

Sunday, October 14, 2018
21st Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

“Lord, Here I Am”

John Ness Beck

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P *Blessed be the † holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us,
the one who heals us,
the one who reforms us again and again.*

C **Amen!**

P *Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P *Source of all life,*

C **we confess that we have not allowed
your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,
yet we expect others to earn it.
We turn the church inward,
rather than moving it outward.
Forgive us. Stir us.
Reform us to be a church powered by love,
willing to speak for what is right,
act for what is just,
and seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen!**

P *God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
and to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven,
† God's love is unconditional,
and we are raised up as God's people
who will always be made new,
in the name of Jesus Christ.*

C **Amen!**

***GATHERING SONG** *“Oh Jesus, I Have Promised”*

O Jesus I have promised
To serve Thee to the end
Be Thou forever near me
My Master and my friend
I shall not fear the battle
If Thou art by my side
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my Guide

O let me feel Thee near me
The world is ever near
I see the sights that dazzle
The tempting sounds I hear
My foes are ever near me
Around me and within
But Jesus draw Thou nearer
And shield my soul from sin

O let me hear Thee speaking
In accents clear and still
Above the storms of passion
The murmurs of self will
O speak to reassure me
To hasten or control
O speak and make me listen
Thou guardian of my soul

O Jesus Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servant be
And Jesus I have promised
To serve Thee to the end
O give me grace to follow
My Master and my friend

***GREETING**

☞ *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.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** *“This is the Feast”*

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

☩ *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!**

ANTHEM

“As the Deer”
Chancel Choir

Martin Nystrom

FIRST READING

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God’s call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God’s demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God’s wrath.

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.

Reflection

What is the promise (or threat) that the Lord, through Amos, makes to the house of Jacob (northern Kingdom of Israel)? (verse 6) In verse 7, wormwood is a bitter-tasting plant that symbolizes sorry and bitterness in the Bible, according to notes in the Lutheran Study Bible. What are the leaders and rulers in Israel doing to justice and righteousness? Instead of listening to those (like Amos) who tell them the truth from the Lord, what are they doing? (verse 10) Who gets hurt in this system in which the powerful and corrupt do what they want? (verse 11) What will happen to those powerful and corrupt leaders, as they use their power and unjust riches to build houses and plant vineyards for themselves? (verses 11-13) What does Amos tell them they must do instead of the evil they have been doing? (verses 14-15) How do we read this passage from Amos, as we live and believe in God's graciousness? Do you think Amos has anything to say to us who live in 21st century America? If so, what? If not, why not?

PSALM 90:12-17

¹²So teach us to num- | ber our days
 that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

¹³**Return, O LORD; how long | will you tarry?**
Be gracious | to your servants.

¹⁴Satisfy us by your steadfast love | in the morning;
 so shall we rejoice and be glad | all our days.

¹⁵**Make us glad as many days as you af- | flicted us**
and as many years as we suf- | fered adversity.

¹⁶Show your ser- | vants your works,
 and your splendor | to their children.

**¹⁷May the graciousness of the Lord our God | be upon us;
prosper the work of our hands; pros- | per our handiwork.**

Reflection

As I read this psalm, I know more than I used to about “number our days.” (verse 12) I’m not sure that I know more about having wisdom in my heart, but it’s something I pray for! (Note that in Psalm 90:10, the length of life we can expect is 70-80 years. Many of us, even those who are not noted for their health and strength, live longer than that!) When those who pray this psalm reflect on past their past life, what do they remember? (verse 15) What is their prayer to the Lord as they look ahead? (verses 13-15) Who are they thinking of besides themselves? (verse 16) What do you think it means for God to graciously prosper the work of our hands? This reminds me of the ELCA slogan, “God’s work, our hands.” How do you do the work of God in your life and faith? How do we together do God’s work? How has God prospered our work?

SECOND READING

Hebrews 4:12-16

We cannot hide our thoughts, desires, and actions from God, to whom we are completely accountable. Nevertheless, Jesus understands our human weakness and temptations, because he also experienced them. Therefore we can approach the throne of grace to receive divine mercy from Christ.

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.

Reflection

The people that Amos was preaching to apparently believed that God didn’t notice their injustice and unrighteous work. What does the writer of Hebrews say to us about God’s attention? (verses 12-13) In what ways do you experience the word of God as judgment about your thoughts and intentions? In my experience, I may try to hide my sins, thoughts, and intentions from myself and from those around me. Can anyone hide from God? How are we able to confess, not only to God and to each other, but also to ourselves? (verse 14) How can we trust Jesus, our great high priest, with our confession? (verse 15) What do you think it means to “approach the throne of grace with boldness”? When have you experienced the mercy and grace of God when you have confessed with boldness? How does such confession strengthen your faith? Have you also experienced mercy and grace from other Christians?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Words Of Life”

**Where can we go
to hear the Truth be told?**

**You have the Words of Life;
Who has the word
that makes our hearts be bold?
You have the Words of Life.
Alleluia! Allelu! Alleluia!
Allelu! Alleluia!
You are the One,
Alleluia! Allelu! Alleluia!
Allelu! Alleluia!
You are the One, O Christ.**

***GOSPEL**

Mark 10:17-31

Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.

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." ²⁶They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁷Jesus 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." ²⁹Jesus 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, ³⁰who 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. ³¹But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Reflection

What does the man ask Jesus? (verse 17) What does Jesus tell him? (verses 18-19) What does the man think of that answer? (verse 20) He seems to be challenging Jesus for something more. What is Jesus' challenge to him? (verse 21) How does the man respond to this challenge? (verse 22) As I think about my life, my possessions, my home, I think about my ancestors. On our last trip to Europe (and that tells you something right there, doesn't it!), we went to Denmark, where all of my great-grandparents came from, most of them at least in part because

there was no future for them as farmers in Denmark with a small part of the inheritance of land, or no inheritance at all. My life is unbelievably more prosperous than those who came here. They probably heard this story very differently from how I hear it. When Jesus says to his disciples (verse 23), "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" he's talking about me. How did the disciples, who also had a hard life, much harder than mine, hear this? (verses 24-26) How is it possible to do what we need to do to get into the kingdom of God? (verse 27) Peter, who reminds me of me, sort of argues with Jesus about this—"Look what we've done!" (verse 28) He seems to think that if anyone has earned the right to get into the kingdom of God, he and Jesus' other disciples have! And Jesus agrees with him—sort of! (verses 29-30) What can we expect to get if we leave all that we have and follow Jesus? Is it possible for any of us to get into the kingdom of God? There are no spiritual superheroes, Jesus says. From whom do we get our wealth and security? The other question this leaves me with is this: In what ways are we living in the kingdom of God today? What do you think?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Eugene Lickenbrock

SERMON

Live Well Together

Give Your All

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"The Summons"

ELW 798

**"Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?"**

**"Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare,
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r
in you and you in me?"**

**"Will you let the blinded see
if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,**

and admit to what I mean
in you and you in me?

"Will you love the you you hide
if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found
to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound
in you and you in me?"

Lord, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go
where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.

***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.

***PRAYER SONG**

"I Surrender All"

I surrender all,
I surrender all.

**All to Thee,
my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Longing for God's will to be fulfilled among us, we pray persistently for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

Almighty God, holy and righteous, cut our hearts open by your living word. Break down our pride and self-assurance, and transform us by your gentle mercy. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bless workers who clear fields to prepare for the barren season to come. Bring the harvest of your creation to completion, even as we look forward to the blossoming of new life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Exercise and establish your true justice in courtrooms, in prisons, and in neighborhoods. Guide those who manage great wealth to do so with generosity and compassion. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Pour out favor this day upon those who are afflicted and feel far removed from you especially for those who are in need of your healing presence: *Larry, "Doc", Irene, David, Lisa and her baby Lara, Dorothy, Kay*, and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Build up relationships among people of different beliefs and backgrounds. Use the cooperation between this congregation and others in our community to reveal your goodness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gather us with all the saints whom you have made righteous in the death and resurrection of Christ. Through him give us all the gifts of your kingdom and life eternal. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Enfold all things in your compassion, O God, and bring us into your life through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

Q **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

"More Like You"

More like You
Jesus more like You
Fill my heart with Your desire
To make me more like You
More like You
Jesus more like You
Touch my lips with holy fire
And make me more like You

Lord You are my mercy
Lord You are my grace
All my deepest sins
Have forever been erased
Draw me in Your presence
Lead me in Your ways
I long to bring You glory
In righteousness and praise

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

More like You
Jesus more like You
Fill my heart with Your desire
To make me more like You
More like You
Jesus more like You
Touch my lips with holy fire
And make me more like You

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *God of life,*

G you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen!

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

G And also with you.

P *Lift up your hearts.*

G We lift them to the Lord.

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

☒ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

P *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**

**Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full
of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *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.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**☒ Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen!

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P *Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread, and make us one with you.*

***BLESSING**

P *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

C **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *Holy and compassionate God,*

C **in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

P *God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being;*

Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead;

Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church:

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen!**

***SENDING SONG**

“Step by Step”

**O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days**