**12th Sunday After Pentecost- August 20, 2023**

**zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Good morning and welcome to worship on this 12th Sunday of Pentecost, August 2023. It was a mixed bag of weather this week.

I am away next weekend from the 25-28. Pastor Hans Borch will provide pastoral care. He can be reached at

Next Sunday is Action Sunday, we will be making soup to share and some other activities. Bring some soup ingredients to share in the soup making. Lunch will follow (the soup will be tested).

**GATHERING SONG*All Are Welcome* (ELW 641)**

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: Refrain

3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: Refrain

4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: Refrain

5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: Refrain

**GREETING (ELW p. 138)**

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.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 138)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 139)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)**

Let us pray.

God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

A reading from Isaiah.

*The prophet calls upon Israel to do justice in view of God’s imminent intervention to save. Righteousness and obedience define who belongs to the Israelite community—not race, nationality, or any other category.*

 1Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right,
 for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.
 6And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—
 7these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar;
 for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.
 8Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 67**

1May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God’s face shine upon us.
 2**Let your way be known upon earth,** **your saving health among all nations.**
 3Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
 4**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,** **for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**
 5Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
 6**The earth has brought forth its increase;** **God, our own God, has blessed us.**
 7May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

**SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

A reading from Romans.

*God has not rejected Israel. Rather, the call and gifts of God are irrevocable so that, while all have been disobedient, God has mercy upon all.*

[Paul writes:] 1I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2aGod has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.
 29For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, 31so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. 32For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?** **You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[10[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand:11it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” 12Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” 13He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” 15But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” 16Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? 17Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? 18But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. 19For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. 20These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”]
 21Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” 23But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” 24He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” 26He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 27She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 143)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (ELW 712)**

1 Lord, whose love in humble service
bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken,
worked your mercy's perfect deed:
we, your servants, bring the worship
not of voice alone, but heart;
consecrating to your purpose
ev'ry gift which you impart.

2 Still your children wander homeless;
still the hungry cry for bread;
still the captives long for freedom;
still in grief we mourn our dead.
As you, Lord, in deep compassion
healed the sick and freed the soul,
by your Spirit send your power
to our world to make it whole.

3 As we worship, grant us vision,
till your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness
dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens
your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to ardent service,
your abundant life to share.

4 Called by worship to your service,
forth in your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged,
love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, good will and comfort,
counsel, aid and peace we give,
that your servants, Lord, in freedom
may your mercy know and live.

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

O God, your Spirit gathers the church. Shepherd those who are newly baptized and newly ordained in the proclamation of the gospel, breathe life into ecumenical and inter-religious endeavors, and support missionaries throughout the globe. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You created the earth and all its inhabitants and declared it good. Clean polluted skies, seas, and soil, provide nourishment to plants and animals, and make us aware of our impact on the environment. We remember all of the provinces still affected by wildfires. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call leaders to bridge differences and practice generosity. Inspire all in authority to protect people in harm’s way, deliver those in bondage, support fair elections, provide care for military personnel and veterans, and show mercy to those for whom they have responsibility. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You provide for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Embrace people who have been rejected because of difference, heal trauma caused by racism or prejudice, shield any who are persecuted, console the dying, and heal the sick *especially* Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Edna, Felix, Gary, Erin, Terry, Zoli, Marie, our members in long term care Robert, Rob, and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts (good pause). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, you journey with us in all of life’s transitions. Guide those preparing for baptism, marriage, and retirement. Guide our church council and committees in their visioning and ministry. Safeguard those who travel. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for those who now rest from their labours. Motivate us by their lives of dedication to the gospel, until that day when we join with them in our eternal home. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, in the name of the one who reconciled all creation to himself, Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 143)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING*To God Our Thanks We Give: Reamo leboga* (ELW 682)**

To God our thanks we give, to God our thanks we give,
to God our thanks we give, our thanks to God we give.

**OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 144)**

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 144)**

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.**

**PREFACE (ELW p. 144)**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; 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 all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of pow’r 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.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 145)**

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,you have brought us this far along the way.In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. **Christ has died.** **Christ is risen.** **Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen. **Amen.**

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.

Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen. **Amen.**

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

All people are called to Christ’s table. Come, eat what is good.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 146)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;** **have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;** **have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;** **grant us peace.**

**COMMUNION HYMNS 496, 588**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received

at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**BLESSING**

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed

☩ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*Oh, Praise the Gracious Power* (ELW 651)**

1 Oh, praise the gracious pow'r
that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith
all strangers far and near:

Refrain
We praise you, Christ!
Your cross has made us one!

2 Oh, praise persistent truth
that opens fisted minds
and eases from their anxious clutch
the prejudice that blinds: Refrain

3 Oh, praise inclusive love,
encircling ev'ry race,
oblivious to gender, wealth,
to social rank or place: Refrain

4 Oh, praise the word of faith
that claims us as God's own,
a living temple built on Christ,
our rock and cornerstone: Refrain

5 Oh, praise the tide of grace
that laps at ev'ry shore
with visions of a world at peace,
no longer bled by war: Refrain

6 Oh, praise the pow'r, the truth,
the love, the word, the tide.
Yet more than these, oh, praise their source,
praise Christ the crucified: Refrain

7 Oh, praise the living Christ
with faith's bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world
and with these words rejoice: Refrain

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 146)**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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