

Pentecost 19, Year B
September 29, 2024
Pastor Kim Swenson



The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

GATHERING

Worship Volunteers
Assisting Minister: Charlie Hilla
Reader: Christin Jaworski
Altar Guild: Marilyn Meister
Communion Assistant: Dawn Schroeder
Ushers: Todd & Sue Keckhaver
Video Tech: Doug Scholes

Welcome



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song,
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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Call to Worship

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who is eager to forgive
and who loves us beyond our days. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and God's creation.

Holy and merciful God,
**we confess that we have failed to honor you
by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.
We have walked heavily on your earth,
overused and wasted its resources,
taken for granted its beauty and abundance,
and treated its inhabitants unjustly,
holding future generations hostage to our greed.
Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and
intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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. **Amen.**



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904

Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray, Generous God, **your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Psalm 124 (read responsively by verse)

¹If it had not been the LORD who was on our side —
let Israel now say —

**²if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,**

³then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;

**⁴then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;**

⁵then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

**⁶Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.**

⁷We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.

**⁸Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.**

Gospel Acclamation

ACS Setting 1088



Hal-le, hal-le-lu - jah. Hal-le, hal-le-lu - jah. Hal - le-lu-jah, hal - le-lu-jah,



hal - le-lu-jah. Hal - le-lu-jah, hal - le-lu-jah, hal - le-lu-jah!

Text: Traditional

Music: SYRIAN HALLELUJAH, Syrian traditional

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50

³⁸John said to [Jesus], “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” ³⁹But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹"For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* **Cranberry 719**



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 among these restless throngs abide;
 oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
 and follow where your feet have trod;
 till glorious from your heav'n above
 shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850–1935, alt.

Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

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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.

Prayers of the People

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

We pray for the people of God in all places. Shape our witness to the good news of Jesus that we joyfully share your transforming love with all whom we encounter. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the healing of the earth. Renew oceans and seas, marshes and estuaries. Uphold the work of conservationists, oceanographers, and all who care for fragile ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for peace and cooperation among local and global communities. Bless the efforts of community organizers, international aid workers, and all those who work for justice and peace around the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are in any need. To all who grieve, bring consolation; to all who are weary or lonely, bring solace. By your grace, make your presence known among all who call to you for healing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for caregivers: doctors and nurses, home health aides and counselors, and those who care for loved ones. Sustain them in their work and help us to build a health care system that supports all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

We give thanks for the saints who now rest in your eternal presence. In thanksgiving for their lives of faithful service and witness, we commend them to your loving care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

Peace with yourself.

Peace with Creation.

Peace with one another.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering

Offering Prayer

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God,

Source of every gift of your creation.

By these gifts and with our lives,

Help us to serve one another and all in need,

Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

Praise and thanks are yours, our Creating God. From the dust of the earth you shaped human beings in your own image, and you filled the earth and seas and skies with a myriad of wonders. Yet we consistently turn your generosity into our scarcity, your elegance into our meanness, and your simplicity into our corruption. Though we poison and destroy your good Creation, you continue to offer us your abundance. In your mercy, you have redeemed us through your Son, Jesus, transforming death into life.

Through the Spirit you continue to call us into covenant with you—for the restoration of Creation and the reconciliation of all people.

And so we give you thanks, rejoicing with all of Creation, as we join the saints and angels in their unending hymn:

Let All Things Now Living

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to
God the creator triumphantly raise,
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains, the
Deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and re-
joicing; with glad adoration a song let us raise
Til all things now living unite in thanksgiving: "To
God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"**

In the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread, gave it to his friends and said: "Take and eat, for this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the wine, and gave thanks to God, Creator. He gave it to his friends saying: "This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you and for all creation for the forgiveness of sins. Every time you drink of the wine, do this in remembrance of me."

Merciful God, fill every heart with the sure and certain hope that we shall enter into the fullness of your joy, when your whole Creation is justified by faith and sanctified by love, and you are all in all. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, everlasting God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

We will say the Lord's prayer as a call and response.

