

First Lutheran Church – ELCA

Worship Bulletin–20th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 10, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME (pastor)

Good morning, my name is Steven Olson and I want tell you, it is truly a privilege and an honor to be here today.

Why? Well, it is because I owe this church a debt of thanks I can never repay and it all goes back to when my family first moved here in 1967.

I was just entering grade 8 at the time, as part of a blended family. New town, new school, new mom, new church, a challenging time, but here in the church I felt welcome and embraced from day one.

First Lutheran loved its youth and this church invested in us heavily. Parish workers, youth workers and pastors, chaperons and Sunday School staff made sure we knew “they had our back.” We knew we mattered and within this community our faith was nurtured and our leadership was fostered, and that is why in the space of a few short years, not only I, but Greg Hall, Julie Beck, Karla Kirkeby and Karen Molitor all became pastors.

In large part it is because of what this church did for each of us. So I think I can speak on behalf of all of us in saying thank you, thank you for investing in your youth, thank you for making a difference not just to your youth, by enriching our lives, but also all the churches you empowered us to serve across this continent.

OPENING SONG: “Come and Fill Me Up” (BOB 39)

I can feel You flowin’ through me.
Holy Spirit, come and fill me up,
come and fill me up.

Love and mercy fill my senses.
I am thirsty for Your presence, Lord;
come and fill me up.

Lord, let Your mercy wash away all of my sin.
Fill me completely with Your love once again.
I need You. I want You. I love Your presence.
I need You. I want You. I love Your presence.

I can feel You flowin’ through me.
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OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, we long to rest in your gentle arms. We need your compassion as we face the challenges and disappointments of life. When our hearts are hard, and our concern is only for ourselves, turn us back to you. Remind us of your saving love and keep us close to you, Lord. Love us as only you can love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm) 90: 12-17

L: God has called all God's people to lives of hope and service.

P: We want to serve God, but sometimes life gets to be too difficult for us.

L: Place your trust in God's power and love.

P: God understands our needs, our sorrows, and our joys.

L: Come, let us worship God who is with us always.

P: Praise God for God's eternal presence.

SONG: "Beautiful Savior" (All My Days); Stuart Townend

All my days I will sing this song of gladness,
give my praise to the Fountain of delights;
for in my helplessness You heard my cry,
and waves of mercy poured down on my life.

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer;
I will sing of the blood that never fails,
of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,
of death defeated and life without end.

Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor,
clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,
You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion,
and You reign, You reign over all!

I long to be where the praise is never ending,
yearn to dwell where the glory never fades,
where countless worshipers will share one song,
and cries of "worthy" will honor the Lamb!

Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor,
clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,

You're the Risen One, heaven's Champion,
and You reign, You reign over all!

SCRIPTURE READING: Amos 5: 6-7; 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.

⁶Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. ⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! ¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins—you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. ¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. ¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. ¹⁵Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

https://sermons4kids.com/god_of_the_impossible.htm

CHILDREN'S SONG (related to message): My God Is So Great

GOSPEL READING (no liturgy/responses): Mark 10: 17-31

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.' " ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." ²⁸Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and

MESSAGE (pastor) Pastor Steve Olson

Grace and Peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, Amen!

Just about all of us had a security blanket or something like it when we were young. For me it was a cardboard shoe box in which I kept all my treasures, a rock picked up on some far away beach, a secret agent decoder ring and white feather I had been given, as a reward for honesty, on a YMCA camping trip.

These were my childhood treasures, but as time went by, new treasures replaced the old. Decoder rings were replaced by rare old coins, the white feather by love letters, along with treasured pictures.

And then one day it was all gone. Someone broke into our home and stole my box, all the old coins, the letters and treasured pictures were gone.

I cannot tell you the pain that that caused me.

I can tell you of the anger, but in the midst of that anger, I remembered some words our Lord Jesus once said. "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6: 19-21)

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. I wonder if the young rich man who came to Jesus also heard these words. Maybe he had, and maybe that had got him thinking about where his life was heading. Maybe that is why he asked Jesus "What must I do to inherit Eternal life?"

I think it is worth noting that, just looking at him, Jesus loved him. He knew he was rich and that was OK. What wasn't okay though was that he was rich in all the wrong ways.

Sure, he had wealth and possessions but when it came to the good things in life, the things that make life worth living like peace, contentment and hope, he was as poor as they come.

On the plus side though, at least he knew something was missing, and like so many in our generation today he was honestly searching and Jesus knew that.

