



THE 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, LECTIONARY 23, SEPTEMBER 5, 2020

Welcome to worship! We are one family of faith, worshipping today wherever we are sheltering in place. Let us gather together in heart and spirit, encouraging, praying and caring for one another.

*In a perfect world the church would be a gathering of harmony, peace, love and kindness. But we live in a sinful world, and the church is full of imperfect people. Good Lutheran theology uses the phrase *simul iustus et peccator*: at the same time saint and sinner. And in a church made up of sinner/saints there are squabbles and worse, as well as care and compassion. Today's readings remind us that the work of Christ's people is 'to put on the armor of light' and do the hard work of living out reconciling love with humble hearts.*

GATHERING

Announcements and time for prayer and preparation.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Blessed be the Trinity, Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reforming God,

**You have promised to be with us and abundantly bless
yet in fear we are divided.**

**We confess that we do not trust your abundance,
failing to believe that you provide enough for all.
We close our hand to our neighbor,
and use your good creation carelessly for our own benefit.**

**We place our hope in ourselves, yet our efforts fall short of your love
and your children suffer.**

**By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, re-form us ;
so that the world may know us by your love. Amen.**

Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all our sins. Now, seek good, and not evil; love mercy. Encourage one another to acts of love as we await the fullness of the coming Kingdom in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: - *Silence*-. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



The Readings

The first reading is from Ezekiel, the 33rdth chapter.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Silence for Reflection

The second reading is from Romans, the 13th chapter.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel, Matthew 18:15-20, is offered

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Owe no one anything, except to love one another;

For the one who loves has fulfilled the law *Alleluia.*

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter! **Glory to you O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Teaching the Word/Sermon

CONFESSION OF FAITH & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

When we were baptized into Christ, we received the promised gift of the Holy Spirit, that we would be made part of the Body of Christ and be strengthened in the Spirit and power to follow Christ. Before God, and one another, let us confess the faith of the Church in trust and confidence.

**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 OF THE CHURCH

Sustained by the promised hope of healing and new life, we join our voices and prayers with God's people in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community that feed and clothe and witness to your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide your followers and strengthen us to seek one another's good. Help us to choose kindness, compassion, empathy and your way of reconciling love. Lord in

your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God you labored over creation with joy, and made a day of rest holy. Bless all who labor, those who seek employment and those whose employment is a burden. Give us courage to speak out for just laws and fair conditions and compensation for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here we may offer the needs of our hearts in the silence after each petition

Be with those who long for wholeness in body, mind or spirit. Come to the aid of the weary and broken hearted, and those whose needs we bring before you:

all who need medical treatment from any and every cause,
and those unable to access care...

all weighed down by fear and loss and grief...

families struggling and stressed to meet the needs of work and home...

those struggling and anxious for health in body, mind and finances....

Our nation as we prepare to elect national, state and local governments...

Hear our needs, and the needs known only to You. Be our strength to meet the days ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Other petitions may be offered as there is need...

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith, and all who mourn this day. As you equipped those who went before us, equip us with your protection and power, until that day we shall join them and see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Pause to share peace and offer thanks for God's gifts that sustain and bless us. If you wish, share a blessing, something or someone for whom you are grateful. Offerings can be made online by going to the website christpipersville.org, using the QR code with your smartphone, or be



gathered and mailed.

Then continue:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Let us pray. *-Silence-* God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Water and word, wine and bread:

these are signs of your abundant grace.

**Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

A Brief Silence

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,
for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness,
called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel
to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,
you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross,
life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.
For your Word of life, O God,
We give you thanks and praise.

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Let us pray in the words Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

We give thanks to God that we are able to gather as a church family wherever we are sheltering in faithful support as serving one community.

place, and for your we move forward another and out

POSTLUDE



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