

September 5, 2021
15th Sunday after
Pentecost

Mt. Calvary, Upper Northfield
St. John's, Mahone Bay

Prepared By Pastor Brooklynn Lane



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Sunday, September 5, 2021

Service of the Word

GATHERING

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

CALL TO WORSHIP – (written by Thom Shuman)

What good is it if we say we love all people,
but give special treatment to a few?

**God calls us to love others as deeply
as we love ourselves, with no strings attached.**

What good is it if we say we want
God to show mercy towards us,
but are quick to judge others?

**God calls us to forgive our sisters and brothers,
to let mercy triumph over judgment.**

What good is it if we say we trust God in every moment,
but live guided by our fears?

**We will speak and act as those who trust God to come
and live in our fearful hearts.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

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.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.
Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant - Evangelical Lutheran Worship #659
Sing Along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-bFuqEilKw>

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray,

Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING – Isaiah 35:4-7a (NRSV)

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God

PSALM – 146 (NRSV)

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

When they breathe their last, they return to earth

and in that day their thoughts perish.

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;

who keeps promises forever;

who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the captive free.

The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord cares for the stranger;

the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING – James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17 (NRSV)

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING – Mark 7:24-37 (NRSV)

The holy gospel according to Mark

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Christ, Be Our Light - Evangelical Lutheran Worship #715
Sing Along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xaw7UFnow9Q>

APOSTLE'S 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

We join together to pray for the needs of the world, concluding each petition by speaking "O Lord, hear my prayer."

God of grace and God of glory, for the church we pray: uphold our bishops, pastors, and deacons; sustain all volunteers during these autumn months; inspire our worship; and teach us how to pray.

Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Creator of the stars of night, for the earth we pray: lower global temperatures; provide a healthy harvest; protect the habitats of wild animals; and train us to care for your creation.

Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Mighty Fortress, for the nations we pray: protect the world from tyranny and violence; guide our elected officials; look with mercy on the people of Afghanistan; lead our nation toward the right use of our military; and bring peace to all.

Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Hope of the world, in this time of pervasive adversity we pray: preserve us from storms and wildfires; protect us from terrorists; and wean us from the ways of prejudice.

Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Rock of ages, for laborers we pray: grant a just wage to the employed and meaningful jobs to the unemployed; and shape our society to honor all residents of our land.

Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear my prayer.

O God of love, for those who are poor, we pray: feed the hungry; house all without homes; assist the powerless; and form us into habits of generosity.

Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Healer of our every ill, for those who are suffering we pray: heal those who have contracted COVID-19; embrace those with mental illness; open up opportunities for persons who are deaf; and hear our cries for those we name here: This morning we pray for Mervyn Joudrey.

Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Mothering God, for ourselves we pray: take away our fears; and come to save us.

Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Eternal Father, strong to save, for the grace shown to our ancestors in the faith, we praise you. For life at the end of time in your presence with all the saints, we pray.

Our hope is in you, O God:

O Lord, hear my prayer.

Receive our prayers, O God, for the sake of our beautiful Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as 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.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Dear God,
as we get ready to start another year in school,
we ask your blessing on these backpacks,
and especially on these children, youth, and adults who will wear them.
As they do the very important work of being students,
bless them with:

eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large;
respect for teachers and students,
that they may form healthy relationships;
love for nature,
that they may become caretakers of your creation;
happiness when learning is easy
and stick-to-it-iveness when it is hard;
faith in Jesus.

We ask that you would protect these, your children.

Watch over them and keep them safe
as they travel to and from school.

As they learn, help them also to discover
the different gifts that you have given each one of them
to be used in your work in the world.

As they hear the many voices that will fill their days,
help them to listen most carefully for your voice,
the one that tells them you will love them always,
no matter what.

Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, that they may be lively places for sound learning,
new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who learn may find you to be the source of all
truth; through Jesus Christ, our saviour and Lord. Amen.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Lift High the Cross - Evangelical Lutheran Worship #660

Sing Along: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvP3DRTEtuo>

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is the Way.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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