So, Jesus gave it to him straight and plain. "What must you do to inherit eternal life? You know the commandments. You are a good guy, but "You lack just one thing; go, sell everything you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

"Sell everything you have got?" What was that all about. Did Jesus really expect him to do that? Does he expect that of us?

When I tried to put myself in that young man's shoes, I was reminded of an old Jack Benny skit. A rich man waiting for a limousine, is held up and the thief screams YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE. and what happens? nothing, silence. The rich man doesn't move.

So once again the thief screams YOUR MONEY OR YOUR LIFE.

Again Silence, until finally the thief says "Well"

and at last rich man replies I'M THINKING, I'M THINKING

I'm thinking,? ????Yeah right! You would think the answer was obvious, but sometimes things aren't so black and white, as we can see with this rich young man.

He had a lot to lose and a lot to gain and so do we. So how would you handle that question if you were the rich young man and Jesus were to say to you. There, is only one thing you lack, sell what you have, give to the poor and then come and follow me.

Would we have the guts to do it or would we be like that Rich Young Man who walked away in grief and sorrow.

I don't know, but I do know Jesus still loved that young man and Jesus loves us, even when we do make the wrong decision.

That is why he gave his life for us. He knows we just can't do it. Our big hang up might not be money, like that rich young man, but we all struggle with something, something that tries to fill that God shaped space in our lives.

For the Rich young man, it was money, but money really isn't the problem. There is nothing wrong with having wealth or even with being wealthy. In fact, in many places the Bible speaks of material wealth and blessings as being gift from God.

So, in and of itself, there is nothing wrong with being wealthy. The problem is when is when wealth becomes our master instead of our servant and that I think is what was going on with this rich young man. He had become a slave of his wealth and that wealth was keeping him from fully loving God and his neighbor.

Instead of placing his faith in God, he had placed his faith in stuff. That was his downfall and it may be ours, but it could be something entirely different.

I don't know, but one thing I do know. In one way that Rich young man was looking for something. He was asking all the same questions I see so many in my own generation asking. After years of experimenting with this and that in our quest for the secret of happiness, we find ourselves back at the feet of our Lord, looking for answers to the big questions. Questions like "What is the secret of happiness?" and "What must I do to inherit Eternal life?" These are the questions that are bringing people back to church these days and they are our questions as well.

So, what is the answer? It is the same answer we have given to all generations; the same answer Jesus gave to that young man. The secret of happiness is to learning to trust God with all that we have and all that we are.

It is a simple answer but a hard one to learn, for when we are comfortable. We can go for months without even thinking of God, but what happens when the stock market crashes, and the value of our homes are cut by 30% and unemployment goes through the roof.

When that happens, people get religion, but what happens when things get back to normal. Will we all go back to our old ways? I hope not. For there are some things even the richest country in the world can't buy for its citizens.

God knows that we tried but look at where it got us. We have a national debt that is almost beyond imagining and still people cry out for more.

Yet all the money in the world can't buy us happiness, much less eternal life. So, it's time we wake up America and face the facts. We can't buy our way into heaven. We can't even buy peace on earth, much less happiness. Yet there is a way we can have all these things. All we have to do is learn to put our trust in God.

I know that might sound simplistic but it is not as simple as it sounds. The hard truth is that putting our trust in God means letting go of our trust in other things.

Consider again that rich young man. For him his wealth was the road block. What is it for us, what gets in the way of our putting our ultimate trust in God?

For some it is wealth, for some it's their good looks or their positions of power. Others take security in their knowledge, or strength or their sexual prowess but in the end none of these things can take God's place.

So maybe we need to take another look at our priorities, in fact, there probably are some things we should give up in our lives, things we know that stand between us and God.

Letting Go of those things is never easy, but I have seen in my own life and in the lives of others how God responds when we put it all on the line for him.

That my friends is a promise you can take to the bank. And I hope we do because we'll never know the real power of God until we start relying more on him, instead of ourselves and our own resources.

Now I don't know what you are going to do with all this but I hope you give it some thought and then take a few chances. It is scary but it is worth it, for it is better to enter the kingdom of heaven as a poor man than to go to hell rich as midas. It is better to enter the kingdom of heaven as just one of the guys and gals than to go to hell with your name in the history books.

So, think about it, if there is anything that is getting between you and God, let it go. It is not worth it. So, trade it in. Trade it in for the peace and joy and hope that can only be fully ours through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN!

