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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH · THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020 · 11 MINUTES

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sunday, June 28, 2020

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

The welcome of baptism is for all God's children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today's gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God's merciful welcome.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father,

and of the ✠ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen. 2

GATHERING SONG: *Give to Our God Immortal Praise!* (ELW 848)

(hum or sing softly with mask on)

1 Give to our God immortal praise! Mercy and truth are all his ways. Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song. 2 God sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and darkness and the grave. Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song. 3 Give to the Lord of lords renown; the King of kings with glory crown. His mercies ever shall endure when lords and kings are known no more!

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and

serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).

5The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; 6and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. 7But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. 8The prophets who 3

preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. 9As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 89:1-4, 15-18 read responsively

1Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness. 2**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.** 3"I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant: 4**'I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.'**" 15Happy are the people who know the festal shout! They walk, O LORD, in the light of your presence. 16**They rejoice daily in your name; they are jubilant in your righteousness.** 17For you are

the glory of their strength, and by your favor our might is exalted. **18Truly, our shield belongs to the LORD; our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

L: A reading from Romans.

Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.

12Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. 13No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. 14For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. 15What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, 18and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. 19I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves 4

to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification. 20When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. 21So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. 22But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. 23For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:40-42

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] 40“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; 42and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for meditation

HYMN OF THE DAY *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (ELW 779)

(Hum or sing softly with mask on)

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound

that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

was blind, but now I see. 5

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

and grace my fears relieved;

how precious did that grace appear

the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares

I have already come;

'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,

and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;

his word my hope secures;

he will my shield and portion be

as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,

bright shining as the sun,

we've no less days to sing God's praise

than when we'd first begun.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

A: God of companionship, encourage our relationships with our siblings in Christ. Bless our conversations. Shape our shared future and give us hearts eager to join in a festal shout of praise. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of abundance, you make your creation thrive and grow to provide all that we need. Inspire us to care for our environment and be attuned to where the earth is crying out. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of mercy, your grace is poured out for all. Inspire authorities, judges, and politicians to act with compassion. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of care, accompany all who are in deepest need. Comfort those who are sick, lonely, or abandoned (*especially*). Strengthen those who are in prison or awaiting trial. Renew the spirits of all who call upon you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God of community, we give thanks for this congregation. Give us passion to embrace your mission and the vision to recognize where you are leading us. Teach us how to live more faithfully with each other. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died. Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please come forward to receive the “body of Christ” by holding out your hands in a cup like fashion as far as you can. The Pastor will drop the wafer into your hand, saying “the body of Christ given for you,” and you respond “Amen,” then go to the left or right and receive the “blood of Christ” from a pre-filled glass. The glasses will be separated so you don’t touch one another. Take the glass and the communion assistant standing in the choir loft will say, “the blood of Christ shed for you.” There will be a separate tray of glasses with grape juice for those who prefer grape juice. Please return to your seat after communing.

P: The Great Thanksgiving and The Words of Institution

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Dismissal

Postlude 7

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of our 30th Wedding Anniversary by Dean and Barbara Hoffman.

The Lutheran Church **Women's Prayer Chain** is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran.

Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:

Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597

Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659

Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

Thank you

Dave Kuehl wants to thank all those who sent him birthday cards, especially the choir.

“Grab-a-Tab” - The youth of St. John would like to ask for donations of little tabs from beverage, soup and dessert cans. It doesn't matter what color the tab, just grab them and deliver them to the church office. This project will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. “Grab-a-Tab” program allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a “Home-away-from-Home” to children with cancer or other serious illnesses and their families.

Giving Plus+

St. John Lutheran is offering a new way to support the ministries of St. John. Now you can download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone. This feature is also available on our web site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card. Now this feature is available. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Aucker

We also offer Give+ Text:

Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25). Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email. 8

Please leave your offering envelope in the offertory plate located at each exit of the church.

Thank you to the members of St. John for your continued support!