

et WELCOME et a

(*) Please stand as you are comfortable and able

Prelude Music, Welcome & Announcements

*Prayer of Confession (by Bruce Gillette and Carolyn Winfrey Gillette)

- P: O God, we want to have our cake and eat it, too: we want to be a friend of the world and still be your friend.
- C: Yet, Jesus taught us: "No one can serve two masters."
- P: Give us strength and courage to get our priorities straight: help us to seek your kingdom first.
- C: Help us to live faithfully and joyfully in the world, and to be friends with the people You call us to serve. Help us also to remember that our best relationship is the one we have with You.
- P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and we are given a new way to live. Let us accept God's grace, and live new lives of faith, obedience, and joy. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #818 "O Master, Let Me Walk ..."

*The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.
- P: Let us pray. ~ God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading ~ Amos 8: 4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

⁴ Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, ⁶ buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat." ⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 113 (read responsively, lector then congregation)

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

² Let the name of the LORD be blessed, from this time forth forevermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to its going down let the name of the LORD be praised.

⁴The Lord is high above all nations; God's glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high,

⁶ but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

⁷ The Lord takes up the weak out of the dust and lifts up the poor from the ashes,

8 enthroning them with the rulers, with the rulers of the people.

⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a childless house to be a joyful mother of children. Hallelujah!

The Second Reading ~ 1 Timothy 2: 1-7

The pastoral epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)



*The Holy Gospel ~ Luke 16: 1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest manager who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

The Holy Gospel according to the 16th chapter of St. Luke.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned the manager and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position

away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.'

⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light.

⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. ¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, O Christ.

The Sermon

*Hymn #694

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

*The Apostles' Creed (professed together)

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.

*Prayer of the Church

After each prayer petition, please respond:

God of grace ...

Receive our prayer.

Anthem

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

The Blessing of the Communion Elements





+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

Communion will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the wafer will be dipped in the chalice so that both elements are received together.

Post Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

- P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation You have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.
- P: The God of all grace bless you now and forever. Amen.

*Hymn #669

"Rise Up, O Saints of God"

*The Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Music

Special thanks to Alicia Baird for serving as our musician today!

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thank

... to Maureen Wagner for serving as our lector

... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech



The altar flowers are sponsored by Alicia Baird in loving memory of her father.♥

A brief Confirmation Orientation session for 1st & 2nd year students (6th gr. & older) will be held tonight at 6:30pm at New Jerusalem Church, 3233 Apples Church Rd., Bethlehem.





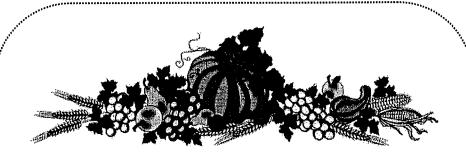
To be remembered in prayer ... Leona Callahan, Richard Eisenhart, Hope Geary, Karissa, Jeanne Logan, Barbara Shaneberger, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, George Williams, Zachary, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, and natural disasters, and other dear ones whom we name before God. &



There is a collection plate on the narthex table to receive any financial gifts to benefit the Emersynn Isla "Walk to Shine" event on October 4th which supports families with children who are receiving hospice or palliative care. Thank you for giving.

Betty Lou's Pantry will be collecting gently used 4 new kids' winter coats from now until November. They may be brought to church at any time.





~ SINCERE THANKS ~

to everyone who donated food and personal care items for our Harvest Home display.

All of the contributions will be given to Betty Lou's Pantry to help feed their clients.

We are most appreciative of the many blessings which have been shared to bless others.