

The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 13, 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermiston, Oregon

Hymn of the Month #656 "A Mighty Fortress is our God"

A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.

The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.

Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

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Versicles

P: This is the day which the Lord has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

Psalm 113:3

P: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C: **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

Psalm 84:10

P: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C: **Teach me Your paths.**

Psalm 25:4

P: Sanctify us in Your truth.

C: **Your Word is truth.**

John 17:17

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

Psalm 113:3

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 90

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever You had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting You are God.**

You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

**For a thousand years in Your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.**

You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,

**like grass that is renewed in the morning:
in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.**

For we are brought to an end by Your anger;

by Your wrath we are dismayed.

You have set our iniquities before You,

our secret sins in the light of Your presence.

For all our days pass away under Your wrath;

we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;

**yet their span is but toil and trouble;
they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

Who considers the power of Your anger,

and Your wrath according to the fear of You?

So teach us to number our days

that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Return, O Lord! How long?

Have pity on Your servants!

Satisfy us in the morning with Your steadfast love,

that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad for as many days as You have afflicted us,

and for as many years as we have seen evil.

Let Your work be shown to Your servants,

and Your glorious power to their children.

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

Old Testament Reading

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Seek the Lord and live, lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and it devour, with none to quench it for Bethel, ⁷O you who turn justice to wormwood and cast down righteousness to the earth! . . .

¹⁰They hate him who reproves in the gate, and they abhor him who speaks the truth. ¹¹Therefore because you trample on the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not dwell 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 turn aside the needy in the gate.

¹³Therefore he who is 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, 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.

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

Hebrews 3:12-19

Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. ¹³But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. ¹⁴For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end. ¹⁵As it is said,
“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

¹⁶For who were those who heard and yet rebelled? Was it not all those who left Egypt led by Moses? ¹⁷And with whom was he provoked for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? ¹⁸And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, but to those who were disobedient? ¹⁹So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Mark 10:17-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the tenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

As [Jesus] was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. ¹⁹You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” ²¹And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” ²²Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn #577 "Almighty God, Your Word is Cast"

Almighty God, Your Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the sly satanic foe
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.

So when the precious seed is sown,
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.

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Catechism

Ten Commandments

You shall have no other gods.

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant,
his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

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.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn #579 "The Law of God is Good and Wise"

The Law of God is good and wise
And sets His will before our eyes,
Shows us the way of righteousness,
And dooms to death when we transgress.

Its light of holiness imparts
The knowledge of our sinful hearts
That we may see our lost estate
And turn from sin before too late.

To those who help in Christ have found
And would in works of love abound
It shows what deeds are His delight
And should be done as good and right.

But those who scornfully disdain
God's Law shall then in sin remain;
Its terror in their ear resounds
And keeps their wickedness in bounds.

The Law is good; but since the fall
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die
And has no pow'r to justify.

To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.

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Sermon

Offering

Prayer of the Church

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For . . . [*additional bids for prayer are inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Collect for the Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

P: Lord Jesus Christ, Whose grace always precedes and follows us, help us to forsake all trust in earthly gain and to find in You our heavenly treasure; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BLESSING OF THE PEACEMAKERS' QUILTS

Hymn #783 "Take My Life and Let it Be"

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

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P: Gracious God, as we place our hands on these Quilts, we ask for Your blessing on both giver and receiver.

C: We celebrate being the children of God.

P: We give thanks for the variety of gifts that compose these Quilts: donations of fabric, thread and sewing machines, the faithful people who cut the squares, design the patterns, sew the tops, iron the fabric, make backs and fillers, tie and stitch the bindings, donate boxes, pack the Quilts, and contribute the money for shipping these Quilts.

C: We celebrate generosity.

P: We give thanks for the fellowship of all who work together to make the Quilts, the laughter, the shared stories, the joy of crafting something with one's hands for another, and the time to reflect and wonder about the recipient.

C: We celebrate community.

Quilters: We send these Quilts as a sign of Your love and blessing for each person who receives one, trusting that their quilt will be a source of comfort and hope in the midst of disaster and fear,

P: May their quilt be a symbol of Christ's sacrificial love to those who suffer, a reminder that each recipient is a beloved child of God.

Quilters: We pray that these quilts will serve a useful purpose in the life of the recipient;
that they will bring warmth in the cold,
shelter from the sun and heat,
a wall for a home,
or a carrier for a few precious belongings.

P: May it be a step in recovering one's life and a message of care from someone they may never meet.

C: We celebrate Your hope in the midst of life's trials.

Quilters: We remember those who have received our Quilts in the past and pray that their lives have returned to stability.

C: We celebrate Your gift of life.

P: Father, we ask that You bless the fruits of our Peacemakers' labor and the whole mission of Lutheran World Relief, that together we may minister to our neighbors in need. Bless all who give and all who receive in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen

Hymn *sung to the tune of* **"Take My Life and Let it Be"**

Take these quilts that they may be,
A rich blessing, Lord from Thee.
May they comfort, may they bring
Joy from Thee, Eternal King!

Blessing

Jude 24-25

P: To Him Who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy — to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore!

C: Amen.

Hymn # 658 "Preserve Your Word, O Savior"

Preserve Your Word, O Savior, To us this latter day,
And let Your kingdom flourish; Enlarge Your Church, we pray.
O keep our faith from failing;
Keep hope's bright star aglow.
Let nothing from truth turn us
While living here below.

Preserve, O Lord, Your honor,
The bold blasphemer smite;
Convince, convert, enlighten
The souls in error's night.
Reveal Your will, dear Savior,
To all who dwell below,
Great light of all the living,
That all Your name may know.

Preserve, O Lord, Your Zion,
Bought dearly with Your blood;
Protect what You have chosen
Against the hellish flood.
Be always our defender
When dangers gather round;
When all the earth is crumbling,
Safe may Your Church be found.

Preserve Your Word and preaching,
The truth that makes us whole,
The mirror of Your glory,
The pow'r that saves the soul.
Oh, may this living water,
This dew of heav'nly grace,
Sustain us while here living
Until we see Your face.

Preserve in wave and tempest
Your storm-tossed little flock;
Assailed by wind and weather,
May it endure each shock.
Stand at the helm, our pilot,
And set the course aright;
Then we will reach the harbor
In Your eternal light.

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