

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

*A Service of the Word*

*June 21, 2020*

· GO ·  
FORTH  
— AND —  
have NO fear

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**85 East Brandt Boulevard**

**Landisville, PA 17538**

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

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**  
*Service of the Word*



*P: Pastor   A: Assisting Minister   C: Congregation & Pastor*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

W. Held/R. Nelson

† **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: Hear the 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**

*Lift High the Cross*

ELW 660

*(Refrain)*

Lift high the cross,  
The love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore  
His sacred name.

*(Verse 1)*

Come, Christians, follow  
Where our captain trod,  
Our king victorious,  
Christ, the Son of God.

*(Refrain)*

Lift high the cross,  
The love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore  
His sacred name.

*(Verse 2)*

All newborn servants  
Of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the  
Seal of him who died.

*(Refrain)*

Lift high the cross,  
The love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore  
His sacred name.

*(Verse 3)*

O Lord, once lifted  
On the glorious tree,  
As thou hast promised,  
Draw us all to thee.



***(Refrain)***

Lift high the cross,  
The love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore  
His sacred name.

***(Verse 4)***

So shall our song of  
Triumph ever be:  
Praise to the  
Crucified for victory!

***(Refrain)***

Lift high the cross,  
The love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore  
His sacred name.

**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. Creator of all life, help us to tell simply and clearly the promises of your love and care that we have received in secret so that our brothers and sisters who live in doubt and fear may trust you as well, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

† **THE WORD** †

*God speaks to us in Scriptures read and preached.*

**FIRST READING**

Jeremiah 20:1-13

A: A reading from Jeremiah.

O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in,

and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

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

## **SECOND READING**

Romans 6:1b-11

A: A reading from Romans.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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

## **GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 10:24-39

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the twelve:] "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they malign those of his household! "So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become

known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. “Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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

**SERMON**

Pastor Barbara Caruana

P:

*Grace and peace to you from  
God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen.*

In 1991 Josephine Hart wrote of gripping book entitled *Damage*. It’s about the dangers of obsession and the depth of its consequences. The main character in the book, a doctor, seemed to have everything: wealth, a beautiful family, classy cars, a prestigious political career ... anything you could imagine. But he never felt fulfilled. Ultimately, he became so obsessed by his desires for more, that his life was totally damaged.

This powerful story is a parable on the human condition. There are people who live shabby and dreary lives, but often those who appear to have everything may come up empty-handed or worse ... they may destroy their lives in the pursuit of fulfillment.

This is the heart of what Jesus was talking about in today’s Gospel story. Jesus continues to prepare his disciples for mission. He encourages them to see the advantage they have in reviewing life as it really is.

Jesus pointed out to the disciples that they weren't to be intimidated by what was going on in the world. He told them they were to be like their teacher. Jesus also pointed out that just like he had been called Beelzebub ... the devil ... so would the disciples.

Truth is, that message was also meant for us, because if we really look at today's world, it often looks as though the world does do the work of the devil ... hatred, terrorism, racism, drugs, murders, and unruly protests. Children are abused and die. Families fall to pieces. Homeless people crowd the corners. While we groan and rub our hands in hopelessness, we watch television shows that portray more and more violence. ***We live in a period of chaos, fear, and unrest.*** We still haven't learned, after all the bitter human experiences that have occurred throughout history, how to live in peace. The death of George Floyd and the following protests attests to the chaos, fear, and unrest, that exists today.

If we believe we are safe from war, a vicious virus, racial disputes, the loss of humanity, and all sort of ugly things happening in the world, we don't understand the meaning of life.

Jesus observed that there is no reason to fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. The prevalence of violence and conflict shows that much of the world is in the hands of those who kill the body, and we may fear that the destruction will also harm the soul.

Humanity comes up bankrupt in the search for answers to the major problems of life. We hear people decry the absence of values. They lament that our children are not taught values anymore. But how can we teach them when things are so out of balance? We have a horrendous military budget but can't scrape enough money together to support adequate school systems. Our states encourage us to dream about becoming millionaires overnight with lotteries and legalized gambling, and at the same time we support welfare systems that continue to lock the poor in poverty.

We pay outlandish salaries to sport heroes and then pay them more to advertise products that youngsters want so badly so they feel accepted. We've allowed the family to disintegrate and yet wonder why children grow up feeling insecure and unloved. We created a unique sexual revolution, hoping everyone could be free, only to discover that we're slaves to the subject as witnessed by the millions of

people who have romanticized deviant behavior reflected in the movie and best-selling novel, “Fifty Shades of Gray.” So, what’s the answer to all these problems? The law? Values? Does anyone really know?

Jesus encouraged his disciples to take on the world of false power and delusions of grandeur. He said, “Have no fear.” He encouraged the disciples to share whatever Jesus had taught them. Jesus was going to make good on what he taught his disciples. We know that Jesus meant that he was willing to offer himself up as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Jesus was willing to die at the hands of unbelieving, distrustful, sinful people who thought they had to save their own lives by their own goodness. Jesus was willing to take this debate all the way to its conclusion. The people could force the issues by ridding themselves of a person who talked about God as someone who was so available as to be in the flesh. Jesus affirmed that it was so. God was present among them in this person of Jesus, and he was ready to die to prove it.

And prove it he did. Not only was Jesus so gracious as to offer himself up for crucifixion upon the cross, but he also rose again to prove that life is really and truly to be found in him, so that death itself couldn’t deprive him of the eternal life that God offers and gives through him.

In essence Jesus was saying that God offers life to a death-infested humanity. In saying what he did in such a challenging way, Jesus wasn’t unmindful of the power of his enemies. He knew that if they could take his life, they were also capable of making martyrs of the disciples. Yet Jesus continued to insist that the cause was worth dying for. The world was God’s and worth dying for. The powers in the world were destroying it. We know that well enough today. Yet, Jesus teaches, “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear those who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Even if the evil powers are bent on destroying the world and all that is good in it, you don’t have to fear them. If they elect to destroy you over protests against their evil and because you evangelize for good, don’t fear them. Remember your allegiance is to the God who created and redeemed you.

Donald Hands, a clergyman who is also trained in psychiatry, has proposed a definition of an integrated life. He explains that the integrated life is one that makes



sense out of our total experiences of mind, body, and spirit through the relationship to the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People who try to control behavior only by repression are sure to have things backfire. Those who seek to control by suppression are apt to create all kinds of misery. People who believe their behavior is best served by gratification are asking for trouble. Sublimation, another form of behavior control, is likely to have all kinds of unwelcome eruptions.

As our lives are integrated by faith through Jesus Christ, we can deal with our thoughts, feelings, and impulses in relationship to ourselves, to others, and to God. Although I have oversimplified Dr. Hand's theory, this process of integration by faith in Christ helps us discover that we don't have to create our self-defense, self-esteem, self-worth, or righteousness. It comes as a gift of God in Christ. We don't have to be obsessed with self-concern, because we discover that the one who is the most concerned for us in none other than God. God isn't too busy to take the time to count the hairs on our head.

Christ's observations about the Father's intimate concern for our lives is strengthened by his promise. We are the vessels of God's love and grace for redeeming a mad, crazy, hate-filled world. Jesus assures us that if we engage with him in the redeeming work in the world, he will acknowledge us before the Father in heaven. When we share the good news of God's grace in Christ, we're true to our discipleship.

On the other hand, to fail to share the good news is to allow the world to suffer the damage it brings upon itself and to endure the possibility of damaging ourselves eternally. We don't even need to consider that possibility. It's far better for us to accept all the love, encouragement, and assurance of our Lord; to become bold evangelists in witnessing to a distraught world; and to remember that our allegiance is to be to the God who created and redeemed us.

And to that I say, "Through the grace of God, let it be so." Amen.



