

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Livermore, CA

September 13, 2020

Invocation

M The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C Amen

Confession of Sins

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

Absolution

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child! May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C Amen!

Prayer of the Day

M Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

The Word

First Lesson

Jeremiah 15:15-21 | EHV

¹⁵LORD, you understand.
Remember me and care for me.
Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me.
You are slow to anger.
Do not take me away.
Be mindful that I bear reproach for your sake.
¹⁶I devoured your words when they were found.
Your words became a joy for me,
and a delight for my heart,
because I bear your name,
LORD God of Armies.
¹⁷I did not sit in the company of partiers,
nor did I celebrate.
I sat alone because your hand was upon me.
You filled me with indignation.
¹⁸Why is my pain unending
and my wound incurable, refusing to heal?
Will you be like a deceptive brook to me,
like a spring that dries up?
¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says:
“If you repent, I will take you back,
so that you may stand before me.
If you say what is valuable, and not what is worthless,
you will be my spokesman.
Let them turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.
²⁰I will make you a bronze wall to this people.
They will fight against you,
but they will not overcome you,
because I am with you to save you
and to rescue you, declares the LORD.
²¹I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked,
and I will deliver you from the grasp of the violent.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalms 121 | page 112, Red Hymnal

- M** I lift up my eyes to the hills.*
C Where does my help come from?
M My help comes from the LORD,*
C the maker of heaven and earth.
M He will not let your foot slip,*
C he who watches over you will not slumber;
M indeed, he who watches over Israel*
C will neither slumber nor sleep.

M The LORD watches over you,*
C the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

M The LORD will keep you from all harm,*
C he will watch over your life;

M the LORD will watch over your coming and going*
C both now and forevermore.

C *Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

Second Lesson

Romans 12:1-8 | EHV

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. ²Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

³So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you. ⁴For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. ⁵In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. ⁷If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. ⁸If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.

Verse of the Day

Jeremiah 15:16 | RSV

Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. *Alleluia.*

Gospel

Matthew 16:21-26 | EHV

²¹From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you.”

²³But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

²⁶After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?”

Is It Worth It?

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church for the Season of Pentecost

The pastor says the Prayer of the Church.

The Lord's Prayer

Traditional Version

C 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.**

Prayer

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Benediction

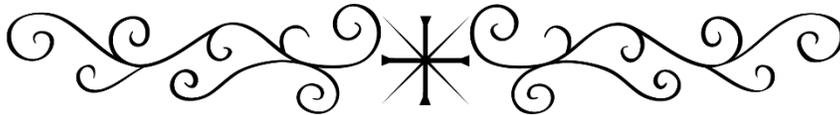
M Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

C Amen



As We Resume Meeting In-Person, please keep the following in mind:

- The coronavirus did not go away. We are still in the midst of a pandemic. If you are not feeling well, or live with someone not feeling well, please stay home.
- Like with all public activities at this time in California and in Alameda County, facemasks will be required to be worn at all times.
- Social distancing is to be practiced. Seating will be spaced apart by households, and the building is only allowed 25% of capacity at this time.
- If gathering in the building is currently prohibited, we may be meeting outside. Please watch for announcements regarding this, and be aware that outdoor gatherings still have similar guidelines we are to follow. Also, take precautions for things like sun, wind, etc.
- Wash your hands frequently. Hand sanitizer is provided in the church entryway.
- There will not be fellowship coffee hour or Bible Class after church for the time-being. Any socializing before or after the service is to be done outside, with proper social distancing.

- There will be some changes to how Communion is served. See the instructions in the bulletin on those Sundays.

If you are high risk or uncomfortable coming out at this time, be aware that we plan on continuing our online services as we have been. Please take advantage of this. Thank you.

Pastor Natsis is available for spiritual care over the phone or e-mail (or in the case of emergency, in-person). Cell phone: 734-678-4475; parsonage phone: 925-583-5822;
e-mail address: mattnatsis@gmail.com

For further updates about our service schedule, see our website at www.goodshepherd-livermore.org.

God bless you during this time.