

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 22, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska
Rev. Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

PRELUDE: "Change My Heart, O God", "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 34:15-22)

P: ¹⁵The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.

C: ¹⁶The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

P: ¹⁷When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

C: ¹⁸The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.

P: ¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord rescues them from them all.

C: ²⁰He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.

P: ²¹Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

C: ²²The Lord redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

GATHERING HYMN: "Here In This Place" WOV 718, vv. 1-2

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the Gospel lesson for today some that followed Jesus turn away from him.

C: We confess that we too can do the same. We sometimes mouth the faith, but follow our own instincts and feelings.

P: Jesus knew there would be some who would not believe.

C: There would be those who would turn away.

P: There would be those who would betray him.

C: Jesus, in today's Gospel lesson, is quoted as saying, "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you that do not believe."

P: We need to search our own hearts and minds.

C: It is difficult to surrender our will to God's will.

P: The Lord is patient with us, but very firm.

C: It is so easy to be negative, to make unfair demands, to be judgmental, and harsh.

P: Jesus asks us to be faithful to his will.

C: We examine our minds and hearts.

Silence for reflection.

P: God is incredibly patient with us. Let us be faithful. Let us say with Peter,

C: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Forgive us, Lord, for not always being faithful.

P: The Lord hears our confession of sin. Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

C: Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Great Is the Lord"

Great is the Lord, He is holy and just. By His power we trust in His love. Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true. By His mercy He proves He is love. Great is the Lord and worthy of glory. Great is the Lord and worthy of praise. Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice. Now lift up your voice. Great is the Lord. Great is the Lord.

Great is the Lord, He is holy and just. By His power we trust in His love. Great is the Lord, He is faithful and true. By His mercy He proves He is love. Great are You, Lord, and worthy of glory. Great are You, Lord, and worthy of praise. Great are You, Lord, I lift up my voice. I lift up my voice. Great are You, Lord. Great are You, Lord.

"Great is the Lord," words and music by Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith, arr. By Henry Wiens. ©1982 Meadowgreen Music Co. Used by permission. CCLI License #2452533.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 THE PEOPLE

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

A brief silence.

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come. 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "You Are My All In All"

1. You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treasure that I seek. You are my all in all. Seeking You as a precious jewel, Lord, to give up I'd be a fool. You are my all in all.

Chorus: **Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.**

2. Taking my sin, my cross, my shame. Rising again I bless Your name, You are my all in all. When I fall down, You pick me up. When I am dry, You fill my cup. You are my all in all. Chorus 2x.

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SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Jesus, Please Watch Over Us"

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Jody Illies, Henry Lenner, Ann Lenner, our shut-ins.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Garold Blaker who passed away August 16. Blake's funeral service was yesterday at American Lutheran. We commend Blake to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Jane Young (Aug. 22), Tristen Ray (Aug. 24), Anthony Hill (Aug. 27), Kellen Anderson (Aug. 28). Happy Belated birthday to Nick Schultz (Aug. 18).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Brad & Susan Frerichs (8-24-91) and Aaron & Tiffany Robertson (8-25-12).

BELOVED REGISTRATIONS are on the table in the narthex or can be found on our website, filleylutheranchurch.com. Please get your registration in as early as possible so we know how many teachers, etc. we need to find. Thank you!

THANK YOU FROM RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE: American Lutheran Church - We truly appreciate your generosity! Thank you for your contribution of gift cards, clothing & pantry items. When families face a child's medical crisis, it's often the little things they rely on to get through it. The sight of a child's face lighting up as they hug a new toy. Programs that provide them with opportunities to heal as a family. The comfort of a stranger-turned-friend saying, "it'll be okay." Because of your gift, they find those little things at Ronald McDonald House Charities in Omaha.

AUGUST THRIVENT CARD PROJECT: UNDIE MONTH!!! Who would think that there would be a shortage of underwear!! But it is one item that families will do without buying. Please help support this project this month. Bring new men's, women's, and children's underwear through the month of August. Delores Huls is sponsoring the Thrivent card for this project.

PLEASE HELP FILL OUR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS!

School sales are on so please add the needed items to your shopping lists and bring them to church. Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies sometimes mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development. Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. All items should be new and in good condition.

Each School Kit needs:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener; One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser

Please help fill our bags and be a part of this ministry. Thank you!!!

SIGN-UP SHEET FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Please sign the sheet on the table in the narthex if you would be willing to host Fellowship Hour. As of now, we are serving individually bagged cookies/treats. Thank you for your help!

HELP NEEDED: We have quilt blocks downstairs on the table in the Fellowship for people who are willing to sew them together. Also, blankets for hemming. Thank you for your ministry!

SUNMART RECEIPTS: Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called "Support Our Schools and Churches." All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our goal of \$150,000 two times so far and are starting over again with a balance of about **\$29,000.00**. You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don't want and give them out - first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

PLEASE DONATE TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY: American Lutheran Church gathers food donations for the Community Pantry and Emergency Services in Beatrice on an ongoing basis. The Food Pantry serves

all of Gage County. If you would like to give to this ministry, please leave your donated items in the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall at any time. NO glass jars, please. **THANK YOU for your continued support to this ministry!**

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE: You can find our church website at www.filleylutheranchurch.com or by scanning this QR code:



BULLETIN ITEMS are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Sandy or email her at smahleris@gmail.com.

BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND on our website, filleylutheranchurch.com. Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Sandy at smahleris@gmail.com with your email address.

WORSHIP HELPERS:

Transitional Minister – Pastor Jonathan Jensen, 402-768-3665

Council – Dave Norton-President (402-520-3555), Virgil Jobman-Vice President (402-310-6339), Carol Frerichs-Secretary (402-223-7919), Brenda Hippen-Treasurer (402-688-4466), Linda Searcey-at large (402-223-8237).

Reader – Danelle Lenner

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Audio/Video –

Musicians: Sandy Mahler, Pat Jobman, Tom Karlin, Virgil Jobman, Lodene Kaufman, Dave Norton, Linda Searcey, DeeAnn Schmidt, Dave Wolken, Tom Young