***(Refrain)***

I am the church! You are the church!  
We are the church together.  
All who follow Jesus,  
All around the world!  
Yes, we're the church together

***(Verse 1)***

The church is not a building,  
The church is not a steeple,  
The church is not a resting place,  
The church is a people!

***(Go to Refrain)***

***(Verse 2)***

We're many kinds of people  
With many kinds of faces,  
All colors and all ages, too,  
From all times and places.

***(Go to Refrain)***

***(Verse 3)***

Sometimes the church is marching,  
Sometimes it's bravely burning,  
Sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding,  
Always it's learning.

***(Go to Refrain)***

***(Verse 4)***

And when the people gather  
There's singing and there's praying,  
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes,  
All of it saying:

***(Go to Refrain)***



*(Verse 5)*

At Pentecost some people  
Received the Holy Spirit  
And told the Good News  
Through the world  
To all who would hear it.

*(Go to Refrain)*

*(Verse 6)*

I count if I am ninety,  
Or nine, or just a baby;  
There's one thing I am sure about  
And I don't mean maybe.

*(Go to Refrain)*

## **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.

God of life, our future is secure because of you. Weave you grace into every fiber of our being. Lead us. Renew us. Move us to embrace life. Put a song in our hearts and joy on our faces. May the courage of our convictions, not the heaviness of our obsessions, lead us to actions which lift our spirits and the spirits of others.

God of goodness and love, you have called us to serve you; you have called us to help heal others; you have called us to love one another. Help us to do what you have called us to do in a world that is in great need.

We pray for all who work in the world of commerce, for bankers, tax-collectors, and insurance brokers. We remember all who are drowning in debt and cannot see a way out. We pray for all countries where the national debt has become crippled by the additional costs associated with fighting the coronavirus. Remind us that even though countries are struggling daily, they are not alone. Help our world be rejuvenated in ways that only you can imagine.

We remember before you all who are outcasts, the broken-hearted, and the broken-spirited. We pray for all who find themselves in desperate situations, and those who are anxious about their health or the health of others.

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.

As the world around us continues to change, 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 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 remember all those on our hearts and on Zion's prayer list. Help them know they are never alone; that you are with them always; and your holy angels are surrounding them.

We give thanks for all who have been restored by your touch, and all whom you have raised from the point of death.

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 PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** †

*A prayer of thanks to God by his faithful people.*

P: Loving God, dying Son, living Lord, how amazingly you prove your love for us! Though you might have cast us off forever in anger at our sins, instead you show your loving forgiveness in the death of your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ. We rejoice in the sacrificial deal that saves us and the ongoing life that intercedes for us. We are filled with joyful trust and thanksgiving that you have befriended us. Weak and unworthy as we are, we thank you for your love and for your word. You are worthy of all praise human and divine Christ, holy and hopeful Spirit. Amen.

† **THE SENDING** †

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

**HYMN**

*In Christ Alone*

BB 113

*(Verse 1)*

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This cornerstone, this solid ground,  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.

What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

*(Verse 2)*

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,  
Fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness,  
Scorned by the ones he came to save.



Till on that cross as Jesus died,  
The wrath of God was satisfied.  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid;  
Here in the death of Christ I live.

*(Verse 3)*

There in the ground his body lay,  
Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day,  
Up from the grave He rose again!

And as He stands, in victory,  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His, and He is mine,  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

*(Verse 4)*

. No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.

No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

**BLESSING**

P: Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good; render no 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 you now and forever.  
Amen.

**DISMISSAL**

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

**POSTLUDE**

*Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus*

P. Manz  
Arr. by M. Rinehart

## PRAYER LIST

### ***FOR HEALING***

Barbara 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  
Bob Steinmetz (Brother of Diane Gerlach)  
Homer Dietz (Brother-in-law of Harry Musselman)  
Ginny Eisenhauer (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 husband of Liz)



*Never Underestimate the power of prayer.*