

August 9, 2020

Welcome to God's church *10th Sunday after Pentecost*. *These communities of faith, North Beaver Creek and Blair Lutheran Churches have one great aim and purpose: to help people grow in life-giving relationships with their neighbors, their own selves, the earth and God.*

Remember that we are in the holy presence of God. Let us take a moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

**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.

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. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

756 – Eternal Father, Strong to Save

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| 1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless
wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea. | 3 O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
and bid its angry tumult cease,
and give, for wild confusion,
peace:
Oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea. |
| 2 O Savior, whose almighty word,
the winds and waves submissive
heard,
who walked upon the foaming
deep,
and calm amid the storm didst
sleep:
Oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea. | 4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,
all trav'lers guard in danger's hour
from rock and tempest, fire and
foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go;
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad hymns and praise from land
and sea. |

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878,
alt.

Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Prayer

O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9-18

9 At [Horeb, the mount of God,] [Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”
10 He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

11 He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake;
12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 14 He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” 15 Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. 16 Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 17 Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. 18

Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

Psalm 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to you.

**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” 6 But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8 But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. 11 The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew

and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13 For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

14 But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? 15 And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Gospel: **Matthew 14:22-33**

Sermon: **Pastor Adam Arends**

Hymn of the Day: 773 – *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand, lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

The Apostle’s 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 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.

The Prayers of the People

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the whole church throughout the world. Give courage in the midst of storms, so that we see and hear Jesus calling: “Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid.” May we follow Christ wherever he leads. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation. Protect waterways: especially North Beaver Creek, the Black River, and the Mississippi, forests, lands, and wildlife from exploitation and abuse. Help us to sustain and be sustained by the resources of your hand. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and their leaders. In you, O God, steadfast love and faithfulness meet, and righteousness and peace kiss. May nations in conflict know the peace that is the fruit of justice, and the justice that is the path to peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. Everyone who calls upon your name will be saved. Accompany all who are lonely, hear the voices of those who cry out in anguish, and support those who are frustrated in their search for an affordable place to live, those who have lost their jobs, and those who seek employment. We pray for those suffering this day, especially those we name before you now. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the saints of the whole church from all times and places, and for the saints in our lives and in our community whom you have gathered to yourself, especially Russell McDougall. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Offering

The Offering Prayer

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Water and Word, wind 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.

The Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION. Lutherans believe that Christ, the Incarnate Word of God, is truly present in the Lord's Supper

and that in this meal our Lord gives forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Christ is the host of this meal, and all are welcome to this meal without exception.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Let us pray

The Pre-Communion Prayer

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus
Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy (p 153)

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The Words of Institution

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.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the mystery of faith until he comes:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.

We remember his life lived for others,
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth.

The Lord's Prayer

The Invitation

Christ is the host of this feast. The table is open to everyone, without exception.
Behold who you are, become what you will receive. Come, let us eat, for now the
feast is spread.

Our Lord's body let us take together.

Prayer after Communion

God of the welcome table,
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness
and have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

Amen.

L: We have asked God to change us by his grace, fill us with his goodness and make us a mirrored reflection of the Divine. We ARE the body of Christ – giving ourselves for others. We are the blood of Jesus – may our lives and love be spilled out for those around us who are hurting. We have become what we received.

C: Amen.

Blessing:

As you go on your way may God go with you.
May God go before you to show you the way.
May God go behind you to encourage you.
Beside you to befriend you. Above you to watch over you.
And within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sending Song 763 – My Life Flows On in Endless Song

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| 1 My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off
hymn
that hails a new creation. | 2 Through all the tumult and the
strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? |
|--|---|

Refrain:

No storm can shake my in-most
calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and
earth how can I keep from
singing?

Refrain

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| 3 | What though my joys and
comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather
round?
Songs in the night he giveth. |
|---|--|

Refrain

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| 4 | The peace of Christ makes fresh
my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? |
|---|---|

Refrain

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
Music: Robert Lowry, alt.

Dismissal: Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**