

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A Service of the Word

June 28, 2020



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

85 East Brandt Boulevard

Landisville, PA 17538

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

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



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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Prelude on 'Royal Oak'

R. Haan

† 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: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

In the presence of God, who sees our hearts and our minds, let us confess our sin.

Brief silence for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: we confess that we are captive to the power of sin that dwells within us. We put ourselves first and others last. What we think will make us happy leaves us longing for more. Even when we want to do what is good, we find ourselves doing the opposite. Rescue us from death's grip on our lives, and raise us up day by day, that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

P: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we have all fallen short of the glory of God; therefore, we are justified by God's grace as a gift. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in † Christ Jesus, in whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. Amen.

Verse 1

We are people created, chosen by God.
Then we're washed ever gently,
In mercy and love.

Sin has power no more,
Jesus opened the door
To a Fountain bringing healing,
And wholeness and more.

Verse 2

We are fed and we're nourished,
Filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns
And again we are blessed.

For whatever the need,
God is greater indeed;
Endless Ocean, always deeper
Than all of our need.

Verse 3

We are nourished by water,
All living things,
And by life that the Spirit
Abundantly brings.

As we journey toward home,
May your presence be known:
Precious River, ever flowing,
Now carry us home.

Verse 4

Now with praise and thanksgiving,
We join the song.
All are welcome! We gather to
Sing loud and strong.



Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be
One in Jesus, one in water,
Baptized and set free!

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, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

† **THE WORD** †

God speaks to us in Scriptures read and preached.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 28:5-9

A: A reading from Jeremiah.

Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

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

SECOND READING

Romans 6:12-23

A: A reading from Romans.

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For

sin will have no dominion over you since you are not under law but under grace. What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 10:40-42

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 10th chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples], “Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Barbara Caruana

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

P: It’s called servant evangelism, and it means showing the love of God through our own caring and loving actions toward others. Sometimes it’s the simplest acts of

kindness that have the most lasting effects. Sometimes ordinary things impact people in extraordinary ways.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of sharing a cup of water. He isn't speaking of just sharing a drink with someone. He's talking about sharing ourselves; the practicality of living a Christian life; a life full of relationships, both with God and others. He's talking about the humble act of giving a piece of ourselves to others, and about sharing in simple and practical ways. Jesus is talking about servant evangelism.

The simplest of acts can have impacts far beyond our wildest dreams. Take for example this story of a humble hotel clerk:

In the city of Philadelphia there was a little third-class hotel. One night two tired elderly people entered the hotel. They went up to the night clerk, and the husband pleadingly said, "Mister, please don't tell us you don't have a room. My wife and I have been all over the city looking for a place to stay. We didn't realize how many conventions were being held this time of the year. The hotels where we usually stay are all full. We're dead tired and it's after midnight. Please, don't tell us you don't have a place where we can sleep."

The clerk looked at them a long moment and then answered, "Well, I don't have a room except my own. I work at night and sleep in the daytime. It's not as nice as the other rooms, but it's clean, and I'll be happy for you to be my guests for tonight."

The wife looked at the clerk and said, "God bless you, young man."

The next morning at the breakfast table, the couple asked the waiter if it would be possible to talk with the night clerk about some particularly important business. Soon after, the night clerk appeared, recognized the two people, sat down at the table, and said he hoped they had had a good night's sleep. They thanked him most sincerely. Then the husband astounded the clerk with this statement, "You're too fine a hotel man to stay in a hotel like this. How would you like for me to build a big, beautiful, luxurious hotel in New York City and make you the general manager?"

The clerk didn't know what to say. He thought there might be something wrong with their minds because they were rather elderly. He finally stammered, "It sounds wonderful." His guest then introduced himself. "I'm John Jacob Astor." So, the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel was built. Four years later, the hotel was the largest in the world and boasted unprecedented standards of service. The night clerk became the

best-known hotel man in the world. A humble act of service led to this unforeseen act of splendor.

The point of this story is not that you'll be rewarded for doing good deeds, but that simple deeds can produce larger results than we expect. Simple acts can show the love of God through our actions. One clerk chose to show a simple act of kindness to strangers by sharing his room with this tired elderly couple. He touched them in ways he could not have foreseen. His simple act of kindness touched the fabric of this couple and greatly impacted how they looked at this young man.

The act of kindness shown by the night clerk at the shabby hotel doesn't happen every day. But ordinary everyday acts of kindness done as labors of love can also produce extraordinary results. Listen to this story.

The Rev. Alan Redpath tells a story about a lady who has a little motto over her kitchen sink that reads, "Divine service is conducted here three times daily," Cooking three meals a day is a simple act of kindness. It's another way to show God's love, through us.

You see, there are opportunities all around us to show God's love through us. These acts don't need to be complex. These acts don't have to be extraordinary. They can be the normal, everyday events just like cooking those three meals a day. No matter how simple or complex, no matter how ordinary or unique, we can always show the love of Christ through simple acts of kindness.

