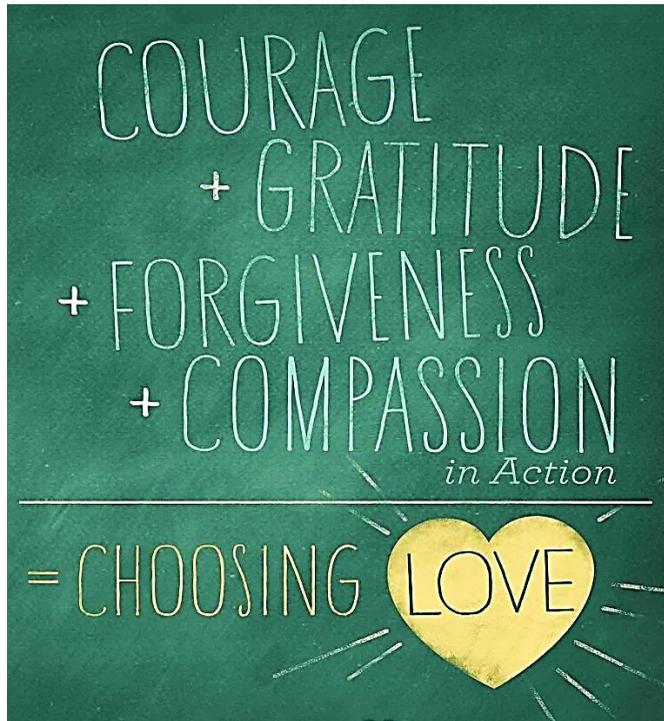


SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A Service of the Word

June 14, 2020



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

85 East Brandt Boulevard

Landisville, PA 17538

*United in Christ,
we are called to love and serve.*

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service of the Word



ELW refers to the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book*
P: Pastor A: Assisting Minister C: Congregation & Pastor

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

The Summons

Setting by C. Robbins

† THE GATHERING †

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Every week, as we join in worship, we have the opportunity to admit to ourselves, to each other, and to God that we don't always live as we are called to live. In this time of confession, this time of opening our hearts, let us remember that God is merciful and just, eager to offer grace and love.

Silence for reflection.

C: **Gracious God, source of all life, Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer. We come before you in need of healing: The healing of our bodies and souls, the healing of our relationships, and the healing of our pride, fear, and apathy. We know that with you, nothing is impossible, not even our healing, not even the restoration of the whole world. We pray that you will heal us, our nation,**

and our world so that we will be freed to serve and love and dream and be as Christ calls us to be. Amen.

P: Friends in Christ, hear this Good News: the love of God is beyond measure, and you are included in that love. Know that you are forgiven and freed to love and serve and dream. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

We All Are One in Mission

ELW 576

Verse 1

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.
A single great commission compels us from above
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

Verse 2

We all are called for service, to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,
So every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Verse 3

Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

THE GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† **THE WORD** †

God speaks to us in Scriptures read and preached.

FIRST READING

Exodus 19:2-8a

A: A reading from Exodus.

[The Israelites] had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.” So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. The people all answered as one: “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

A: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-8

A: A reading from Romans.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

A: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 9:35-10:10:8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9th and 10th chapters.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Barbara Caruana

*Grace and peace to you from our
Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen*

What I'd like to do today is tune into two verses from today's readings. In Romans we heard: "But God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." In Matthew's gospel we heard: "When [Jesus] saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." In these two verses, we hear that God loves us, and Jesus has compassion. But what does that mean? God loves us and Jesus has compassion? Words like love and compassion are kind of vague and mysterious. So, what does it mean to love? What does it mean to have compassion?

We can look up those words in a dictionary, but to truly answer those questions, we need to look at the actions of Christ.

When Christ had compassion on the crowds, he was showing the people of his time, and he shows us today, what it means that God loves. As he healed, forgave sins, brought people together, and made women feel part of God's world, God demonstrated his love.

Jesus is the one who shows us very dramatically what God's love is like. It's forgiving, accepting, caring, being merciful, and compassionate. It's a love which allowed God's only son to be killed on a cross so that you and I might have eternal life. It's a love which was willing to sacrifice God's son so that reconciliation might happen in this world. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us and brought harmony between God the Father and all creation.

So, if you were to describe God's love, you could describe it in terms of the action, words, and deeds of Christ. It can be called a reconciling love, a love which brings people together and forgives; a love which is willing to sacrifice; and a love which is willing to give instead of take.

That love of God is seen through Christ and the cross, but at the same time, the love of Christ is seen today not only through the actions, words, and deeds of Christ in the Bible, but through the actions of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. People see Christ today through us, through you and me. Paul says in Romans, "Let love be genuine, hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good, love one another with brotherly affection, outdo one another in showing honor."

You and I are called to be Christ like -- loving one another as Christ has loved us. We are to be free, expressive, and generous with our love toward others.

Let me tell you some stories which sum up, for me, this love of God through Christ and love for others. It's in the experiences of these stories, that Christ becomes alive in a personal way. I hope that as you listen, Christ will come alive for you and then you, through his love, will become alive for others. You see, our faith isn't static; it's alive and expressive. As you listen to each story, decide who *you are* in each story?

