

Zion Lutheran Church, Glen Rock, PA
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
ELW Service of the Word
Sunday, August 29, 2021

*We stand as we are able.

Introduction to the day

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN: "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" LBW #229 vs. 1, 4**

***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in our congregation. Increase in us the spirit of faith and love, and make our fellowship an example to all believers and to all nations. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 8:22-30

²²Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. ²³He said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, ²⁴the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. ²⁵Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' ²⁶Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

²⁷But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! ²⁸Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; ²⁹that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. ³⁰Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 84

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

**²My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and
my God.

⁴Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to
Zion.

**⁶As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

⁷They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸O Lord GOD of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

⁹Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the
tents of wickedness.**

¹¹For the Lord GOD is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹²O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 2:1-9

¹Rid yourselves, therefore, of all malice, and all guile, insincerity, envy, and all
slander. ²Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it
you may grow into salvation — ³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is
good.

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and
precious in God's sight, and ⁵like living stones, let yourselves be built into a
spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to
God through Jesus Christ.

⁶For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"

⁸and

"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of
darkness into his marvelous light.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. We have a building from God,
A house not made with hands,
eternal in the heavens. Alleluia.**

***GOSPEL: John 10:22-30**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME AND SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: "Built on a Rock"**

LBW #365 vs. 1, 4

*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.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, that it is a safe haven for all who seek your presence. Fill it with pastors, deacons, and leaders who echo your expansive and generous welcome. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the whole of creation, that plants and animals have the habitat and resources to thrive and flourish. Inspire us to protect threatened habitats and ensure a sustainable future for generations to come. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for individuals in positions of authority. Raise up wise and discerning leaders in federal, state, and local governments and guide them to seek the benefit of every person. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are in need. Support and encourage those who are unemployed, underemployed, or experiencing poverty. Bring food, shelter, clothes, and stability for daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks to you for the members and the ministry of this congregation: for those who had the vision to begin this congregation, those who sustain its present ministry, and those who will carry its mission forward into the future.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful departed who showed us how to honor God with our heart. Inspire us by their example and renew our faith, trusting that we will be united with them in glory. 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.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Staying in your pew, please exchange the peace with those around you as appropriate. Wave to folks in other pews.

***PRESENTATION OF OFFERING: "Let the vineyards"**

WOV p.35



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

***BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

***SENDING HYMN: "The Church's One Foundation" LBW #369 vs. 1, 2**

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL

Go forth in peace and with the courage of faith.

Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Amen.

Today's altar flower arrangement is presented by Dave and Shirley Seitz, in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary on September 1st.

SCRIPTURE TEXT FOR SUNDAY 09/05/21

Isa 35:4-7a, Ps 146, James 2:1-10 [11-13]14-17, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

PRAYER REQUESTS

Don Miller, Brian Phelps, Gloria & Jim Ream, Eli Runkle, David Seitz,
LeMos & Susette Stallard, Karl & Annette Steger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Services are videotaped and streamed live each week. It is possible during recording that people attending the service will be filmed. If you have any concern about being filmed, please contact the office at 717-235-3276.

Today we recognize and celebrate Zion's 161st anniversary since the first meeting to organize a Lutheran congregation and church in Glen Rock.

Today is Loose Change Sunday. August's loose change collection will benefit the Glen Rock Ambulance Club.

Helen Hoffman's virtual memorial service will be held this evening at 6pm. The Zoom link was included in the email on Friday afternoon when the bulletin was sent out.

Order forms for mums will be available Sunday, 9/5 and 9/12. Orders for mums must be received no later than Sunday, 9/12. The mums will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, 10/3 for Harvest Home and Blanket Sunday.

This year's God's Work Our Hands will be on Sunday, September 12th. We will be supporting The Well in Glen Rock and their Food Pantry. As soon as we receive a list of their specific needs it will be made available to the congregation. We look forward to your anticipated support and involvement.

Upcoming Lectors:

Aug. 29 – Carrie Miller

Sept. 5 – Diane Bortner

Council Offering Duty:

August – Donna Price and Edgar Davis

September – Carrie Miller and Rick Freda

Altar Care:

August – Shirley Seitz

September – Diane Bortner

If you desire pastoral care or conversation, please contact Pastor Katie Brantner at 717-420-0779.