Showing God's love can also be based on service. Simple service is not based on who we are, but who Jesus is through us. God loves us in so many ways. He feeds us, clothes us, provides for our physical needs. He also gives us strength when times are tough and comforts us when we experience loss. He's there when we succeed and when we fail. He shows this unprecedented love through the sacrifice of his Son for us. His grace is our reward.

But sometimes it might be hard to reflect that love that God has for us. Sometimes we might find it difficult to smile, let alone serve. Sometimes, what we do might seem inadequate, especially when compared to the sacrifices God has made for us.

The challenge is that sometimes we try to love under our own power, but the power to share Jesus in practical ways comes from Christ. Paul knew this. Even when imprisoned, he knew and experienced the power of Christ at work. That's why he tells us that we can do all things through Christ who strengthen us. We can show God's love for us through our actions. We can serve by accepting that Jesus served us first.

This service and sacrifice led to our salvation. But it's not by our power or any action you or I perform. It's by the service of Jesus Christ and the sacrifice he made for us. We get into heaven not by what we do, but by what Christ has done for us. The power of the life we live in love toward God and others flows out of God working in our hearts. On the night before Jesus died, he prayed for this to happen in our lives when he prayed, "The goal is for all of humankind to become one heart and mind – just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you. Then the world might believe that you, in fact, sent me."

So, what can we learn about sharing a cup of cold water? Let the love that God has for you and me reflect in your actions. You are important and God showed just how important you are through his tremendous sacrifice. Jesus was a servant, and we can reflect that in our own actions.

In the Louvre in Paris, there is a famous painting by Murillo. It's called "The Miracle of San Diego". A door opens, and two noblemen and a priest enter a kitchen. They are amazed to find that all the kitchen-maids are angels. One is handling a water-pot, another a rack of meat, a third a basket of vegetables, a fourth is tending the fire. The message of the painting is that no labor is common unless we make it so. In fact, Jesus Christ himself toiled in a workshop. Every act is important because they all reflect that love that is in us.

Jesus was a carpenter. He faced the ordinary trials of life in the market, in the town, on the roads, and in the temple. He tackled each ordinary situation in extraordinary ways because all his actions showed the love of God. He used the usual situations of daily living to show the unusual caring nature of our heavenly Father.

Just as our heavenly Father first loved us and demonstrated service through Jesus, we too can show that love in simple acts of kindness. Accept freely the act of grace that God has showered upon you and freely share it with those around you.

And to that I say, "Let it be so." Amen.



Verse 1

Amazing grace,
How sweet the sound.
That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost,
But now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

Verse 2

'Twas grace that taught
My heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did
That grace appear,
The hour I first believed!

Verse 3

Through many dangers,
Toils and snares
I have already come;

'Tis grace has brought
Me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Verse 4

The Lord has promised
Good to me;
His Word my hope secures

He will my shield
And portion be
As long as life endures.



Verse 5

When we've been there
Ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days
To sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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.

O Lord, let your love shine through our eyes, your Spirit inspire our words, your wisdom fill our minds, your mercy control our hands, your will capture our hearts, and your joy pervade our being until we are changed into your likeness and willingly reach out to others as you continually reach out to us.

We pray for your church, that she may be a holy, serving church regardless of whether we are in our church building. Help us reveal your love through our care and the small acts of kindness for and our acceptance of others.

We pray for those who strive to bring peace between various factions and for all who seek to bring unity and harmony to our world. Guide them by your Spirit so they may be a reflection of your love and help build a transformed world.

We pray for the world-weary, the heavily burdened, and those who are worn out and broken, that they may know in their hearts the glorious freedom you provide for all your children.

We pray for all who find themselves in difficult situations, those who are anxious about their health or the health of others, and those who need to feel your presence in their lives. Today we especially pray for those who are ill, those undergoing cancer treatments, those undergoing surgery, those who are grieving, those in the military, Lutheran World Relief, World Hunger, those serving as missionaries, all organizations and individuals reaching out to those in need, and those we name in our hearts. *(Pause)* May each know of your welcoming presence in their lives.

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, we give you thanks for your word which provides guidance, support, inspiration, and direction. Send your Spirit of truth; 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 and ever. Amen.

† **THE SENDING** †

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

HYMN

This is My Father's World

ELW 824

Verse 1

This is my Father's world,
And to my list'ning ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.



This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.

Verse 2

This is my Father's world;
The birds their carols raise;
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world;
He shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
He speaks to me ev'rywhere.

Verse 3

This is my Father's world;
Oh, let me not forget that though the
Wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world;
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let the earth be glad!

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

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

D. Hustad

PRAYER LIST

FOR HEALING

Adele King	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.		
The family and friends of Mary Grzybowski.		
Anita Kolibas Engroff & Jeff on the death of her father, Robert Wee.		
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.