



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA Waseca, MN



Sunday, September 27, 2020

17th Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

Introduction

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us. In our reading from John's Gospel, Jesus is described as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be "full of grace and truth." We are strengthened in our Baptism by the good news that our Lord is with us in our lives. And we are strengthened by the good news of our Lord's forgiveness, whenever we come to him in humble confession. We can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life" – to choose life in God as our own.

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

(please stand)

Call to Worship

P: The Word of God is planted in our hearts.

C: May our hearts be receptive to the Word.

P: The Love of God rains down on us.

C: May our souls soak in the wonder of God's love.

P: The Breath of God blows softly within us.

C: May our minds be stirred by the power of God's spirit.

Opening Hymn: Come, Now is the Time to Worship

~Refrain~

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God. Come.

1. One day ev'ry tongue will confess You are God. One day ev'ry knee will bow.
Still, the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly choose. You now.

~Refrain~

2. Willingly we choose to surrender our lives. Willingly our knees will bow.
With all our heart, soul, mind, and strength we gladly choose. You now.

~Refrain~

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Prayer of the Day

P: Most Loving and Gracious God, we praise you and we thank you for the guidance that you give us from day to day in your Word and by your Spirit. We thank you for choosing to dwell among us and praise you for calling us to be your faithful people. Bless this time of worship and of prayer, that those who need comfort may be comforted, those who need challenge may be challenged, and that all of us may grow closer together as your children – as members of the body of Christ Jesus our Risen Lord, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise: #124 Shout to the Lord (2x)

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord, there is none like you.

All of my days I want to praise the wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;

let ev'ry breath, all that I am never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy at the work of your hands; forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

(please be seated)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the Lord; or choose death by following other gods.

15See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. 16If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the Lord your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. 17But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, 18I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. 19I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.

Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the Lord swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

R The Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation #7 Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

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P *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.*

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:1-14

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P *The Gospel of the Lord.*

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Hymn: (purple) #140 There is a Redeemer

1. *There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son, precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.*

~Refrain~

***Thank you, O my Father, for giving us your Son
and sending your Spirit till the work on earth is done.***

2. *Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names, Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,
hope for sinner slain.*

~Refrain~

3. *When I stand in glory, I will see his face; There I'll serve my king forever, in that holy place.*

~Refrain~

Message

Choosing Life

Pastor John Omans

Message Song (purple) #144 Thy Word is a Lamp

~Refrain~

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (repeat)

1. *When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me,
And nothing will I fear as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.*

~Refrain~

2. *I will not forget your love for me, and yet, heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.*

~Refrain~

(Please Stand)

Apostles' Creed

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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters.

C: **Amen.**

P: As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God who searches us and knows us,

C: **you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other lights to find our way. We have not been just in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. With what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

P: Beloved of God you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism: You are God's child; + your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for you belong to the Kingdom of God.

C: **Amen.**

The Prayers of the Church

(after each portion the congregation responds with this)

P *Lord, hear our prayer.,*

C: ***The Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words to express oh, oh, oh. (sing 2x)***

The Peace

P *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another.*

(We share Christ's Peace)

(please be seated)

Offering Invitation *(offering may be placed in offering plates located at corner of side aisle)*

Stewardship Minute

P Saturday, October 3rd, we will assemble Baby Care Kits. Again, as we the Personal Care Kits and the School Kit that we have already assembled, THANK YOU! Your prayers, your help, your donations, all make a difference.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray together:

C: **Merciful God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first give us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C Our Father in heaven,

**hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: God has placed before you life & death, blessings & curses.

Therefore choose life, follow God's way.

Go now, and be a people of faith and integrity.

And in all the paths you walk

may God hold you steady and close.

May Christ Jesus bless you and every place you enter.

And may the Spirit give you length of days and fullness of life.

C: Amen.

(please stand

Sending Song

Blessed Be Your Name

Blessed Be Your Name, In the land that is plentiful
Where Your streams of abundance flow, Blessed be Your name

Blessed Be Your name, When I'm found in the desert place
Though I walk through the wilderness, Blessed Be Your name

Every blessing You pour out, I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord, Still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name

Blessed be Your name, When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's 'all as it should be,' Blessed be Your name
Blessed be Your name, On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering, Blessed be Your name

Every blessing You pour out, I'll turn back to praise
When the darkness closes in, Lord, Still I will say
Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name

You give and take away, You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say, "Lord, blessed by your name" (Repeat...*both of these lines*)

Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your name
Blessed be the name of the Lord, Blessed be Your glorious name

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Sending

P: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

PLEASE WAIT FOR USHERS TO EXIT YOU OUT OF PEWS.

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Jan Macklay

Reader: Bruce Boyce

Ushers: Mary Meyman, Sue Michaels

Bruce Boyce, Melvina Conrath

Council Person:

Videographer: Dennis & Marcia Bartz

Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents.