

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 5, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska

Rev. Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 146)

P: ¹Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

C: ²I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

P: ³Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

C: ⁴When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

P: ⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

C: ⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;

P: ⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;

C: ⁸the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

P: ⁹The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

C: ¹⁰The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

GATHERING HYMN: "Hymn for Labor Day" (tune: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

1. All our work and all our being come from you, most gracious Lord. Ev'ry task which lies before us is Creator's will outpoured. Help us as we build your kingdom, know we labor not in vain; give us sure and deep conviction for the tasks that you ordain.

2. Some may nurture those who hunger, tend and heal the broken heart; set our flagging spirits dancing, spark our vision through their art. Others teach and offer counsel, bear life's burdens, ease its care; strive for justice, peace, and freedom for all people ev'rywhere.

3. Let us labor in the knowledge that no task can be too small; that the God who stretched the heavens no less shaped the least of all. Give us strength, Lord, to accomplish what you set our hands to do, that by serving those around us, we return the gift to you.

Composer: Thurlow Weed, Lyricist: Michael Morgan. Used by permission.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God our comforter:

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray...

C: Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," ⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? ⁶But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? ⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. [¹¹For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. ¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³¹Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was

released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" ELW 559

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.

Holy One, you bring your people together in worship. Enliven your church. Guide all evangelists, preachers, prophets, and missionaries who seek to share your love through word and deed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You provide water for thirsty ground and sunshine to feed hungry plants. Bless all who advocate for healthy forests, unpolluted air, and clean waterways. Inspire all people to show care for the world you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You show no partiality. Increase justice in all nations. Encourage leaders and governments to work with one another for the good of our common world. Especially as we celebrate Labor Day, unite us in seeking the health, safety, and dignity of all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You accompany those who are most in need. Shelter all fleeing violence or persecution, protect any who are in danger, and sustain them through uncertain and unstable times. Bring healing to Jody, Henry, Ann and the family of Tristen McLaughlin. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You support the work of your disciples. Continue to nurture the leadership and ministries of this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You embrace all who have died in the faith and brought them into your glorious presence. We thank you for their example and rejoice in their lives. 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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS: **"Lamb of God" p. 72, LBW 212, LBW 532**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING:

P: The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

All: 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.

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: **"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" LBW 543, vv. 1,4**

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

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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 Tristen McLaughlin, Bill & Cindy McLaughlin's grandson, who passed away August 27. Funeral services were held Sept. 2 at Harman Wright Chapel. We commend Tristen to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Helen Fritzen (Sept 5), Lacey Hill, Brandon Jensen (Sept 8), Jessie Farmer (Sept 10), Treyton Hippen (Sept 11).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to John & Lisa Sanders (9-6-03) and Randy & DeeAnn Schmidt (9-10-83).

THE WOMEN OF THE CHURCH will be meeting Sept 8th at 11:30 at Classic's in Beatrice. Bible study and meeting will follow the meal. Lesson is on Martha, led by Carlyne Wolken.

RACE TO RALLY SUNDAY – Sunday, September 12, at American Lutheran Church. There will be Recognition of Little Lambs and Presentation of Bibles to Kindergarten & 3rd graders at the 9:30 a.m. worship service and then at 10:30 a.m. join in the fun with games and real-life race cars! Hamburgers, hotdogs and trimmings will be provided for everyone at the 11 a.m. meal. The only thing you need to bring is yourself!

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BELOVED TEACHERS/STAFF will be held Sunday, September 12. Our thanks to all who volunteer to work with children of American Lutheran and our community. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Brenda Hippen.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS will take place on Sunday, September 12, as we celebrate and bless this new year. Students, preschool through adult, bring your backpacks, bookbags, or lunch boxes to worship. The service will lift up children and students of all ages, dedicating them to God's glory as we begin a new school year. Teachers, aides, secretaries, cooks, librarians, janitors, bus drivers, etc., come to church to be blessed, affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work! Invite your family and friends!

BELOVED BEGINS SEPTEMBER 15!! 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!

"TELLING OUR STORY": The congregation is asked to attend a special coffee hour in the Parish Hall on October 10 & October 17. As part of the Call Process in our search for a new congregational leader, the Call Committee is seeking your input about what characteristics we have and what you would consider significant traits for a new leader. Your input will be used to create a video that will be seen by Call Candidates and will be titled "Telling Our Story." The Call Committee will be directing our activities for these events. This is your opportunity to assist with our search for a new congregational leader!

CONFIRMATION REUNION: Sunday, September 26. The classes of 1931, 1940, 1941, 1950, 1951, 1960, 1961, 1970, 1971, 1980, 1981, 1990, 1991, 2000, 2001, 2010 and 2011 will be the honored guests on Sept. 26. (Because of Covid-19, we will be honoring reunion classes for both 2020 and 2021.) Confirmands will be recognized at the 9:30 a.m. worship service and then invited to come to the Fellowship Hall to see displays and visit with fellow confirmands. A Windsor Loin meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex for other members of American Lutheran who would like to attend the dinner. Please sign up by September 12.

DESSERTS NEEDED: There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex for those who are would be willing to make a 9x13 dessert for the Confirmation Reunion on September 26. Thank you!

WE ARE LOOKING for past hymnals, bibles, catechisms confirmation books, certificates, stoles, etc. that were used during the past 90 years. These will be put on display during the Confirmation Reunion and then returned to you. Please let Denise Blaker, Delores Huls, Jolene Huls, Arlys Jurgens, or Sandy Mahler know if you have something that we could use. Thank you for sharing!

THANK YOU to all that helped support our Undie Month. We collect 300 pair of underwear and also another 100 pairs of socks!!! What a blessed congregation we have!

THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who donated school items. Approximately 110 school kits for Lutheran World Relief will be put together on God's Work-Our Hands day which will be determined soon. Your generosity is much appreciated!

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!**

WE WILL CONTINUE to gather can tabs for the Ronald McDonald house throughout the year. The container for them can be found in the narthex.

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND A KEVIN & HEIDI CHENG COMMUNITY OUTDOOR CONCERT - HOLY CROSS PARKING LOT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 7:00 P.M. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy the music of Heidi and Kevin Cheng on Saturday evening, September 11, at 7:00 p.m. Gifted, engaging, and energetic are just a few of the descriptors that have been used in connection with this classically trained piano-violin duo! The dynamic couple play a range of styles, including popular, country, classical, ragtime, romantic, western, bluegrass, patriotic, and contemporary and traditional sacred music. Kevin is a native of Taiwan who has organized large-scale orchestral concerts to bring classical music to rural Nebraska. He has performed as guest pianist with Lincoln, Kearney, Sandhills and Cherokee symphonies. Heidi has served as second principal violinist in the Kearney Symphony Orchestra.

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 – Brenda Hippen

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen/DeeAnn Schmidt

Audio/Video – Randy Schmidt

Accompanist: Sandy Mahler

Fellowship: Brenda Hippen