

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 27, 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermiston, Oregon

Christ Alone Lutheran Church, Ione, Oregon

Prayer Before Worship

O Lord, my Creator, Redeemer, and Comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

Hymn "Let Bethlehem Rejoice Together" Sung to "Earth and All Stars"

Let **Bethlehem** rejoice together!
Cherish the Word of the Lord!
This is our strength, This is our guidance.
Cherish the Word of the Lord.
Come hear Christ's promises true;
Come now and learn them with a glad heart!
Here in our school young lambs are gathered,
Learning the Word of the Lord!
Hearing they come to Christ their Shepherd!
Learning the Word of the Lord.
Come hear Christ's promises true;
Come now and learn them with a glad heart!
Those now mature, older and wiser -
Learn-ing the Word of the Lord -
As newborn babes, crave only God's milk!
Learning the Word of the Lord.
Come hear Christ's promises true;
Come now and learn them with a glad heart!

Blessing of Our School Board

President:	Jessica Horton	Education Director:	Ray Anason
Recording Secretary:	Sarah Gaulke	Member-at-Large:	Rich Misener
Director:	Tess Adams	Parent Rep:	Meagan Williams

P: Dear friends, Bethlehem's mission is simple: **Sharing God's Word with All Generations**. As Christians we are called to help each other to grow in Christian faith. You have been called to serve the Lord by your service to our school. Will you call upon the Lord in regular prayer asking for His blessing to rest upon our teachers, aides, and students?

Board members: I will

P: Will you strive to provide our staff with the materials, support and encouragement they need in order to conduct their classes in an orderly manner?

Board members: I will, with the help of God!

P: On behalf of myself and all of Bethlehem, our congregation, School Staff, and families, I want to share with you our appreciation for all of the work you've done through this very trying year. As Paul said to the Philippians: *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all*

making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace. PHILIPPIANS 1:4-7A

C: Thanks be to God!

P: May the Lord bless you with His strength and wisdom as you administer our preschool to His glory.

C: Amen!

Blessing of Our School Staff

4 YEAR OLD CLASSES

Tess Adams
Sarah Ganvoa

3 YEAR OLD CLASSES

Tammy Mallon
Amy Gillson

OFFICE

Martina Galaev

P: Dear sisters in Christ, the Lord has placed you in your positions in Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool to do a work that brings our heavenly Father great joy, namely, instructing children in the knowledge of the Lord. You are to prepare yourselves for this work by joining with others in the worship of the Lord and by studying the Word of God on your own and among fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. And while holiness of life, speech and work is the way of all who trust in Christ, it is especially important that you show yourselves – by word and example – to be patterns of good works and Christian devotion. In the presence of God and of this assembly I therefore ask you: Do you accept the responsibilities entrusted to you?

Staff: I do

P: Do you promise to faithfully carry out your duties, trusting in Christ Jesus and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Holy Christian Church? If so answer, “I do, with the help of God.”

Staff: I do, with the help of God.

P: Again, on behalf of myself and all of Bethlehem, our congregation, School Board, and families, I want to thank you for your patience and good spirit as you have all worked hard to make our School, not only a safe place, but above all, a learning place. You are living out the encouragement Paul gave to the Christian Church: *“whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* 1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

The Pastor addresses the Preschool Staff and School Board

P: I affirm you as Teachers, Staff and School Board of Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool, in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us pray . . . most gracious God, we praise You that You have provided our school with these faithful teachers, aides and members of the School Board. May Your Holy Spirit inspire, guide and use their teaching and efforts to Your glory;

C: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing of Our Students

P: At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me”

Matthew 18:1-5

Pastor Has A Message For The Children

After the message we continue . . .

P: Will you boys and girls listen to your Teachers? If you will, say “YES!”

Children: Yes!

P: Will you remember that Jesus loves you? If you will, say “YES!”

Children: Yes!

P: Will you remember that Jesus loves your friends? If you will, say “YES!”

Children: Yes!

P: Boy and girls, God tells us that He will never forget us, never leave us, and will always love us. So the grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen!

△ Glory to God: Father and Spirit!
Sing to the Lord songs of praise!
Also to Christ, the Word Incarnate!
Sing to the Lord songs of praise!
He has done marvelous things,
Let us now praise Him with a glad heart!

Text: Mark Adams
Music: Public domain

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 25:1-10

To You, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.

O my God, in You I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

Make me to know Your ways, O LORD;
teach me Your paths.

Lead me in Your truth and teach me,
for You are the God of my salvation;
for You I wait all the day long.

Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to Your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble His way.

All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Sermon

Offering

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: ²"What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die

²⁵"Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

³⁰"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual

recited by all

Psalm 91:11; 103:1

**He will command His angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.**

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

Epistle Lesson

Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:23-27

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" ²⁴Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' ²⁶But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." ²⁷So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn #655 "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Text: Public domain

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn #769 "Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ"

sung to: #637 "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

Eternal Spirit of the living Christ,
I know not how to ask or what to say;
I only know my need, as deep as life,
And only You can teach me how to pray.

Come, pray in me the prayer I need this day;
Help me to see Your purpose and Your will—
Where I have failed, what I have done amiss;
Held in forgiving love, let me be still.

P: May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.

C: **May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**

P: Save Your people and bless Your heritage!

C: **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**

P: . . . *Congregational prayers are offered here* . . . Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;

C: **listen to my plea for grace.**

Collects

P: Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

All: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benedicamus and Blessing

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #523 "O Word of God Incarnate"

O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

The Church from You, dear Master,
Received the gift divine;
And still that light is lifted
O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
That, all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands
Still guides, O Christ, to You.

O make Your Church, dear Savior,
A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations
Your true light as of old!
O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims
By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see You face to face!

Text & Music: Public domain

Scripture for September

1 Peter 5:10 NIV

*And the God of all grace, Who called you to His eternal glory in Christ,
after you have suffered a little while,
will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

What's Happening This Week

Worship:	At Bethlehem (<i>Hermiston</i>) At Christ Alone (<i>Ione</i>)	Sunday at 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday at 8 a.m.
Bible Study:	At the Ione Market	Wednesday at 7 a.m.
Men's Prayer Breakfast:	At Bethlehem	Wednesday at 6:00 a.m.

Doxology #805 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

△ Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Text: Public domain

