

Nov 8, 2020

Welcome to God's church on this the 23rd 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.

Announcements

Remembering 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,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,

and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through ✝ Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us

from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

Hymn 632 – O God, Our Help in Ages Past

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|---|--|--|--|
| 1 | O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home: | are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the
night
before the rising sun. | |
| 2 | Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure. | 5 | Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day. |
| 3 | Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same. | 6 | O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles
last
and our eternal home. |
- 4 A thousand ages in your sight

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

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

C: Amen

Prayer of the Day

O God, you alone are our Judge.
Send your Spirit of truth
to expose our self-deception
and challenge our complacency
so that we may surrender to your mercy
and follow your will
through Jesus Christ our Liberator. Amen.

~ from a collection of prayers posted on
the **Worship@North** website. <https://northchurchindy.wordpress.com/>

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord:

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!
Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;
as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.

Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

Psalm 70

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.

**2 Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.**

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Gospel Acclamation 172 Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

L: The Gospel for today is from Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: Glory to You oh Lord

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to his disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those

bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

L: The Gospel of the Lord
C: Praise to You, O Christ

SERMON "The Sincerest Pumpkin Patch" – Pastor Adam

Hymn of the Day 710 – Let Streams of Living Justice

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|---|--|
| 1 Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour. | till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun. |
| 2 For healing of the nations, ^{SEP} for peace
that will not end, ^{SEP} for love that makes
us lovers, ^{SEP} God grant us grace to
mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us | 3 Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,
our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified. |

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
Text © 1989 William Whitla. ^{SEP}

The Prayers of the People

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power and grace on the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, builders, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. As we reckon with the results of our national election, remind us that you are bigger than any leader or any nation, and you call us to love and justice for our neighbors, no matter who is in office. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The Offering

Offering Resp. # 686 We Give Thee But Thine Own (V 1 only)

The Offering Prayer

God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.
Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.

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.

L: 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

The table is open to everyone, without exception. Behold who
you are, become what you will receive. Speak to us, O Lord, in
the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

The Post Communion Prayer

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

L: We have asked God to change us by grace, fill us with
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:

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

Sending Song 785 – When Peace like a River

1 When peace like a river
attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot,
thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

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

2 Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my
helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my
soul. *Refrain*

3 He lives--oh, the bliss of this
glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it
no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O
my soul! *Refrain*

4 Lord, hasten the day when our
faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a
scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the
Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul.
Refrain

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

Dismissal

L : Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.