

17th Sunday after Pentecost | September 19th, 2021

Honoring First Responders

Announcements

- Welcome to worship on this 17th Sunday after Pentecost -- and a special welcome to Miss Evelyn Nichols who will be baptized today and officially welcomed into the body of Christ!
 - Today we will honor our first responders with a special blessing
 - We also lift up the family of Eileen Bohlen in prayer. She passed away unexpectedly and suddenly on Friday morning.
- Important Upcoming Dates:
 - SPY Team tonight at 6:00
 - Bible Study on Thursday at 9:30 and 6:00
 - Next Sunday is presentation Sunday -- preschoolers, 1st graders, and 3rd graders will receive their prayer books, catechisms, and Bibles

Honoring First Responders

God gathers us for worship as a community of faith, as the body of Christ. We gather to give God thanks and praise. We hear God's Word, we eat the Communion meal, and then we are sent with God's blessing to love and serve the neighbor. This is exactly what you do everyday -- you love and serve in a profound, selfless way. In people's greatest times of need, you show up. In people's greatest times of pain, you show up. In people's greatest times of grief and sorrow, you show up. God sends us forth from this place for reasons such as these.

We are so grateful for your service as first responders, which we know is not any easy thing. It's not easy to leave home at a moment's notice. It's not easy to mentally and spiritually prepare yourself for the unknown. It's not easy to see what you see when you come upon an accident or a medical emergency.

And yet, you do it. You are a blessing to each one of us and to our community, and we thank God for you.

Thank you for the times you dropped everything to respond. Thank you for all the hours of training and education you put in. Thank you for showing up when it would be more comfortable to stay away. Thank you for the care and compassion you show in times of desperate need and sorrow. Thank you for your service to our community. You are a blessing, and we thank God for you. Now, as you have blessed us by your presence, let us bless you, sending you forth with God's blessing, love, peace, and strength as you continue to serve as the body of Christ in and for this community.

Let us pray: **Blessed are you, Lord, God of mercy, who through your Son gave us a marvelous example of charity and the great commandment of love for one another. Send down your blessings on these, your servants, who so generously devote themselves to helping others. Grant them courage when they are afraid, wisdom when they must make quick decisions, strength when they are weary, and compassion in all their work. When the alarm sounds and they are called to aid both friend and stranger, let them faithfully serve you in their neighbor. Amen**

***Confession + Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God our comforter: **like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from**

our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn** | *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

ELW 445

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

...

Let us welcome the newly baptized: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

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

O God, our teacher and guide, **you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message

First Reading | Jeremiah 11:18-20

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Second Reading | James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes

and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.

***Gospel Acclamation**

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 | Mark 9:30-37**

Jesus and the disciples went on and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Sermon

***Prayers of Intercession**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all who live with illness or grief, especially Dan Borchardt, Larry Zinke, Deloris Streich, Pastor Dave, Nancy Gjerde, and Mildred Zimmerman, as well as the family and friends of Eileen Bohlen. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you lend your strength to all those who are there for us in times of crisis, fear, and hurt. Give courage to the first responders who continue to do this important work they are called to do and protect them with your mighty hand. 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.**

***Great Thanksgiving**

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**

***Lord's Prayer**

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 Distribution

Communion Blessing + Prayer

May the body and blood...

Let us pray: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Offering + Sending Hymn | *O Living Bread from Heaven*

ELW 542

*** Offertory** | *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

ELW 884

***Offering Prayer + Final Blessing**

God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, † one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**