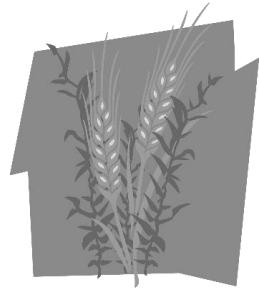


SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 11



Then the Righteous Will Shine

Knowing the Lord

July 19, 2020

AS WE GATHER

Why must we endure the questions, the challenges, and the things that are not as they should be? The disciples long ago wondered about this too. Why are there weeds in God's field and what can be done about it? The seed was good, but God has enemies, and so do you. It is not given to us to resolve this until the Lord's time, when He will separate the weeds from the wheat. It is enough for us to know that God knows the hearts of people and that this tension will not endure. When Jesus comes in His glory, the angels will gather out of His kingdom all who do not belong. Then the righteous shall shine like the sun, so take heart, people of God.

We are among the many who have struggled to believe in a world where it seems our enemies' triumph and our own wills fail us. But the promises of God are not only for the present. They point us to that which is to come. To know the Lord is to know His promises without having seen them fulfilled. Gathering around His Word and Table, we meet those promises. His voice speaks of what will be, and in the flesh and blood of Christ, we taste the future that will come by His power and promise. To know the Lord in this way is to enjoy comfort in trial and to have hope that will endure the tests that come.

❖ PREPARATION ❖

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:

Holy God, we come together to worship, a people who would like to think that we love you with all our hearts and souls, with all our might, but there are so many other things in our lives that clamor for our attention that we often relegate you to Sundays and when we want you to rescue us. So here we are, standing before you today, with our human foibles and our short attention spans, asking that you would make yourself known to us, that you would help us to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit. Heavenly Father, we know that You have made us for

Yourself, to love You and to love our neighbors. Yet still we cannot help but live for ourselves, and every day we justify ourselves by our own standards, not Yours. But Lord, you have found us in the ditch, and You have rescued us. Now soften our hearts to Your will, and make us to love others as You have loved us; especially those who are most in need, whom we pass by every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED:

Today we have the privilege of receiving Christ's true body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Through this sacrament the Holy Spirit seals to us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation for the strengthening of our faith. Scriptures also teach that as we commune together, we are publicly testifying to a complete unity of faith based on a confession of all of God's Word. If you confess the same belief, we invite you to our fellowship of the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME:

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE.... We, the members of Bethel Lutheran Church are please today that you have made a choice to worship with us this afternoon. We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God. As we worship, let us pray that He will open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous blessings out of His word. That we may share God's love and life and may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ. Welcome and come into this place where we strive to reflect the love, peace, and wholeness of such a God. Let us Worship God together!

PRAISE WORSHIP - Minister Terry Dale

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Give ear, O Lord, to the prayers of Your people, and listen to their cry for mercy.

People: You, O Lord, are a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

Silence for self-examination

Pastor: Lord of mercy,

People: we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin, but in You there is the fullness of righteousness and an abundance of mercy. We are poor sinners whose thoughts, words, and deeds betray our weakness and death. You, O Lord, are gracious and merciful and, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, You have saved us by His blood. Give to us true repentance that we know Your forgiveness and the comfort of a clear conscience. Give us also hearts made new by Your grace, that we love You above all things and our neighbors as ourselves and, by Your Holy Spirit, do what is pleasing in Your sight. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silence for meditation

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Through the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, our Savior, you have been made the children of God in Baptism and live because of His mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that, ever mindful of Your final judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of living here and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter; through Jesus

Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 44:6–8* (Is there a God besides the Lord?)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SELECTION - Minister Terry Dale

EPISTLE *Romans 8:18–27* (The sufferings of this present age are not worth comparing to the glory waiting to be revealed.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 13:35b*

People: Alleluia. I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43* (Then the righteous shall shine like the sun.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SELECTION- Minister Terry Dale

SERMON

SELECTION - Minister Terry Dale

(We Bring Our Tithes and Offering to The Lord)

CREED Nicene Creed

All: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✕ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, You have been the refuge and strength of Your people from generation to generation. Give to us the comfort of Your presence in time of trouble, Your grace to forgive our sins, and Your peace to govern our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, Your power holds all things together, in heaven and on earth. Give wisdom to those who lead our nation and guidance to those who make, administer, and judge our laws, so that life be protected and justice administered. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, Your Word speaks hope and life. Open our ears to hear Your voice and our hearts to believe in Jesus Christ and follow Him as Savior and Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, Your Church lives by the grace You bestow through Word and Sacrament. Bless the Leaders who preach to us this Gospel and the church workers who serve us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, Your mercy extends to all our needs and Your grace gives healing according to Your will. Hear us on behalf of [names, and] all who stand in

- need. Grant to them grace sufficient for all their needs and sustain them in the hour of trial. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- Leader: Lord, You give us new lives in baptismal water, and Your Spirit opens our hearts to faith. Help us to live out fully our vocation as Your children in the places where we live and work and do the good works You desire. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- Pastor: Lord, You have granted us a place at the Table of Your Son. Help us to receive His body and blood with repentance and faith and to keep in holy lives the precious gift we will receive upon our lips. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.
- Leader: Lord, You have given us the encouragement of the mighty saints of old and those who taught us the faith. Help us to leave a legacy of faithfulness to those who follow us, and sustain us in hope until we join the saints in Christ's eternal presence. Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Local concerns may be added here.

- Leader: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: Amen.

✖ SACRAMENT ✎

PREFACE

- Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
People: And also with you.
- Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.** [Psalm 136]

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (Music) “Holy, Holy, Holy” [TLH 246]

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

O almighty and everlasting God, You have delivered us from the darkness of sin and granted us life in Your Son. Grant to us Your Holy Spirit that we walk in the light of Your Son all our days, and bring us at

last to that day when we shall shine like the sun in Your presence forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God.

SELECTION - Minister Terry Dale