

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 13, 2020

"Who's Your Teacher?"

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN "Where Charity and Love Prevail"



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail There
2 With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear His
3 For - give we now each oth - er's faults As
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; Let



God is ev - er found; Brought here to - geth - er
char - i - ty we learn; Let us with heart and
we our faults con - fess, And let us love each
all con - ten - tion cease; Be God's the glo - ry



by Christ's love By love are we thus bound.
mind and soul Now love Him in re - turn.
oth - er well In Chris - tian ho - li - ness.
that we seek; Be ours His ho - ly peace.

**5) Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.**

**6) For love excludes no race or clan
That names the Savior's name;
His family embraces all
Whose Father is the same.**

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Mighty and merciful Lord, with heavy hearts we confess our sin to You.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: We confess together:

C: Holy and gracious God, I confess that I have sinned against You. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, You have rescued us from our bondage to sin and given us a new life and identity in Baptism. Grant us Your grace that we live in peace with all people and show to those around us the same forgiveness that You have shown to us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 6:4-15 (ESV)

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. And when the LORD your God brings you into the land that He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give you—with great and good cities that you did not build, and houses full of all good things that you did not fill, and cisterns that you did not dig, and vineyards and olive trees that you did not plant—and when you eat and are full, then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. It is the LORD your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and by His name you shall swear. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you, for the LORD your God in your midst is a jealous God, lest the anger of the LORD your God be kindled against you, and He destroy you from off the face of the earth.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE 2 Timothy 3:14–17 (ESV)

As for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him,

‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE 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.

THE BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR SEPTEMBER

1 Corinthians 15:58: “Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY *“Christ Be My Leader”*

- 1) Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.**
- 2) Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.**
- 3) Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.**

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THE SERMON *“Who’s Your Teacher”* Text: Deuteronomy 6:4-15

THE OFFERING *(Please leave your offering in a plate in the Narthex, mail it, or bring it to the office.)*

THE PRESENTATION OF BIBLES AND BOOKS

THE RITE OF COMMITMENT TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

P: Our gracious God has worked faith in our hearts so that we may joyfully respond to His will and purpose. Let us therefore commit ourselves to the important task of teaching and receiving the truth of the Gospel and deepening the trust we have in Christ, our Savior. God instructs us to teach His Word diligently to our children (*Deut. 6:6-9*). Jesus teaches us, "Whoever hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house upon the rock (*Matt. 7:24*), and through St. Paul God assures us, "The Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" and they are "useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (*2 Tim. 3:15-17*). The words and promises of God are not only for us and our children. Peter said it is also "for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls." (*Acts 2:39*).

C: We commit ourselves as a congregation to the ministry of education, and inviting our friends and neighbors, our fellow citizens and visitors, to learn about the triune God, His love, mercy, and forgiveness for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: God has promised that His Word "shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (*Isaiah 55:11*). May the Holy Spirit continue to use Word and Sacrament to enable us to keep the commitments we have made this day, in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS, HELPERS, AND STAFF

P: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, you are to be installed as educational staff here at Immanuel, a work in which our Father in heaven has great joy.

You are to assist Pastor Kaiser and I, this congregation's ministers of Word and Sacrament, in the instruction of God's people according to His holy Word. You are to prepare yourselves for this work by your individual and corporate study of the Word of God and the faith drawn from it as it has been delivered to us in the Small Catechism.

While holiness of life and obedience to Christ are expected of all members of the congregation, it is especially important that you show yourselves, by word and example, to be faithful to Him in service and Christian devotion.

In the presence of God and of this congregation, I therefore ask you: Do you accept the position entrusted to you, and do you promise faithfully to carry out your duties, trusting in the Lord and conforming yourself to His Word in accordance with the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church? If so, then answer: I do.

Teachers & Staff: I do.

P: Fellow members of Immanuel, you have heard the promises of faithfulness spoken by these men and women. Do you promise to support them in their work, to remember them in your prayers, and to work with them to the best of the abilities that God has given you, so that He may be glorified and His work be done in our midst? If so, then answer: We do.

C: We do.

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I install you to serve with me as the educational staff at Immanuel Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your service that you may be good and faithful leaders and teachers to the glory of His name and the salvation of His people.

P: Let us pray. O Lord, grant to these Your servants the gifts of wisdom and discretion, kindness and faithfulness, so that they may effectively teach and guide, and grant to all Your people a ready willingness to learn. Let the knowledge of Your Word be preserved and extended among us so that all may know and praise You now and forever; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Go in the name of the Lord. Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. The almighty and most merciful God, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Almighty God, as once You kept Joseph from evil and brought good from his suffering in Egypt, deliver us by Your grace so that we may learn patience in trials. Teach us to be slow to judge, quick to forgive, and steadfast in love for You and for one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Merciful Lord, You have shown great compassion to us; teach us to show such compassion to others, that we may welcome the stranger, love our neighbor in need, and be attentive to those new to the faith or vulnerable to temptation. Help us to serve the refugee seeking safety, and give us opportunity to share Your gifts with those who live in poverty and want. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious God, bless our missionaries who preach and teach Your Word, including Pastor Dan and Paula Vogel, Judy Newhouse, Julie Lutz, Pastor Vance and Linda Becker, Pastor John Duitsman and the African Radio Ministry, and Mission Development Counselors Gary Thies and Pastor Brent Smith. Give the hearers willing ears to hear and willing hearts to learn the Scriptures well. Bless those now training to be pastors and church workers. Grant to all the baptized the aid of Your Holy Spirit so that, receiving Your Gospel with joy, we may share it freely with those outside the household of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Mighty God, give wisdom and courage to our elected and appointed leaders, that they may pursue justice, seek peace and protect life from its natural beginning to its natural end. Bring an end to the threats of terror and violence among the peoples, and open all nations to the voice of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We give You thanks, O Lord, for the many blessings You have given to Your servant Marie Peters throughout her eighty years of life. Grant that she may always know Your loving-kindness, remain in the confession of Your name, and put her trust each day in Your gracious care and protection. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Blessed Father, You know our weakness of body and soul. Give to the troubled in mind Your peace, to the suffering relief, to the sick healing, to the grieving comfort and deliver the dying into everlasting life. Hear us especially for _____ and also for those named in our hearts. [*Brief silence*] Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of heaven and earth, You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We thank You for sending the blessing of rain to water the earth and all that You give for our good. Bless our farmers and all who work with them as they prepare for the harvest. Grant us patience and faith as we look to You and Your perfect timing to give us all that we need for our daily bread. Lord in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

P: Giving Lord, all good things come from You. Open our hearts to be generous with the poor and to bring You the tithes and offerings You are due, that Your Church and all her agencies may serve Your gracious purpose and suffer no lack of people or resources to do the work of Your Kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Almighty and everlasting God, deliver us from temptation and the powers of evil, that we may be faithful unto death and receive from Your hand the crown of everlasting life. Whether we live or die, we belong to You, and we pray You to comfort us with this promise, that we may join the company of the saints on the day You have appointed and enter into the heavenly places to worship at Your throne on high; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

THE 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

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS