

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 6, 2020 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223
www.livingspringscolumbia.org

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.



WORSHIP HELPERS FOR TODAY'S STREAMED SERVICE - THANK YOU!

Mike Davidson (Assisting Minister/Lector); Todd Gunvalson (Acolyte/Congregation Singer/Choir); Dea Jones & Cathy Lowman (Leader Worship Singers/Choir); Bob Turnmire (Choir/Sound); Jan Berger, Karlene Stuart, Sarah Schultz, Laura Turnmire (Bells); Toni Hollingsworth (Organ); Trado Mayson (Piano); Gail Buchanan (Altar Guild). *Worship for next Sunday to be recorded this Wednesday at 7:15. Go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4baea92fa0f85-worship1> to sign-up to help for upcoming worship recordings (as a family, couple, or individuals).*

CONGREGATION SUMMER FAVORITE HYMNS

"You Are Mine"

from Dea Jones

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

from Bob Gill

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Reconciling God,

People: we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"10,000 Reasons"

Deacon Justin Rimbo (pre-recorded)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;
Worship His Holy name. Sing like
never before, O my soul, I'll
worship your holy name.

*Verse 1: The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning;
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever comes before me,
let me be singing when the evening comes (to Chorus)*

*Verse 2: You're rich in love and you're slow to anger,
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find (to Chorus)*

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

People: **And also with you.**

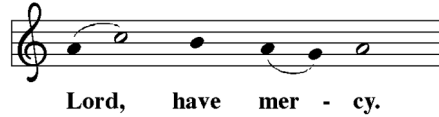


KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



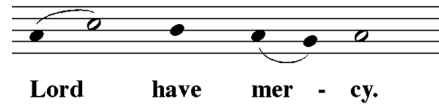
Pastor: For the peace from above
and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: For this community of faith,
and all who offer their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us Gracious Lord.



Pastor: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the bucket collection and bring them to the Parking Lot Communion Distributions (or drop them off at the church office). Current collection is for the Family Assistance Fund.

*This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"Only This I Want"

Kay Herbert & Shirl Schiffman
by Dan Schutte

FIRST READING

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

Lector: A reading from Ezekiel.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? (Ezekiel 33:7-11)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40

Lector: Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

**People: Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Lector: Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

**People: Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

Lector: Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

**People: Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

Lector: Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

**People: Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

Lector: A reading from Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (Romans 13:8-14)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

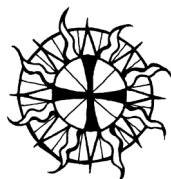
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.



GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:15-20)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We are seated

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

*Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether; Text: Percy Dearmer; Music: Union Seminary, Harold Friedell;
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APOSTLES' CREED

People: 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 to the dead. 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assist: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.
+ A brief silence +

Assist: Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and public officials toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit; and bring your healing to those for whom we pray now, especially *Charles Kauffman; Anne Ducate; Nancy Schwind; Jim Grimmer; Debbie Smith; Tammy Mancuso; Robin Traufler; Ed Brennan; Mary Joyce Newton; Gwen Brantley; Margaret Blank; Bunie Talbert; Hector Anderson; Gene Snipes Kelly Kozier; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; Charles Levitt; Stacy Gullard; Brandi Moore; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O God, as we face ongoing uncertainties around coronavirus, we pray for our nation and the world. Protect the most vulnerable among us, those who are currently sick, in isolation, or awaiting test results. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to scientists, vaccine researchers, educators, and health care/food/essential workers as their daily work puts them at risk. Fill us with patience and guide us as we consider how best to continue to respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, schools, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear or self-centeredness, but with compassion, concern, and acts of loving service for others, trusting that you abide with us always. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.



OFFERING PRAYER

Assist: Let us pray.

People: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering therefore his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Spirit of love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Friends of Jesus, come to this table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

People: Thanks be to God.

