

17TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lutheran Men's Sunday
September 27, 2020 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

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

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... (Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

LS Lutheran Men in Mission

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Faithful God,

People: **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

People: Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

*Dearest Jesus, at Your Word; Text: Tobias Clausnitzer/Catherine Winkworth;
Music: LIEBSER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johan R. Ahle.*

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



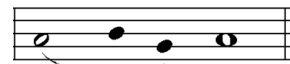
Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord have mer - cy.

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



A - men.

Pastor: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Adam Woodruff

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.

For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
Christ is lead-ing us ...
For-ward in faith!

For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
With our eyes on Jesus
WE'RE RUNNIN' THE RACE!

DWELLING IN THE WORD

Matthew 21:23-32

Following a prayer, the scripture is read twice. Then three questions are discussed: 1. What captures your attention? 2. What questions do you have? 3. Where might God's Spirit be nudging us?

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. "What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

HYMN OF THE DAY

"When Peace Like a River"

*Requested by Harold Talbert
Read by Walker Flores*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

When Peace, Like a River; Text: Horatio G. Spafford; Music: VILLA DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss

REFECTION - FORWARD IN FAITH

LS Lutheran Men in Mission

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: In all the world, give your church unity. Inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ. Where the church is powerful and where it struggles, shape us with humility and obedience so that your love may be at work in us. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Your Son took on all of bodily life in our world, even to death. Preserve and keep your creation, O God. Mend and redeem places that are polluted and damaged, so that all of creation confesses you as Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Turn the nations toward life. Where our ways are unfair, give us new hearts and new spirits. Where sin permeates our cultures and institutions, change our minds and teach us to trust your authority. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Our lives are yours, O God. Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for: *Henrietta Kaiser; Jim Grimmer; Gwen Brantley; Debbie Smith; Tammy Mancuso; Ed Brennan; Margaret Blank; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; Kelly Koziel; the Neal/McDonald family; Judy Jennings; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; Charles Levitt; Addie Thompson; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: O God, bless the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission in this and every congregation, as we move forward in faith. Forgive all men for any ways in which we have exalted ourselves over women, who too are made in your holy image. Open the hearts of all men to a deeper relationship of faith, that they might grow as humble servants of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: Thank you for those who have gone into the kingdom ahead of us—tax collectors and prostitutes, likely and unlikely, obedient and slow to learn. By their witness, teach us to confess Jesus Christ as Lord in life and in death. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O God, as we face ongoing uncertainties around coronavirus, we continue to 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.

Google Play



App Store



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

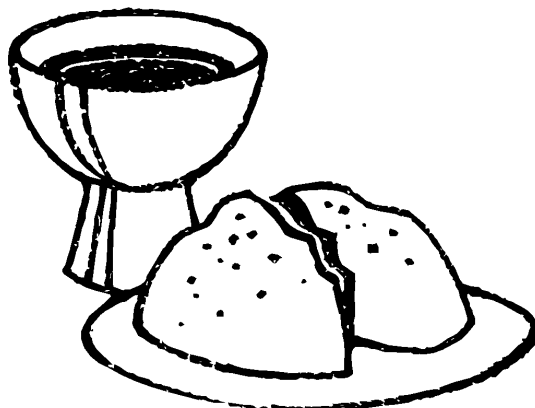
Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ through the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we are fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we do not celebrate Holy Communion in this virtual gathering, we pause to give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion — as we anticipate, with joy, those times when we are fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal in this moment of worship, for reasons you understand, we still sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting those times when we share in this meal, we still cherish in our hearts the words which Jesus gave us:

People: 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."

We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and look forward to the time when we gather with others around the Lord's Table.



COMMUNION REFLECTION

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Requested by Goldie Harmon



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!

My Faith Looks Up to Thee; Text: Ray Palmer; Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason

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.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: **Amen**

SUNG RESPONSE

"The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

LS Disciples of Harmony
Music by by Peter C. Lutkin



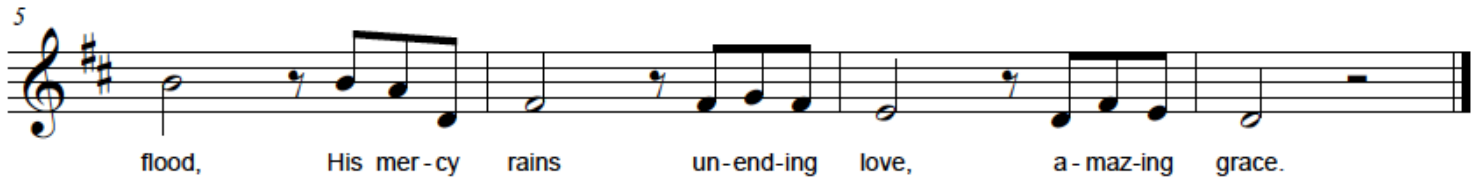
SENDING SONG

"Amazing Grace, My Chains are Gone"

Requested by Ed Brennan
Deacon Justin Rimbo (pre-recorded)

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. (to Verse 2)*

2. *T'was grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed. (to Chorus)*



3. *The Lord has promised good to me
his Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures. (to Chorus, 2x)*

*...unending love, amazing grace.
...unending love, amazing grace.*

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DISMISSAL

Pastor: Surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, go in peace to run the race and move forward in faith!
People: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Walker Flores (Acolyte); Bill Franck (Crucifer); Adam Woodruff (Children's Message); Todd Gunvalson, Mark Stuart, Steve Bloss, Zeke Hanford (Dwelling in the Word); Zeke Hanford (Assisting Minister); Mark Stuart, Todd Gunvalson, Jim Zieche (Leader Worship Singers); Bob Turnmire (Sound); 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).*

SEPTEMBER "ALTAR FLOWERS" - THANK YOU!

The following have given monetary gifts in lieu of, or in addition to, the flowers on the altar:

September 13: Gift to Backpack Ministry, in honor of September family birthdays by Judy Lawrence.

September 20: Gift to Backpack Ministry, in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary by Bill & Nancy Franck.



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!

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

I Believe in You

Today's gospel questions what it means to believe in something. Belief can be exhibited by actions or in words, but true belief is displayed when the two contradict each other. We may say we do not believe in monsters under our bed. However, if upon hearing a noise underneath us at night, we clutch the blanket a little tighter around us, do we still claim to not believe in monsters? Believing in something or someone does more than affect our mind. It influences our behavior. It informs our actions and changes our character.

Believing in Jesus is not a cognitive experience alone. If it were, we'd be like the second son who professes to do the will of the father, but doesn't. Rather, our actions are the mirrors of our belief, reflecting our faith outward. This is why worship is structured to rehearse our patterns of behavior for the world. In worship, we gather to practice accountability, interdependence, passing the peace, and turning toward God. Our faith shapes us to live in the world according to God's principles of justice, mercy, and kindness.

When we believe in something, we give authority to it, whether the belief is spoken or enacted. This is why the words "I believe in you" before a feat of courage are often so powerfully effective. Knowing that someone believes in you bestows authority and strength. It moves you from thought to action, making it possible to boldly live into whatever is believed of you.

God believes in you. This does not mean there is a divine being out there who merely believes that you exist. This is not a passive form of believing. God believes in you and gives you authority to live boldly as a disciple of Jesus. Just as Jesus' authority came from God, so does your authority to do what you have been sent to do. "You can do it," God encourages. "I believe in you!"

September Book of the Month: Job

October Book of the Month: Ezekiel