

## September 27, 2020

Welcome to God's church *17th 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.*

### Welcome

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,

**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.**

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. **Amen.**

### **Opening Hymn 526 God Is Here**

1 God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.

4 Lord of all, of church and  
kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!

### **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**

Let us pray.

We always seem to be fumbling around,  
broken and ignorant humans that we are,  
and we so often expect you to stride in  
strong and knowing,  
and just sort us out,  
fix us,

set us right.

But this is not what you do, is it, God?

Instead of directing, controlling, 'fixing',  
you step into human experience,  
merge your divinity with flesh,  
and serve the least and the weakest;  
you walk alongside us, stand with us,  
and teach us to find life in you  
to grow together with you,  
to participate in our own healing and salvation.

It seems strange to use the word "humble"  
with reference to you, O God,  
but it is the best description we have  
of your gracious approach,  
your compassionate service,  
your selfless incarnation;  
And so we praise you for your humility,  
and for the way you gently lead us  
into facing our brokenness,  
renouncing our self-righteousness,  
and embracing humility for ourselves.

Amen.

by John van de Laar, Sacredise.com

## Scripture

### Ezekiel 18:1-4,25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

## **Psalm 25:1-8**

1. To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
2. **My God, I put my trust in you;  
let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**
3. Let none who look to you  
be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.
4. **Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**
5. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my  
salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.
6. **Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.**
7. Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
8. **You are gracious and upright, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners in you way.**

## **Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death--  
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

L: The Gospel according to Matthew the 19<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You O Lord.**

## **Matthew 21:23-32**

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.

**SERMON**

Pastor Adam Arends

## **Hymn of the Day 801 Change My Heart, O God**

Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.

You are the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me;  
this is what I pray.

You are the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me;  
this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.

Change my heart, O God;  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God;  
may I be like you.

## **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.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

(silence)

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, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

Our lives are yours, O God. Relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, especially those we name before you now. (pause) Defend the lives and welfare of children who are abused or neglected, hungry or exploited, bullied or lonely. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn our congregations away from our own interests toward the interests of others. Fill us with your compassion and sympathy. Bless ministries of care in our community (especially our food bank, and quilting ministries); make us into signs of your mercy and justice for our neighbors. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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, **hear our prayer.**

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

### **The Offering**

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

### **The Offering Prayer**

God of life,  
you give us these gifts of the earth,  
these resources of our life and our labor.  
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,  
& use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

**C: Amen**

### **The Peace**

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

**C: And also with you.**

Open Table is our practice for communion. Jesus turned away no one at any time for any reason. All are welcome without exception. All of us are the body of Christ in this world and are part of this communion of saints.

### **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!**

### **The Pre-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray

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.

## **Communion**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Holy and compassionate God,  
in bread and wine you give us gifts  
that form us to be humble and courageous.  
May your words come to life  
in our serving and in our witness,  
that we might speak a living voice  
of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and  
our redeemer. **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      712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service**

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|---|---|
| <p>1 Lord, whose love in humble<br/>service<br/>bore the weight of human need<br/>who upon the cross, forsaken,<br/>worked your mercy's perfect<br/>deed:<br/>we, your servants, bring the<br/>worship<br/>not of voice alone, but heart;<br/>consecrating to your purpose<br/>ev'ry gift which you impart.</p> <p>2 Still your children wander<br/>homeless;<br/>still the hungry cry for bread;<br/>still the captives long for freedom;<br/>still in grief we mourn our dead.<br/>As you, Lord, in deep compassion<br/>healed the sick and freed the soul,<br/>by your Spirit send your power<br/>to our world to make it whole.</p> | <p>3 As we worship, grant us vision,<br/>till your love's revealing light<br/>in its height and depth and<br/>greatness<br/>dawns upon our quickened sight,<br/>making known the needs and<br/>burdens<br/>your compassion bids us bear,<br/>stirring us to ardent service,<br/>your abundant life to share.</p> <p>4 Called by worship to your service,<br/>forth in your dear name we go,<br/>to the child, the youth, the aged,<br/>love in living deeds to show;<br/>hope and health, goodwill and<br/>comfort,<br/>counsel, aid, and peace we give,<br/>that your servants, Lord, in<br/>freedom<br/>may your mercy know and live.</p> |
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## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Sound the good news

**Thanks be to God.**