



St. Luke Lutheran Church
4595 SW California St.
Portland, OR 97219
(503) 246-2325

15th Sunday in Pentecost

God's Work Our Hands Sunday

September 13, 2020

9:30am Livestream

Gathering

Prelude: "Blessings" by Laura Story/arr. Melody Bober Molly Wheeler, piano

We pray for blessings. We pray for peace, comfort for family, protection while we sleep.

We pray for healing, for prosperity. We pray for your mighty hand to ease our suffering.

And all the while You hear each spoken need, yet love is way too much to give us lesser things.

Cause what if your blessings come through raindrops? What if your healing comes through tears?

And what if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know you're near?

And what if trials of this life are your mercies in disguise?

When friends betray us, when darkness seems to win,
we know that pain reminds this heart that this is not our home.

Welcome (Announcements)

Pastor Beth Brashear

Confession and Forgiveness:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Apostolic 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.**

Prayer of the Day:

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn:

"Gather Us In"

Red Book no. 532

**Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face:
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away;
here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

The Word

Children's Sermon

Pastor Patti Welch

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Lee Welch, reader

15 Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' 16 So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, 17 "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' 19 But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? 20 Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. 21 So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

Malia Dang, reader

1 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. 2 Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. 3 Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

5 Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. 6 Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

7 We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. 8 If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. 11 For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' 12 So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation:

"Thy Word" by Amy Grant

The Lynham family

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Pastor Patti Welch

21 Then Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured

until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Pastor Patti Welch

Prayers of the Church

Prayer leaders: The Watson family: Andrew, Chrysia, Clara

Music: Clara Watson, Dan Hibbett

Prayer Chorus:

"He Is Here"

by Paul Baloche/Brian Doerksen

God is Here; Christ is near us, in our hearts, in our lives, in our midst;

God is here; Christ is near us, calling us to trust God's love.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Apostle's 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.

Anthem: "Let Us Pray for Peace" by Thomas Keesecker/Nancy Kraft

Virtual Rejoice Choir

Let us pray for peace, for the healing of creation. May God's truth and justice mend ev'ry breach; may we learn to live as one. Let us pray for love, for the grace to offer mercy. May compassion guide our way in the world, may forgiveness heal division. May forgiveness heal us all.

We pray for peace, we pray for understanding. Pray that hatred cease, and God's reign is known on earth. God's reign is known on earth. Hear our prayer for love. Hear our voices, Lord, this day, we pray. Let us pray for peace, for the healing of creation. May God's truth and justice mend ev'ry breach; may we learn to live as one.

You know our hearts; you know our selfish struggles. Take away our pride, and fill us all with you.

And fill us all with you. Fill us with your peace, fill us with your love, fill us all this day, O Lord, we pray.

May your will be done, here on earth as is in heaven. May your reign of love be known in our lives, may your will be done among us. May we do your will, Amen.

Sending

Ministry Opportunities:

Serve: Grauer Opportunity – Volunteers to hang coats! We are doing Grauer delivery style – bringing supplies to Wilson-area schools. Backpacks are distributed, and now it's time to provide coats. If you have a few hours to help sort and hang coats, we need you! Please contact Judy Willis judy@stlukechurch.com to set up a time to help.

Help those who have been displaced by Wildfires! Give through Lutheran Disaster Response and 100% of your gift will go toward the need of your choice. Online giving is available through this link: https://community.elca.org/uswildfires?_ga=2.177829413.1613707792.1599782393-1414100497.1599417881

Connect: Rally Day Drive-Thru Parade – Join us next Sunday, September 20 between 11am and 12:30pm. Drive through the St. Luke lot, entering on SW California (the entrance across SW 45th from Gabriel Park. All households are invited to participate as we drive through and wave. St. Luke staff and education ministry leaders will be there waving! **Service bonus: bring your Christmas In September items in your trunk and we will collect them during the parade!**

Benediction

Sending Hymn: **“Be a Light”** by Thomas Rhett

Modern Worship Team and Congregation

Postlude: **“Prelude”** by Nicholas Gigault

Tom Skyler, organ

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