Story #1: "A group of men were traveling across the desert. They were total strangers when they started, some were well-to-do businessmen, others were common working men, and one was a thief. This band of men traveled together across the hot desert sand. They encountered more windstorms than they

anticipated, so their food and water began to run low. They wore woolen hoods to keep the hot, biting sand from stinging their faces. As they traveled, a man noticed that one was missing, the one called Jasmin. They looked around in the driving windstorm, but all they could see was his empty camel. No rider. The men thought it wasn't worth going back to look for Jasmin since he was the thief among them. He wasn't worth saving. But, Lawrence, one of the wealthy businessmen, a man who had a lot to lose, risked leaving the group to go back to look for Jasmin. Lawrence traced over their route, and finally found Jasmin, half mad with heat and thirst. He shared what little water and food he had, placed him on his own camel, and led the camel forward once more. They traveled on and on until they reached the group. When they arrived, all were surprised they had made it. They were bewildered that Lawrence, the rich man, would risk his life for a thief. They marveled at his love and respect for a human life.

Do you see yourself in this story? Are you Jasmin or Lawrence? In your relationship with God are you the criminal, an outcast, or a sinner? Actually, we're all like Jasmin. We've all broken God's laws, become lost in the storms of life, and failed to live according to God's commandments. But all is not lost because Christ is Lawrence. Christ saves the lost. Christ finds the lost. Christ loves the lost.

Story #2: Peirre von Passen in his book, *Days of our Years*, tells of a little hunchback named Ugolin, who lived in a small French village. He had a difficult life because he was a monstrous looking person. Children wouldn't even play with him. One night some men who were drinking started making fun of him. One kicked him, spit on him, tore off his clothes, and finally left him in a pool of blood. Later that night, the local priest found him, took him home, washed him, and put him to bed. The next day, while the priest was conducting mass, Ugolin, went to the river and drowned himself. When his sister found out, she committed suicide. Although they both committed suicide, the priest planned a double funeral in the church for he said, "Those children did not commit suicides; they were murdered by society without mercy." The day came for the funeral and the priest went to the pulpit. While looking at everyone, he began his sermon saying, "Christians! When the Lord of Life and of Death asks me on the Day of Judgment, "Pastor, where are your sheep?" I will hang my head in shame, and I will answer, "There we no sheep, Lord ... they were a pack of wolves! "

Who do you relate to in this story? The priest, the boy and his sister, or the drinking towns people? Maybe all three. As the priest, you and I are the word of God in the world reminding people they are not all that God intends for them to be. You and I are not perfect. We need the transforming love of God in our lives. If you and I

were not or are not at one point or another a pack of wolves, if we don't have a sense of our own sinfulness, then, you don't need Jesus Christ; you don't need to be listening to this service; you don't need the cross because there is nothing here for you.

But if you sense you can be that pack of wolves at times in your lives, if you treat people badly, if you reject God, if you feel life is not as perfect as you would like it, then, keep this video playing so transformation can take place, so lives can be changed, and you and I can encounter God and Christ through the Holy Spirit. We can have a personal relationship with Christ through the Word and through fellowship with each other. Our hurts will be healed, lives will be made whole, and love will be present.

Lutherans have far too often been accused of being stuffed shirts and non-expressive in their faith. But I think Lutheranism is broad enough to allow for expression, joy, and expressed emotions of faith. Why? Because there's a power surrounding us and that means something. It means business is not as usual. Life can be changed. People can be renewed.

Because of that power, Ugolin and his sister would not have died for nothing. All of us at one time or another can relate to the hurt, the pain, the abandonment these young people felt. If we are honest with ourselves, we have all been there. But what's so sad in Story #2, is that Ugolin and his sister felt they had nowhere to turn, no one who would care, and no one to help them.

I hope and pray that doesn't happen within Zion because all of us have someone. We have Christ, and we have Christ incarnate in someone within this very congregation. If we don't, then there's something wrong within this congregation.

But the power of Christ *is* present within Zion and because of that, compassion should be present; love should abound for each other; and deeds of mercy and love should spread throughout our community. But if we can't love each other in this particular family of God, then I don't know where love can be felt.

I like to think of the church as a family and in that family, each of us gives of ourselves, receives from others, and is willing to sacrifice for another. In that way we express Christ's love for us and we become little Christ's for one another.

I would like to close with a story of that kind of caring. As you listen, think of yourself as the mother. Think of yourself as the girl. You see, I believe as members

of God's family, we're constantly changing roles, constantly giving, constantly receiving, and constantly being loved.

Story # 3: A story is told of a young girl whose mother was very beautiful--all except her hands which were shriveled and scarred and hideous. One day the girl asked her mother about her hands. Her mother told her how their house caught fire when she was very little. The mother rushed upstairs to the room where she was sleeping in her crib, and with the help of the Lord she was able to carry her babe downstairs and outside without being harmed. But in doing so, the mother's hands were terribly burned. This brought sobs to the child as she said, "O Mother, you know I've always loved you--especially your face, your smile, and your eyes. But better than all, now I love your hands."

