

23rd Sunday after Pentecost | November 8th, 2020 | Stewardship Wk. 2
Pr. Barb Streed | Presentation Sunday for Group A

Announcements (PA)

- Today is Presentation Sunday for Group A of Wednesday Ed! We're excited to celebrate with our preschool, 1st grade, and 3rd grade students as we continue to uphold the promises we made to them in baptism to further them in their lives of faith.
 - Group B will be next Sunday!
- Today is also the Sunday before Veteran's Day! We will honor and bless our veterans (both present and absent) at the end of this service.
- Today we also have Pastor Barb with us, who will be preaching the word of God!
 - As a member *and* as an Assistant to the Bishop of our synod -- Thank you!
- We will have worship on **Sunday @ 9:00**
 - You will need to RSVP by contacting the church office. Thank you for your flexibility and understanding.
- We will continue to gather for Communion on Tuesdays at 5:00. We will meet in the sanctuary. RSVP to Pastor Ally.
- Free Food Distribution on **Wednesday, November 18** from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at First Lutheran Church in Le Sueur
- 2021 Stewardship Appeal
 - You should have received a letter of introduction to our appeal: *We are the Church, together and apart.*
 - Kick-off was on Oct. 25th and last week we explored our first goal of expanded fellowship with a temple talk from our very own queen of hospitality, Tammy Anderson
 - Today we move to our second goal: outreach

We Are the Church Together and Apart | Outreach with Karyl Engel

Gathering Hymn | *All Are Welcome* (old recording)

Confession + Forgiveness (PA)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

Greeting (PA)

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 (PA)

O God of justice and love, **you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

[Online Children's Message]

[Online] Gospel Acclamation (pg. 205)

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.

***Gospel Reading (PB) | Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

The gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Sermon | *Pastor Barb Streed, Assistant to the Bishop*

Hymn of the Day | *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* ELW 815 (new)

Presentation of Prayer Books, Catechisms, & Bibles (BOTH)

PA: At this time, I invite all 3rd graders and their parents to stand as they receive their Bibles.

PB: It’s by and through these words that we come to know God and understand our relationship with God and the world. It’s by and through these words that our experiences with God and with others in the world are given meaning -- we understand why these experiences are important.

PA: You probably don’t remember it, but when you were baptized, your parents made some promises to you: to live with you among God’s faithful people; to bring you Communion; to teach you the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed and the 10 Commandments; to nurture you in faith and prayer; and to place in your hands the holy scripture. Today, along with this community of faith, that promise is kept.

(Give Bibles to youth)

PB: Let us bless these Bibles and the hands that now hold them: Inspiring God, these Bibles are a gift from you. May we read it often so that we can learn more about you, and so we can grow and pray and love like Jesus. Today we pray that you bless these Bibles and the hands that hold them. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

PA: You may be seated. At this time I'd like to invite 1st graders and their parents to stand as they receive their Catechisms.

You also probably don't remember, but your parents made promises to you too during your baptism -- just like the parents and guardians of the 3rd graders! They promised that they would bring you to worship here with us and bring you up for Communion. They promised to pray with you and for you. One day, they will place in your hands a Bible, but today, you're to receive something a little smaller.

Today you will get a Catechism. In this little book are the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the 10 Commandments. You can read this with your parents, your grandparents, your aunts and uncles, even your friends -- and you'll learn about how we love and pray to God -- and also how God loves us.

(Give Catechisms to kids)

PB: Let's bless these Catechisms and the hands that now hold them: Gracious God, you teach us to pray, to love, and to listen. Help us to pray as Jesus prayed; to love as you love; and to listen to your word. Today we pray that you bless these Catechisms and the hands that hold them. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

PA: You may be seated. And at this time I'd like to invite preschoolers and their parents to stand as they receive their prayer books.

How many of you remember when you were baptized? I don't -- but that was a loooooong time ago! When you were baptized, you came to church and the

pastor poured water on your head -- then they drew a cross on your forehead. Do you remember that? Well, just like the 3rd graders and the 1st graders, when you were baptized, your parents promised you some things. And one of those things was to teach you how to pray and to pray with you!

This is a prayer book. It will help you talk to God with different prayers -- because praying is just talking to God. You can say "hi" -- you can talk about bad things and good things -- you can tell God anything! But today, we give you a book that can help you learn different prayers -- different ways to talk to God.

(Give books to youth)

PB: Let's bless these prayer books and the hands that now hold them: Listening God, you teach us how to talk to you. Help us to talk with you everyday. Today we ask that you bless these prayer books and the hands that hold them. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

Congratulations everyone! We hope you will use these books to learn more about God and about how much God loves you.

Apostles' Creed (PA)

Let us confess our faith using 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 (BOTH)**

PA: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

PB: Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PA: Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PB: Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PA: Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Be with those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, especially, Pastor Dave, Chuck Vavra, Jerry Scheffert, Roger Boettcher, Tanya Bohmer, Dave Farm, Dave Krenik, Dave Weber, Donna Sladek, Erin Buss, Jane Lorsung, Nancy Gjerde, Ron Germsheid, Sara Lobatos, Teri Knish, and all those we lift to you in the quiet of our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PB: Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PA: Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

PB: Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving (PA)**

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.

***Words of Institution (PA)**

***Lord's Prayer (PA)**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **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.**

***Communion Blessing (PA)**

Once you partake of this great gift, this tangible grace of God, may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing of our Veterans (PA)

Dear Lord, today we honor our veterans, worthy men and women who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country. We pray that you will bless them for their unselfish service in the continual struggle to preserve our freedoms, our safety, and our country's heritage, for all of us. Bless them abundantly for the hardships they faced, for the sacrifices they made. We respect them, we thank them, we honor them, we are proud of them. We pray that you will watch over these special people and bless them with peace and happiness. We pray this prayer of blessing in your holy and precious name. **Amen.**

Final Blessing (PA)

Receive this final blessing: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God, Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

Dismissal (PA)

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sending Hymn | *In Christ Alone* (old recording)

*** Dismissal + Sending Hymn reversed for online worship ***