+ THE ELEMENTS ARE SYMBOLICALLY CARRIED OUT OF THE CHANCEL +

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

THIS WEEK: Our worship will continue with **distribution of Holy Communion on Wednesday from 6-7pm** in the Parking Lot. We will utilize sanitary-packaged individual communion elements, which have been consecrated during the worship service. There will be an "usher" in the parking lot to direct vehicles to the distribution altar, and the pastor will be there, wearing mask and gloves (he will change gloves after each vehicle). Everyone please remain in your vehicle throughout the process. Once it's your turn, drive up and put your vehicle in park. The pastor will come to your car window(s) to distribute Holy Communion. *AFTER* you have consumed the elements, the Pastor will offer a blessing – and then you can pull away. While in the parking lot, everyone should be in prayerful worship-mode, as you represent God's people gathered to continue the worship experience from the morning service. Think of this in the same way you would think about "coming up to the communion rail for distribution" in your vehicle during an ongoing worship service.

COMMUNION REFLECTION

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



Refrain
so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart; Text: Omer Westendoorf; Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz; Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727349. All rights reserved.

The elements are symbolically carried back to the altar.

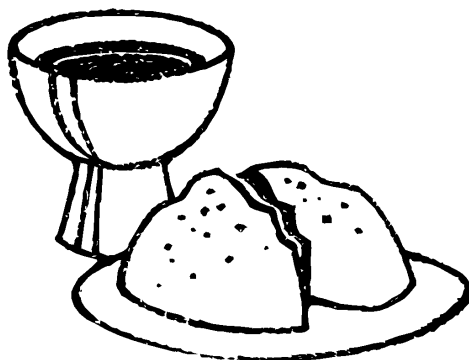
POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

People: Amen

Pastor: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

People: Amen



SENDING SONG

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

(While we sing, we turn and face the processional cross as it is carried out the center aisle.)



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee; Text: Henry van Dyke; Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven;

DISMISSAL

Assist: Go in peace. Scatter the seed of God's kingdom love for all!

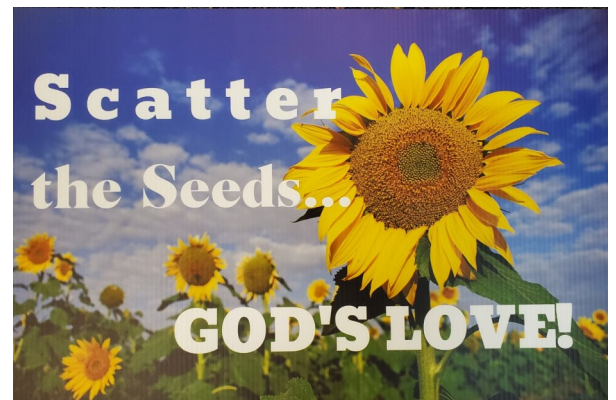
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Scatter the Seed of God's Love this summer:

**LIKE & SHARE this Streamed Worship
via Facebook or YouTube!**

SEND PHOTOS of your growing sunflowers:

GodAroundUs@LivingSpringsColumbia.org



God's Love Shared Through You ...



One Life Deeper in 2020!

*Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during 2020. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper in 2020? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!***

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships 1 person at a time!

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!

SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Restoring Right Relationships

In today's gospel reading, Jesus turns his attention to the community of believers. Matthew is the only gospel in which Jesus explicitly speaks about the church and therefore addresses some concerns of communal living. This week, Matthew provides a framework for responding to sin and conflict for the sake of restoration within a community.

It is inevitable that in a relationship, a time comes when someone lets you down. They may disappoint you, fail to meet your expectations, hurt your feelings, disagree with you, misspeak, or break your trust. This happens in all relationships and in all places—the church is no exception. Although these actions can be unintentional, occasionally relationships are scarred by purposeful acts of betrayal, abuse, deception, and malice. In all cases, Jesus' way acknowledges the reality of broken people and relationships, and recommends a path forward.

It is common to seek revenge or try to get even with those who have hurt us. We expect them to be punished for the wrong they have done. What Jesus proposes here is a system not of retributive justice but of restorative justice. Instead of demanding vengeance, we can engage the other person in order to heal and repair the relationship and community. We are to try multiple times, involving the community as needed, to make amends. We are not to give up on the ones who do harm, but to offer opportunities for dialogue and healing.

Jesus does not abandon sinners or the church filled with conflicted believers. He comes among them as they listen to each other and works to restore their relationships. We practice the work of restoration every week by sharing a sign of peace with one another. In each exchange of peace, Jesus comes among us to offer grace and forgiveness.

September Book of the Month: Job