



ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Guided by the Spirit, we share the love of Jesus
and walk with our community.

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, September 6, 2020

Today we gather in this Pentecost season on the first day of September, Labor Day weekend. We remember the Pentecost season starting 50 days after Easter. Pentecost reminds us of the love of God in the Holy Spirit who is God moving in, with and through us daily. We also remember those past, and present who labor for the good of our communities and country. Labor Day began in 1882 in New York,

In the Gospel text today Jesus says that "whenever 2 or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them." We rejoice in God's presence today as we gather around Word and Sacrament. Today we re-introduce Holy Communion in our worship service. May the body and blood of our Savior bless you and yours as you move out today to "labor" in God's mission field, as missionaries on a mission to share the love of Christ.



Introduction

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Prelude

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

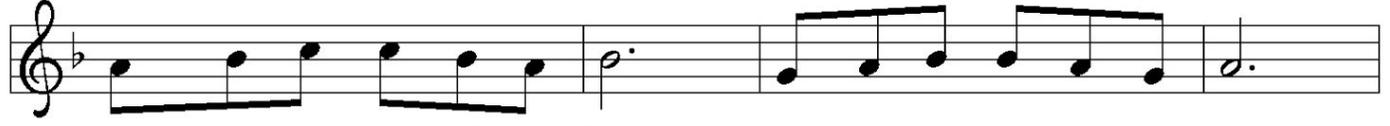
Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

Refrain



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

7 So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8 If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. 9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

10 Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" 11 Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

- 33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

8 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12 the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13 let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15 “If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16 But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18 Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”



Sermon

The NBC show *The Office* ran for 9 seasons from 2005-2013. I didn't watch it back then but I have come to love the show over the last two years or so having found it on Netflix. I love the show, the characters, the humor, and the documentary style of the show. A camera follows most of them around in various scenarios, and it became a hit for NBC.

I recently found out that two of the actors on the show (Jenna Fisher and Angela Kinsey) have a Podcast. It's called "Office Ladies" and they go back over each episode and break down all the details. What is interesting is they are best friends, and the way they interrelate and talk to fellow actors on the show and get the details to us really shows their relationship. They know each other, they know what the other might be thinking, they truly show their love for everyone they worked with and learning the behind the scenes they didn't know at the time fascinates them and they are so pleased.

These two ladies have not come out and said it directly, but I can sense God's spirit in them by the depth of their love for each other. They live close to each other in LA and are truly showing what Paul talks about in Romans today: "all the commandments are summed up in this word "Love your neighbor as yourself." He is speaking of the Great Commandment Jesus gives "Love the Lord your God with your heart, mind and soul and love your neighbor as yourself!" (Matthew 22:35-40).

Loving thy neighbor isn't just the person next door. It is the whomever you are close to at any time. Today this "closeness" is challenged by the Coronavirus but we love anyway. Jesus begins the teaching for today by pointing out church conflict. If another member of the church, the Lord says, sins against you go and talk to them. If they won't listen the Lord advises to get others to come and help.

Over and over again, Jenna Fisher and Angela Kinsey talk about the family atmosphere of The Office television show. I have heard that over and over from many of you as you describe both churches to me and why many of you have stayed over many years, or drive a long distance to get here. This is indeed something to celebrate and we must remember God's call is to open up our doors to accept our neighbors to join this family of faith.

Just like any family, we continue to grow, we bring in new and sometimes we lose a family member for various reasons. But the family carries on, because we are about the Lord's work. The Office ended in 2013 and those actors who did that were working their jobs/careers and receiving compensation for that work. The family was present but has now broken up, ended and they keep the memories close. A beautiful thing.

Our work in the mission for the Lord as a family of faith never ends. We consistently find ways to reach out, to love our neighbor in community and serve with a glad and faithful heart. Paul writes to us in Romans directions to share this love in our mission work:

Verse 10: "Love does no wrong and fulfills the law

Verse 12: "lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light"

Verse 13: "let us live honorably"

Verse 14: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ!"

And wherever 2 or more are gathered in my name (which is everywhere) I am there among them says the Lord. And we say "Thanks be to God!".

Amen!

Pastor Doug

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 Intercession

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. **A brief silence.**

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community (especially). Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution (especially). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit (especially). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

Sharing of the Peace - "Namaste"

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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

The Lord’s Prayer

Joined together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught:

**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

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

Prayer after Communion

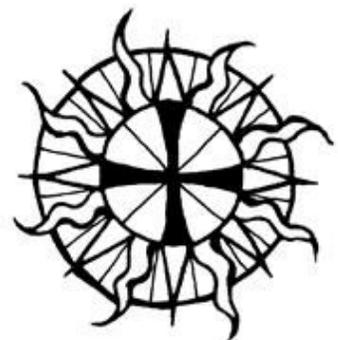
We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing

May Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**



Postlude

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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Families on the Prayer List

Mr. & Mrs. Happy Hill (Karen)
Ms. Erica Hochstetler
Ms. Kathryn Hollman
Mr. & Mr. Mark Hollman (Denise)

Those with Ongoing Special Need of Prayer:

Jerid Edwards, great nephew of MJ Lynch
Ruth Tingle
Wheeler Elementary School

Remember to Pray for Nursing Home Residents and Shut-Ins:

Lynn Bigelow Alton Dahl Thelma Jones Penny Kalk Martha Larson
Norma Petraits David Royer David Schmalz The Harrison

Remember to Pray for those Serving in our Armed Forces:

Michael Joseph Jerry Shake

Calendar

- **Sunday September 6** Worship with Holy Communion 9am
- **Sunday, September 6** Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm
- **Tuesday, September 8** FBS Parking Lot Drive thru 7-7:30pm
- **Wednesday, September 9** Zoom Staff Meeting 10am
- **Sunday, September 13** Outdoor Worship 9am
- **Monday, September 14** Zoom Staff Meeting 10am
- **Tuesday, September 15** Newsletter items due to Kelli
- **Thursday, September 17** Zoom Council Meeting 6pm
- **Sunday, September 20** Re-gathering in person Worship 9am

Announcements



FBS drive thru, in our parking lot, September 8, 7-7:30pm. We'll pass out goodie bags (we call them love bags) while our friends remain in their cars. Come with homemade signs or just come and wave and yell and let them know you care! Pretty easy right? Having lots of smiling faces (covered with masks of course) and many hands waving will make them feel loved and missed. Many of them have been confined during this virus time. Please join us!

Just to let you know, we are also going to do our class on Zoom, beginning October 6th.

Remember:

- 9:00 am worship and communion begins September 6.
- Outdoor worship on September 13 - see email for more info!
- Laundry and Friends are seeking volunteers. Please call MaryLee.
- Reach out if you are interested in the digital service on DVD.
- Joyce Yockey has now taken over the emailed Prayer Chain.
- Greater Indy Habitat seeking volunteers for a build in September - see our website for info
- The Storehouse is still accepting donations.
- Rotary Club is collecting books for prisoners - see Phil and your email for more info!