

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 10, 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.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on the Psalm 90:12-17)

P: Lord, we greet you as we begin our worship.

C: Fill us each day with your constant love...

P: So that we may sing and be glad.

C: Let us see ourselves as your servants.

P: Let us see your mighty deeds.

C: Let our children believe in you.

P: Let them honor and please you.

C: O Lord, our God, may your blessing be upon us

P: Prosper the work of our hands.

C: Fill us with your love!

GATHERING HYMN: "We Praise You, O God" LBW 241

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: Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

⁶Seek the Lord and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. ⁷Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! ¹⁰They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. ¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. ¹²For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. ¹³Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. ¹⁴Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. ¹⁵Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:12-16

¹²Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

¹⁴Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY

(The family of Cayson Jensen is invited to come forward. Children in the congregation are also invited to come forward. Noisy offering is taken at this time.)

P: Cayson, 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 baptism and for all the promises of God. You never need to doubt that you are 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 this child. We ask that you bless Cayson and all of us as we remember and celebrate his baptism. Continue to work your grace in Cayson's life and help him to be your faithful disciple all the days of his life. When he has grown to maturity, may he be fervent in faith, strong in hope and generous in love. May the God of gentleness and love bless Cayson as we remember and celebrate his baptism and watch over him always. Amen.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31

¹⁷As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁸Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.' " ²⁰He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." ²¹Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²²When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" ²⁴And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵It is easier for a camel to go through the

eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news,³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: **“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” OSB 87**

OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

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. Uniting God, you call forth different gifts in those who follow you. Encourage us to welcome the diverse benefits and blessings of the whole church in teaching, preaching, prophecy, healing, and more. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Nurturing God, you bring forth crops from the soil and bounty from the trees. Increase the produce of the land and bless all who toil in fields and orchards. Provide for good working conditions and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Empowering God, you offer compassion for those who are overlooked or forgotten. Open the hearts of local, national, and world leaders to show such compassion and love for their neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sheltering God, in Jesus you travelled among us without a place to lay your head. Provide safe places to sleep and rest for those who have no place to live. Bring healing to Dustin, Henry and Ann. Sustain ministries that offer food, clothing, and peace of mind. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Renewing God, you bring life out of death. Help us part with those things that are no longer beneficial to us and open our hearts to see where new life is budding in this congregation. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we thank you for the lives of those who have died. Make us confident in your promise of salvation and support us in our own journey of faith. 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: **"Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing" LBW 259, vv. 1-2**

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

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Dennis Plambeck, Karen (Norm) Mortensen's brother who passed away October 2. Dennis' funeral was October 6 at St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church in Omaha. We commend Dennis to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Cayd Wilgers (Oct. 10), Cole Schmale (Oct. 11), Tyler Eggert, Madyson Hill (Oct. 13), Ervin Huls, Tyler Wehrbein (Oct. 15), Terry Howell, Kelly Baehr (Oct. 16).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Tanner & Emily Bowhay (10-13-18).

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARY: Today we celebrate the Baptism Anniversary of Cayson Hayes Jensen who was received into God's family through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on September 13, 2020. We pray for God's richest blessings on Cayson and his family.

"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!

THANK YOU for the cards, visits, food, memorials and especially your prayers in memory of David. Also, thanks to Pastor Janssen for his comforting words and to the WELCA women for serving the lunch. Your kindness to our family will always be remembered. God Bless You. Norm & Karen Mortensen & family, Luke Mortensen and Holly Mortensen and family

GOD'S WORK – OUR HANDS: A huge thank you to everyone who helped with God's Work – Our Hands day last Sunday as we assembled, folded and packed for shipping blankets, personal care kits, and school kits for Lutheran World Relief. Our congregation in the last year has put together 157 blankets, 123 school kits and 64 personal care kits. Thank you for participating in these ministries!!!

MEMBERS OF AMERICAN LUTHERAN, Thank you for a wonderful Confirmation Reunion day. It gave me more insight and appreciation for my parents and what they have done for us. They gave us wisdom to follow Jesus Christ, instilling our confirmation bible verses, bible history and vows. The dinner was delicious and the displays wonderful. Thank you for a wonderful day. Sincerely, Carol Hagerman Niemeyer

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH, FILLEY is seeking a part-time church office secretary. Approximately four hours per week. Job Description: working with Pastor and Church Council. Format and run weekly Sunday church bulletins, maintain and file church records. Skills: Microsoft Office (Word, Excel). No set office hours, but weekly church bulletin will need to be prepared by every Thursday. No benefits (health insurance, pension, retirement). If interested, contact Dave Norton (402-520-3555) or Virgil Jobman (402-310-6339).

SECOND ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE: The council is asking all members to participate in the Thanksgiving Food Drive Challenge again this year. The kickoff is October 24. Please check your November Newsletter for the calendar of food items that we will be gathering. You can bring all your items to church on November 21 or before - we will display all the items donated and then deliver them to the Community Food Pantry for distribution to those in need. If you need a calendar page, there are extras in the back of church. Thank you for participating in this 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!

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 – Duane Lenners

Acolyte: Grady Weyers

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video – Dave Norton

Accompanist: Laura Heiden

Fellowship: Karen Mortensen