Our Father in heaven

You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans

Hallowed be your name

By the care we take of your Creation

Your kingdom come

All that you see is good

Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven

Your will to till and care

Give us this day our daily bread

That all may have enough to live life in fullness

Forgive us our sins

Our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern
for other species and for future generations

As we forgive those who sin against us

By reconciliation with justice and peace.

Save us from the time of trial

The temptation to equate dominion with exploitation

And deliver us from evil

The evil of destroying your gift of creation

For yours is the kingdom

Yours, Lord, not ours

The power and the glory

In the cross and resurrection

Forever and ever

You are the beginning and you are the end. **Amen.**

Communion Hymn

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Cranberry 697



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



- 1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;
- 2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?
- 3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional

Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray, Loving God,

we give you thanks

for restoring us in your image

and nourishing us with spiritual food

in the sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Now send us forth

a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;

that we may proclaim your love to the world

and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Announcements

Benediction

May God who established the dance of creation,
 Who marveled at the lilies of the field,
 Who transforms chaos to order,
 Lead us to transform our lives and the Church
 To listen to the voice of all creatures
 That reflect God's glory in creation.

God all mighty,
 God most merciful
 † bless you, keep you
 And give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

Cranberry 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Dismissal

Go in peace, with Christ beside you. **Thanks be to God.**

Fellowship hour continues in the lounge.

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 9/24/24 \$19,443.66

Monthly Budget Expenses:..... \$18,743.00

YTD Receipts through 8/31/24..... \$ 158,547.00

Yearly Budget..... \$ 224,917.00

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Please, if you are able to help on a future date in October, sign up in the hallway.

FMSC Basket Raffle: Today we will be selling tickets for the FMSC Raffle Baskets. Tickets can be purchased in the lounge after service: tickets are 1 for \$2 or 3 for \$5. The drawing will be October 6th following the service. You will be Feeding a Starving Child. The value is Priceless!

Last, Last Sunday Supper: Is today at Rustique Pizzeria located at 13201 Velp Ave. in Suamico. We will be meeting at 5:00pm. Please let Pastor Kim know if you are planning to attend.

St. Francis Pet Blessing and Outdoor Service: Will be Sunday, October 6th. Bring your furry friend, favorite stuffed animal, plant, or picture of your animal friend for a special blessing. Please bring a lawn chair to sit on. Volunteers are needed to help set-up.

Invite Someone To Church: It was awe inspiring having double our normal attendance for Donna Hansen's funeral. Wouldn't it be wonderful if every Sunday had that many voices raised in praise? Let's all invite someone to join us on October 6th for our outdoor service and pet blessing. Invite a friend, co-worker, neighbor or family member. Remember to have them bring a chair and their pet!

FMSC Opportunities: The mobile pack is coming up October 7-10. Greeters and Rovers are still needed. In addition, the Angel Board is ready if you want to become an "Angel" for Feed My Starving Children. Take an envelope/s with the denomination of your choice and place in the offering plate.

NEW Shelter Meal: Is Sunday, October 13th. Please see sign-up sheet in the hallway for needed desserts.

CPR/AED Training at Bethel: If you would like to be certified on the AED equipment, there will be a training session on October 16th from 6:00-8:30pm. Cost is \$45/person. If you have already been trained, there will be a renewal course offered October 17th from 6:00-7:30pm. Cost is \$40/person. A minimum of 3 people per class need to be signed up in order for each class to be held. Please see sign-up sheet in the hallway.

Handbags for Hope: In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are asking all the ladies to bring in any unwanted purses. Donations are also needed of travel size hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, lip balm, etc. to fill the purses prior to distribution. Suggestions can be found on the front of the bin in the lounge.

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Several parts of liturgy edited from <https://newcreationliturgies.org/seasonofcreation/>