

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. Steadfast and faithful God,

All: you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✠ Christ, we are already and always forgiven.

All: Amen.

HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven.....LBW #549

1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King!
2. Praise him for his grace and favor to our forebears in distress.
Praise him, still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in his faithfulness!
4. Angels help us to adore him, who behold him face to face.
Sun and moon bow down before him; all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt. Public Domain

GREETING

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

Cong: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray....

All: O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:1-13

Romans 14:1-12

Lessons conclusion response: Thanks be to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

Gospel announcement response: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel conclusion response: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Plow the Fields and Scatter.....LBW #362

1. We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand.
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

Refrain:

*All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.
Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord for all his love.*

2. He only is the maker of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower, he lights the evening star.
The winds and waves obey him; by him the birds are fed.
Much more to us, his children, he gives our daily bread.

Refrain

3. We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,
But what you most would treasure--our humble, thankful hearts.

Refrain

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt. Public Domain

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

Pastor: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Each petition ends with "Merciful God "
The response is "Receive our prayer"

Pastor: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

Cong: Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Let us Pray....

All: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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; 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.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Cong: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: Let us pray...

All: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

Pastor: The God of glory, ☩ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in us, bless us now and forever.

Cong: Amen.

GO FORTH IN SONG

Pastor: Go in peace. God is at work in us.

Cong: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN

Bless His Holy Name.....W&P #19

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me,

Bless his holy name.

He has done great things, he has done great things,

He has done great things: bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me,

Bless his holy name.

Text: Psalm 103:1, adapt. Public Domain

SHARING OF THE PEACE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's **Flowers** are given by Pastor & Kathy in celebration of our 32nd Anniversary.
Today's **Bulletins** are given by Pastor & Kathy in celebration of our 32nd Anniversary.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Adult Bible Study Join Pastor Clagg on Wednesday Evenings at 7 PM in the lounge.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Senior Adult Group will meet for lunch at The Grand Valley Inn, **This Wednesday, September 20th** at 12 Noon. Sign up with Regina Blinn 724-843-7707.

STEWARDSHIP FOR ALL SEASONS

The resources of GSB's professional development services are being provided for this program thanks to a special relationship with the **Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod**.

The purpose of Stewardship For All Seasons (SAS) is to guide pastors and congregation leaders to learn tried and true basic principles and effective methodologies to carry out productive stewardship programs. Learn how to do year-round, on-going stewardship resulting in more money for ministry, more energized stewards, and a culture of generosity. **THIS IS MORE THAN STEWARDSHIP. IT IS A DEVELOPMENT MENTALITY FOR THE PARISH.**

BENEFITS OF STEWARDSHIP FOR ALL SEASONS

- › Prepare your congregation's story
- › Educate people to tell that story
- › Focus attention on your congregation's mission
- › Inspire people to give generously
- › Learn tools and methods that really work
- › Build a team that enjoys leading stewardship efforts
- › Become confident and skilled in stewardship development
- › Apply biblical principles to gain more resources for mission
- › Experience the joy of asking and giving
- › Avoid searching for the latest hot stewardship program
- › Increase annual giving by 10 - 15% or more each year

COVENANTS:

Congregations participating in SAS will sign a covenant that outlines responsibilities and expectations of the congregation and the Synod.

INVESTMENT:

A portion of the fee is being covered by the Synod. Each congregation is asked to contribute \$1,750 to cover the manual, graphic design, and a portion of the fee. In addition, congregations are asked to contribute back to the Synod 10% of the increased revenue generated to further assist with the implementation of this effort.

TIMETABLE

- › **May, 2023** - Congregational Team assembled
- › **May** - First gathering of teams with consultants; Individual consultations with Teams
- › **Mid June** - Meeting of Congregation; Councils and teams with consultants
- › **September** - Second gathering of teams with consultants - finalize case and goals; Individual consultations with Teams
- › **October** - Third meeting of teams with consultants
- › **October/November** - Stewardship drives conducted
- › **January, 2024** - Fourth meeting of teams with consultants - evaluate
- › **January-April** - Tracks
- › **February** - Fifth meeting of teams with consultants - annual planning
- › **April** - Sixth meeting of teams - evaluate ongoing activity and set plans in motion for next years drive



Contact Melissa Stoler at 412-367-8222 or Melissa.Stoller@elca.org by May 15 to apply.