And to that I say, "Thanks be to our loving and compassionate God." Amen.

HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

ELW 798

Verse 1

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Verse 2

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me.

Verse 3

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Verse 4

Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me.



Verse 5

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the words of the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim our faith.

C: 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 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 FAITHFUL

A: Let us pray.

Eternal Father, we thank you for your great love. You give the world the best of yourself, the mirror of your perfect transparency, the splendor of your very being ... your Son Jesus Christ. We thank you for giving Jesus to us as our Savior and friend. Help us open our hearts to be his light without fear of being overwhelmed but filled with the joy that comes to all who accept it with gladness.

God of goodness and love, hear our prayers for a compassionate heart as we strive to serve others as you have done for us. Let our love and compassion be a genuine model of forgiving, accepting, and caring that brings harmony in a broken world.

We pray for our church family. Help each of us give of ourselves, gratefully receive the help of others, be willing to sacrifice for those in need, and become little Christ's for one another.

As the world around us changes, help us to be transformed by newness, rather than frightened by change. Help us to view change for the better rather than a destructive force. Help us to be filled with joy and willing to express emotions of faith even if it feels foreign to us.

We pray for the leaders of all nations and people everywhere that they may be safe and make decisions that benefit not only the healthy, but those who are fragile, those who are at risk, and those who must rely on the help of others but don't want to place burdens on those around them.

We pray that the ministry of this congregation may reach out in love to those who are broken. We especially pray for those whose lives have changed overnight due to deaths in families, illness, loss of jobs, and the "new normal" of daily living that affects each of us in different ways.

Almighty God, you are the only source of health and healing. In you there is calm, and the only true peace. Grant to each one of us an awareness of your presence and give us perfect confidence in you. In all pain and weariness and anxiety, teach us to turn ourselves over to your never failing care, knowing that your love and power surround us, and trusting in your wisdom to give us health and strength and peace as you see fit.

Eternal God, we remember those whose lives have been cut short by illness, by working with COVID-19 patients in hospitals and nursing facilities, and those who have died in service to their country. We especially remember Kim Propst, a gentle soul whose death is being grieved by many within her church family. May they each rejoice as you welcome them into your kingdom.

Gracious God, we ask that you accept these prayers we offer to you in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who taught us to pray together saying ...

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 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 THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD** †

A prayer of thanks to God by his faithful people.

P: 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.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to be your witnesses: forgiving, loving, and showing compassion for all people.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. 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.

† **THE SENDING** †

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

BLESSING/BENEDICTION

P: Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good; render not one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and may the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be with now and forever. Amen.

HYMN

Bring Forth The Kingdom

Verse 1

You are the salt for the earth, O people:
Salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people:
Life in the kingdom of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the city of God!



Verse 2

You are a light on the hill, O people:
Light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people:
Shine for the kingdom of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the city of God!

Verse 3

You are a seed of the word, O people:
Bring forth the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
Grow in the kingdom of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the city of God!

Verse 4

We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
Bound for the kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland:
Love is the kingdom of God!

(Refrain)

Bring forth the kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the city of God!

DISMISSAL

P: United in Christ, go forth to love and serve.

POSTLUDE

Holy Manna

Arr. by M. Rinehart

PRAYER LIST

FOR HEALING

Barb Williams
Dave Wise
Kevin Reinhart
Fred Hamor
Joe Adams
Judie Ingersoll
Lucy Davis
Bill Grove
Kay Crawford
Holly Hoover
Betty Stoner
Don Heartter
Janet & Harry Musselman
Homer Dietz (Brother-in-law of Harry Musselman)
Ginny Eisenhower (Sister of Dolly Overly)
Ron Sahd (Friend of Dave Wise)
Wilson Pipkin (Father of Wilson Pipkin)
Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise)
Mike LaFatta (Son-in-law of Bill & Julia Grove)

FOR COMFORT, PEACE, STRENGTH, & SAFETY

Richard and Marilyn Heim
Arlene Miller
Deb McCartney
Marlin Zimmerman
Charlotte & George Potts
Bette Geibel
Jennifer Thompson
Ted Symonds & Family
The family and friends of Kim Propst who died suddenly on Tuesday, June 2.
The family and friends of Mary Grzybowski who died on Thursday, May 21.
Anita Kolibas Engroff & Jeff on the death of her father, Robert Wee, on June 3.
Residents and Staff of the Phoenixville Care & Rehabilitation Center
Arlene Wise (Sister-in-law of Dave Wise)
Vaun Hile (Father of Lynda Sherwood)
Jennifer Kready (Daughter of Dave & Donna Dumeyer)

FOR PROTECTION FOR MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

Christopher Wright

Chris Andrew

Thom Whitesel

Ryan Stitzel

Doug Kautter

Justin Gorlaski

Corey Landis (Nephew of Jesse & Pat Landis)

David Adams (Son-in-law of John & Kathleen Hay, and wife of Liz)



Never Underestimate the power of prayer.