

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 26, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska

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

(Your offerings can be left in the offering plate found at the back of the church either before or after worship. Noisy offering will be taken at Children's Message time.)

PRELUDE: "Spirit Song", "Give Me that Old Time Religion"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 79)

Come into this sacred space to worship God

whose teaching is perfect; whose directions are sure.

Come into this holy place to worship God

whose standards are right; whose commandment is clear; whose judgements are true.

Come with holy fear – to be given life, and made wise, to have your heart stirred and your eyes opened wide. Come — let us worship God.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

GATHERING HYMN: "Sanctuary"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You. Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You. Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: 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: Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

⁴The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! ⁵We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; ⁶but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

¹⁰Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. ¹¹So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? ¹²Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? ¹³Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' ¹⁴I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. ¹⁵If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

¹⁶So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

²⁴So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

²⁶Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. ²⁷And a young man ran and told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp." ²⁸And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, "My lord Moses, stop them!" ²⁹But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!"

SECOND READING: James 5:13-20

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES/CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(The family of Theodore McKernan and Lennox Robertson are invited to come forward. Children in the congregation are also invited to come forward. Noisy offering will be taken at this time.)

P: Theodore and Lennox, a year ago you were washed in the waters of baptism. You were buried with Christ and raised with Christ. You were declared to be a child of God and you entered the family of

Christ. We give thanks for your baptisms and for all the promises of God. You never need to doubt that you are each a beautiful and precious child of God.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, You loved children so much that you said: 'Whoever welcomes a child welcomes me'. Hear our prayers and, with your unfailing care, watch over these children. We ask that you bless Theodore, Lennox, and all of us as we remember and celebrate their baptisms. Continue to work your grace in their lives and help them to be your faithful disciples all the days of their lives. When they have grown to maturity, may they be fervent in faith, strong in hope and generous in love. May the God of gentleness and love bless Theodore and Lennox as we remember and celebrate their baptisms and watch over them always. Amen.

(Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.)

GOSPEL: Mark 9:38-50

³⁸John said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹"For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

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.

Chorus: **My chains are gone, I've been set free. My God, my Savior, has ransomed me. And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.**

3. The Lord has promised good to me. His word my hope secures. He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. (Chorus 2x)

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine. But God who called me here below will be forever mine. Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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.

We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for natural wonders of your creation. Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease and those ill at this time. Bring healing to Dustin, Henry and Ann and provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray for the worship leaders of this congregation: musicians, readers, acolytes, ushers, and technical support. Bless us through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in their service. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. 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 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: "Looking Back, O God, We Wonder"

(Tune: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee)

1. Looking back, O God, we wonder of that time in history, when the early people gathered, building this community. Children did their chores and played here; men and women worked the land. Then, oh, Lord, they knelt and prayed here, seeking your protecting hand.

2. Looking to your love, we worship as your people long have done, sharing bread and Word and friendship, singing praises to your Son. Bricks of old are such a treasure, well-worn pews proclaim our past; but your love beyond all measure is the treasure that will last.

3. Looking out, we see our neighbors, and in each one Jesus' face. God, we offer you our labors so that all will know your grace. As we witness all around us, as we welcome strangers in, as we help the lost and homeless, your church welcomes you again.

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SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "God Be With You"

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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: Dustin Fritch, Henry Lenner, Ann Lenner, our shut-ins.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Charlene Hippen who passed away Sept. 17. Charlene's funeral was Sept. 22 at American Lutheran. We commend Charlene to God's care and ask His blessings on her family and friends.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Cassandra Kagy, Kynsleigh Kunza (Sept. 27), Duane Lenner, Eileen Schmale (Sept. 30), Lorin Bartels, Brynn Jobman, Velda Lenner (Oct. 1), Spencer Knoche, Kendra Lienemann (Oct. 2).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Mark & Sophia Pobanz (9-26-20).

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY: Today we celebrate the Baptism Anniversary of Theodore Scott McKernan who was received into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on August 30, 2020. We pray for God's richest blessings on Theodore and his family.

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY: Today we celebrate the Baptism Anniversary of Lennox Grace Robertson who was received into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on August 9, 2020. We pray for God's richest blessings on Lennox and her family.

A SPECIAL WELCOME to all confirmands attending the Confirmation Reunion this morning. You are invited to come to the Fellowship Hall following worship to see displays and enjoy fellowship and a windsor loin lunch in your honor.

THANK YOU for the cards, prayers, and memorials in remembrance of Garold (Blake). A special thank you to Pastor Janssen for the nice service and the women for serving the lunch and making of cakes. However, the biggest thank you is for my loving and caring church family. It meant more than you will ever know for the compassion and love that you extended to me during this most difficult time in my life. – Denise Blaker

WOULD ANYONE LIKE TO HELP with the Stone Barn Christmas this year? There is room for so many talented people of all ages to help spread the good news of Jesus' birth! We need singers, readers, character portrayals, people to bring animals for our stable, etc. Our first meeting will be on Sunday, Sept. 26, following church. Hope to see you there! Or contact Lodene at 402-520-2204. Thanks!

"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!

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH FAMILIES: Thanks so much for the lovely blankets you so generously donated to the babies and families of NICU. They appreciated your kindness. – NICU Staff & Families

MOTHER TO MOTHER MINISTRY - PURSES WITH A PURPOSE: Silent Auction & Tea Party: Sunday, Oct. 3, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Burwood Bookstore, 609 Court St, Beatrice. Browse and bid on gently pre-loved purses filled with fun extras while enjoying afternoon tea. Designer, vintage, clutches, totes, handbags and more. For information call 402-223-6042.

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.

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 – Kierstin Rehms

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video – Norm Flesner

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

Fellowship: Confirmation Dinner