

SERVICE OF THE WORD AND PRAYER

September 27, 2020
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Prelude

O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

Williams/Innes

GATHERING

Hymn

How Great Thou Art

ELW 856

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Dialogue

P: You are treasured people of the Lord,

A: a people holy to the Lord our God.

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children

A: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

P: One does not live by bread alone,

A: but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Prayer of the Day

A Word for Children

WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What 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”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know 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.

²⁵Yet 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? ²⁶When 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. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet 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?

³⁰Therefore 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. ³¹Cast 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? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 25:1-9

¹To | 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.**

³Let 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. R**

⁵Lead 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 compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way. **R**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,

⁷but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, 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; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia.* God's word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart.
Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

²³When [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?" ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So 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.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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."

The Gospel of the Lord, **Praise to you O Christ**

Homily

Pastor Beverly Lange Donnell

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn

O Master Let Me Walk with You

ELW 818

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

SENDING

Sending Hymn

Go My Children, With My Blessing

ELW543 vs. 1,3

Blessing

Peace

Dismissal

Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Bourgeois

Sunday School- Sunday School classes for 3 yr olds and school age children have begun. We are meeting in person, outside, Sundays 10:30-11:15 at this point.

This is subject to change depending on COVID & weather conditions. Families will be notified via text message when changes occur. Please feel free to contact Carol Garman 717-476-0923 or Stacey Haynes 717-398-7877 if you have questions.

Adult Sunday School-The Adult Sunday School Class has been making plans to resume. Please continue to check, news will be forthcoming.

Music- For those who would like to hear more music, go to St. John's web site, click on "connections", then click on "hymns & music" A new recording is added almost every week.

Regarding Offerings: We will not be taking up a collection during worship. We ask that you send in your offering by mail, put it in our drop-box at the office, or contribute online at our website (www.stjohnfairfield.net). Thank you for your ongoing support!

Birthdays: 27th Ian Poe; 28th Sandra Luty

Those for Whom We Pray- Marie Poulson, Cathy Conn, Arlo Douglass Mackavage, Karen Koontz, Bobbi Jo, Brad, Trevor, Pete, Ryan, Charlie, John Westley , Ron Hedges, Dave Gladhill, Essie Gilmore, Judy Kemper, Vicky Fraley, Eric Kuhn, Pastor Sharron Blezard, Jess Lee, Hope Foreman, Shirley Phillips, Bill Brush, Audrey Moritz, Jim Thomas, Brenda Walter, Mary Lou Hammett, Rita Yeingst, Ken Fluke, Charles (Sam) Scott, Nina Herring, Savannah Bollinger, Garnetta Shope, Leonard Sites, Faye Baker, Benny & Ruth Akers, Bill Newman.