SONG: "For Everyone Born"; Shirley Erena Murray/Brian Mann

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for woman and man, a system that's fair,

and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hand that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong,

and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For just and unjust, a place at the table,
abuser, abused, with need to forgive,
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy,
for just and unjust, a new way to live,

and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free,

and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy,
compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.**

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

A New Zealand Prayer Book

OFFERING/Special Music: “Ancient Words” (Lynn DeShazo)

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world
They resound with God’s own heart
O let the ancient words impart
Words of life, words of hope
Give us strength, help us cope
In this world where we roam
Ancient words will guide us home.

Ancient words ever true
Changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart

Holy words of our faith
Handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice
O heed the faithful words of Christ
Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world
They resound with God’s own heart
O let the ancient words impart

Ancient words ever true
Changing me and changing you
We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart

OFFERING PRAYER (Season after Pentecost B, TFF)

Generous God, **all good gifts come from your gracious hand. We offer you these, the harvest of our time and labor. Make us wise stewards of all your gifts, that your name may be exalted in all the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS (Pastor)

LORD’S PRAYER (trad.)

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 (Nathan Nettleton; laughingbird.net)

Go now in the confidence of people who have found mercy.
Follow Jesus, keeping the commandments,
letting go of all that binds you to the ways of this world,
and investing everything in God's realm.

And may God come close to you and keep you safe;
May Christ Jesus reward your faithfulness a hundredfold;
and may the Holy Spirit be your help in time of need.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

SENDING SONG: "Go in Peace and Serve the Lord" (W&P 46; 2x)

Go in peace and serve the Lord.
God is calling you today.
Go and tell gospel news ev'rywhere.
God in peace and serve the Lord.
God is calling you today
to bring truth and love to ev'ry nation.

Go in peace and serve the Lord.
God is calling you today.
Go and tell gospel news ev'rywhere.
God in peace and serve the Lord.
God is calling you today
to bring truth and love to ev'ry nation.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

FELC SCHEDULE FOR October 11 - 17, 2021

Monday - 11	9:00AM 6:00PM	BULLETIN DEADLINE Worship & Music Team
Tuesday - 12	7:00AM 2:00PM 7:00PM	Early Risers Bible Study GriefShare Day Care Association Meeting <u>EVANGEL DEADLINE</u>
Wednesday - 13	3:30PM 5:15PM 6:00PM 6:30PM 6:30PM 6:30PM 7:30PM	KFC Meal Worship Confirmation Sanctuary Choir Card Ministry Youth Group
Thursday - 14		
Friday - 15		Pastor's Day Off

Saturday – 16

Sunday - 17 9:00AM Worship – 20th Sunday after Pentecost
 10:00AM Sunday School

KFC is looking for volunteers to prepare meals at the church. All the food will need to be prepared at the church or catered and not made at home and brought in. Meals start at 5:15. We are expecting around 35 people. Jon will be happy to purchase items and put in the kitchen for the volunteer to make.

“Encounter” the ecumenical youth group for grades 7 and up is on Sunday nights. We will meet at Hy-Vee where attendees will be able to snack on food and have a soda or Starbuck beverage. Friends are invited to come to this gathering of fun. Activities begin at 6:30 pm and end around 8:00 pm.

Reminder to the team chairs. It is that time of the year to start thinking about your budget for 2022. All budgets are to be submitted to Natalie by Oct. 31. Thank you!

Our General Fund Financial Information

General Fund Balance – July 31, 2021 – \$979.53

August Income - \$22,725.95

August Expense - \$22,304.97

General Fund Balance – August 31, 2021 – \$1,400.51



Members: Rosie Rogers, Dave Livingston, Linda Towne, Al Luing, Janice Berger, Sandy Rogers, Todd Hallstrom, Charlene Wachter, Marilyn Frisch, Julie & Denny Christensen, Dianne Sanderson, Betty Nelson

Members in Nursing Homes: Don Grant, Albert Mattisen, Bobbie Elvin, Sandra Marsh

Members in Care Facilities: Bob Dieter, Joan Doeden, Jean Bender

Family Members & Friends: Arlene (Fern Burmeister’s sister), Butch Zeiner (Valerie Veen’s brother), Maverick Thalberg (Fern Burmeister’s great-grandson), Josh Hansen (Mary Ingenthron’s son), Lee Morrison (Terry Morrison’s son), Henrietta Lais, Tom Morgan (Sandy Randall’s dad), Brad Martens (Valerie Veen’s son)

Our service men and women and Love INC