

# Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 26, 2021

Full Service 11:00 a.m.

Hope Lutheran Church  
594 N. Williamson Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL. 32114  
386-274-7074  
www.hopelutherandb.com  
The Rev. Thomas A. McGawley, Pastor

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## GATHERING

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude

#### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **C: Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. C: Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in ☩ Christ Jesus, God makes us righteous. Let us receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all our sins.  
**C: Amen.**

#### Gathering Hymn

#### “This Little Light of Mine”

ELW 677

- 1 This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
- 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

## **GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **KYRIE**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.  
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

**Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**

**Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray,

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

## Prayer for the United States of America

Almighty God,

**We as brothers and sisters in Christ come before you with broken hearts. We are confused, worried, angry and conflicted about all that is going on in our country and our world. Lord, we know and cling to the truth that our Hope lies in You.**

**God, you have told us that your greatest command is to love. Love you and love others. We pray that every person in our great land will follow this command. Create in us the desire to choose love instead of our own selfish ways and desires.**

**We ask you, our Prince of Peace, to blanket our country with an unexplainable feeling of peace that can only come from you. Help us all to pause and pray first, and then work together by listening to one another so we can make necessary changes for a better nation; a place where everyone feels safe, a land where racial injustice is forever in the past, a place where we build each other up. Let us love one another well. Let all we do be for your glory. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen**

## WORD

### First Reading: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

<sup>4-6</sup> The misfits among the people had a craving and soon they had the People of Israel whining, “Why can’t we have meat? We ate fish in Egypt—and got it free!—to say nothing of the cucumbers and melons, the leeks and onions and garlic. But nothing tastes good out here; all we get is manna, manna, manna.”

<sup>10</sup> Moses heard the whining, all those families whining in front of their tents. GOD’s anger blazed up. Moses saw that things were in a bad way.

<sup>11-16</sup> Moses said to GOD, “Why are you treating me this way? What did I ever do to you to deserve this? Did I conceive them? Was I their mother? So why dump the responsibility of this people on me? Why tell me to carry them around like a nursing mother, carry them all the way to the land you promised to their ancestors? Where am I supposed to get meat for all these people who are whining to me, ‘Give us meat; we want meat.’ I can’t do this by myself—it’s too much, all these people. If this is how you intend to treat me, do me a favor and kill me. I’ve seen enough; I’ve had enough. Let me out of here.” GOD said to Moses, “Gather together seventy men from among the leaders of Israel, men whom you know to be respected and responsible. Take them to the Tent of Meeting. I’ll meet you there.

<sup>24-25</sup> So Moses went out and told the people what GOD had said. He called together seventy of the leaders and had them stand around the Tent. GOD came down in a cloud and spoke to Moses and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy leaders. When the Spirit rested on them they prophesied. But they didn’t continue; it was a onetime event.

<sup>26</sup> Meanwhile two men, Eldad and Medad, had stayed in the camp. They were listed as leaders but they didn’t leave camp to go to the Tent. Still, the Spirit also rested on them and they prophesied in the camp.

<sup>27</sup> A young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp!”

<sup>28</sup> Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses’ right-hand man since his youth, said, “Moses, master! Stop them!”

<sup>29</sup> But Moses said, “Are you jealous for me? Would that all GOD’s people were prophets. Would that GOD would put his Spirit on all of them.”

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

The Psalm is read responsively. The congregation reads the part in **bold print**.

**Psalm: Psalm 9:7-14**

GOD holds the high center,  
he sees and sets the world’s mess right.  
**He decides what is right for us earthlings,  
gives people their just deserts.**

GOD’s a safe-house for the battered,  
a sanctuary during bad times.  
**The moment you arrive, you relax;  
you’re never sorry you knocked.**

Sing your songs to Zion-dwelling GOD,  
tell his stories to everyone you meet:  
**How he tracks down killers  
yet keeps his eye on us,  
registers every whimper and moan.**

Be kind to me, GOD;  
I’ve been kicked around long enough.  
**Once you’ve pulled me back  
from the gates of death,  
I’ll write the book on Hallelujahs;  
on the corner of Main and First  
I’ll hold a street meeting;  
I’ll be the song leader; we’ll fill the air  
with salvation songs.**

## **Second Reading: James 5:13-20**

<sup>13-15</sup> Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you've sinned, you'll be forgiven—healed inside and out.

<sup>16-18</sup> Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. Elijah, for instance, human just like us, prayed hard that it wouldn't rain, and it didn't—not a drop for three and a half years. Then he prayed that it would rain, and it did. The showers came and everything started growing again.

<sup>19-20</sup> My dear friends, if you know people who have wandered off from God's truth, don't write them off. Go after them. Get them back and you will have rescued precious lives from destruction and prevented an epidemic of wandering away from God.

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

## **GOSPEL PROCLAMATION**

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.  
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.  
Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Mark 9:38-50**

<sup>38</sup> John spoke up, "Teacher, we saw a man using your name to expel demons and we stopped him because he wasn't in our group."

<sup>39-41</sup> Jesus wasn't pleased. "Don't stop him. No one can use my name to do something good and powerful, and in the next breath slam me. If he's not an enemy, he's an ally. Why, anyone by just giving you a cup of water in my name is on our side. Count on it that God will notice.

<sup>42</sup> "On the other hand, if you give one of these simple, childlike believers a hard time, bullying or taking advantage of their simple trust, you'll soon wish you hadn't. You'd be better off dropped in the middle of the lake with a millstone around your neck.

<sup>43-48</sup> “If your hand or your foot gets in God’s way, chop it off and throw it away. You’re better off maimed or lame and alive than the proud owner of two hands and two feet, godless in a furnace of eternal fire. And if your eye distracts you from God, pull it out and throw it away. You’re better off one-eyed and alive than exercising your twenty-twenty vision from inside the fire of hell.

<sup>49-50</sup> “Everyone’s going through a refining fire sooner or later, but you’ll be well-preserved, protected from the *eternal* flames. Be preservatives yourselves. Preserve the peace.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **The Apostle’s Creed**

**Let us profess our faith by reciting the words of the Apostles 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for natural wonders of your creation. Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**  
We pray for the worship leaders of this congregation. Bless us through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

### Offering Prayer

Let us pray,

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## 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.**

## PREFACE

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, holy Lord,  
God of power 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,  
hosanna in the highest.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

## Our Father

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

## COMMUNION SONG

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away;  
eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.**

The body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **C: Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

## SENDING

### BLESSING & DISMISSAL

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, ☩ one God, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

- 1 Jesus loves me! this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so;  
little ones to him belong,  
they are weak, but he is strong.

*Refrain*

Yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
yes, Jesus loves me,  
the Bible tells me so.

- 2 Jesus loves me! he who died  
heaven's gates to open wide;  
he will wash away my sin,  
let his little child come in. *Refrain*
- 3 Jesus loves me! he will stay  
close beside me all the way;  
when at last I come to die,  
he will take me home on high. *Refrain*

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**