Guinea.

The next **forum at Bethany Lutheran Church** is Sunday, September 19th at 9 am. All are welcome!

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Jesus' followers are to care for the powerless.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

| | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Sunday | Mark 9:30-37 | The servant of all is the greatest |
| Monday | Jeremiah 11:18-20 | Plot to kill Jeremiah |
| Tuesday | James 3:13–4:8a | Wisdom from above |
| Wednesday | Galatians 5:13-15 | Christ gives freedom |
| Thursday | Isaiah 42:1-9 | A servant song |
| Friday | 1 Peter 4:7-11 | Serve others |
| Saturday | Psalms 54 | A cry to God for help |
| Sunday | Mark 9:38-50 | Avoiding sin |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[Jesus] sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." **Mark 9:35 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

God of heaven and earth, may we follow the way of Jesus and learn what it means to trust in you through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as you feed us with this gift of food today, we thank you for caring for us with your goodness and mercy. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your life be blessed by the love of God through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life. Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- How would you describe your friends, the people with whom you associate regularly?
- Society encourages us to “climb the social ladder.” What does that mean to you?
- How would you describe the life Jesus wants you to follow?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 9:30-37. Chapters 8-10 in Mark include three predictions of Jesus’ death. Each prediction is connected with his disciple’s misunderstandings and then some kind of teaching about discipleship. The focus of Jesus’ words is more than a general endorsement of humility. It moves us in the direction of personal association with the vulnerable and the powerless, those considered “last” in society. In Jesus’ day and in the Roman Empire, a child was without power or importance. To lift up and value a child was contrary to social norms of Jesus’ day. When Jesus describes his own life’s work, he makes a claim on us. We are to follow his way, the way of suffering and being the last. It is an active rejection of domination and the powers of this world. What is evident in these predictions is that Jesus’ followers don’t get it. His understanding of what it means to be “first” in life is so different from what we hear and see in daily life. It takes time to understand what it means to follow Jesus. It may take a lifetime. In the meantime, we are to care for the people who feel unimportant and powerless and be able to celebrate with them that life is redeemed and blessed. Who would you identify in your community as those who are considered powerless and “last of all”?

Pray: **Almighty God, through Jesus, you come to us with a power like no other. Help us to follow Jesus into a new way of life that loves you and all others. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus said, “*Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.*” (Mark 9:37) Many places in the world and in our own communities have children in need. Think or talk about children who are in need of food, clothing, and shelter. Keep them in your prayers. Is there a way you can help and support children in need or an organization that works with them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The International Day of Peace is observed each year on September 21st. It was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981. The Bible reading for Tuesday this week is from James 3. “*And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.*” (v. 18) Think or talk about what it takes to make peace. Then write a list of situations or places that are in need of peace. Light a candle as you pray for each one on your list. Then pray: **Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, please bring your peace to _____ . Amen.**

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to:

www.milestonesministry.org