

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PENTECOST - THE SPIRIT BECKONS
Pastor John R. Hanson
June 27, 2021, 8:00, 9:15, and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

J. Hanson, Musician

INTRODUCTION - *How do we understand or use power effectively? In what ways do we view the power and authority of God which can lead us into true allegiance to God and into lives in which our small contributions make a difference? A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak. A girl is restored to life when Jesus takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. Jesus breaks down barriers. We can dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.*

THEME AND VERSE

You have turned our mourning into dancing! You have taken away our funeral clothes and re-clothed us in joy, so that our whole being—body, mind and soul—might sing praise to you and not be silent. O Lord, our Lord, we give you thanks!

³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe."

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN

"My God, How Wonderful Thou Art"

Green # 524

My God, how wonderful Thou art, Thy majesty how bright!
How beautiful Thy mercy-seat in depths of burning light!

How wonderful, how beautiful the sight of thee must be -
Thine endless wisdom, boundless pow'r, and awesome purity!

Yet I may love thee too, O Lord, Almighty as thou art,
For thou hast stooped to ask of me the love of my poor heart.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

God is good.

All the time.

GOSPEL: Mark 5:21-43

Jairus, a respected leader, begs Jesus to heal his daughter. A woman with a hemorrhage is ritually unclean, treated as an outcast. Both Jairus and the unnamed woman come to Jesus in faith, believing in his power to heal and bring life out of death.

²¹When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²²Then one

of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged him repeatedly, "My little

daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live." ²⁴So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well." ²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease.

³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my clothes?" ³¹And his disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease."

³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear, only believe." ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.

³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." ⁴⁰And they laughed at him.

Then he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this and told them to give her something to eat.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

God is good!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of

the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God's grace is not given in vain, nor is it accepted in vain. Now is the acceptable time; today is the day of salvation.

Almighty God, in the greatness and complexity of creation you reveal your wisdom. But when we think of you as the center of the universe, we keep our concerns to ourselves and try to heal ourselves by ourselves. You meet us in the marketplace, and you are willing to come into our home. Still, we believe you are too far from us and too busy to be bothered. Now is the day we need your saving grace, and only you can save us.

God loves us! Our sins, trespasses, iniquities, offenses, misdeeds - all of us; and our God wants to meet us, to save us from that which is killing us. By the power of the sacrifice of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, we can approach and even ask for life without fear and even live in the power of God.

To the glory of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

Pass me not, O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.

***Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;
While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by.***

Let me at thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief.

Trusting only in thy merit, would I seek thy face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, save me by thy grace.

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SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM (10:30)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S SERMON

“Can’t Do It Alone!”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord Jesus, we come to you in the depths and agony of despair. Please hear us, saving God! Through the tenderness of your mercy, we have learned to trust you and to believe in your holy name. You know our longing for life, and you bless us from God’s overflowing store of mercy, hope, freedom and joy. Amen.

READING: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Paul encourages the Corinthians to honor their commitment to participate in the collection his churches are organizing for the Christians in Jerusalem. He presents Jesus as an example of selfless stewardship and reminds them that Christians have received abundantly so that they can share abundantly.

⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. ⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—¹¹now finish doing it,

so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵As it is written, "The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little."

HYMN

“Be Still and Know That I Am God”

(He said) Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.

(We say) You are the Lord that healeth me. You are the Lord that healeth me.
You are the Lord that healeth me.

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust. In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.

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SERMON - When asking for God to respond, who's timeline are we to follow? When do we discover the blessings? How do we respond in faith? Be still!

HYMN

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Green # 439

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear -
All because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged - take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness - take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge - take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, you meet us here at the crossroads of our lives. Your healing takes place in your time, in our place, in ways that we could not imagine. May this meal, which feeds us in this time, strengthen us in our faith so that we may go from here empowered, healed, and forgiven, ready to share your love and mercy with all of your people. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Lord God, you fill us with hope so we can sing of your joy all of our days.

We live, empowered by God's love.

Holy God, you meet us in the midst of our troubled days. Open our eyes so we will see the wonders that you perform here in this day and at this time. Lord Jesus Christ, you continue your healing each day, may we bear witness to your generous actions in our world. Holy Spirit, when we feel cut off from the love of God, you bring God's love and power to us so we that we can step out in faith and advance the Kingdom of God.

Amen! We go in Christ's name to love and serve!

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Worship, as an action, continues to change.

Use this space to guide your thoughts as the Spirit may lead you.

Use this time to center your distractions in order to help activate your worship.

The grace and care of God for humanity, and the call for us to care for one another shines through the readings this week. In the Gospel reading, Jesus heals two people – the daughter of a wealthy religious leader and a poor, excluded, “unclean” woman. Here, the indiscriminate love and grace of Jesus is reflected, as he meets both rich and poor, powerful and weak, at their point of need. Lamentations also reflects on God's faithfulness, grace and the hope, trust we can place in the God who seeks to rescue us and bring us life. In Paul's letter to the Corinthian Church, he encourages them to care for other believers and share their abundance in order that all may have enough.

All of these readings reveal God's compassion and love for all people, and the challenge for us to love as we have been loved, while sharing our resources and preserving the dignity of others. It's a call to allow our faith in God's nature and mission to lead us into gracious and generous relationships in which we care for and bring wholeness and life to one another. After last week's call to live in and serve in God's authority, this week shows us that our service is to all, and it's a service of generosity and love, not judgement.

It is all too easy to live lives from a critical and judgmental perspective. In some ways it can feel like social cohesion is enhanced through exclusivity, gossip, and demonization of those who are different from us. The truth is, though, that our failure to love and serve the “other” leads to greater division, suffering and insecurity in our homes, neighborhoods, and countries. Whenever we are tempted to view another person as “not like me” and then to judge, exclude or criticize them as a result, we have contributed to the suffering, division, and violence in our world. When, however, we are willing to serve, love, accept, forgive, share with, and understand those who are different, we contribute to the peace of our communities and of the world.

This is what the Scriptures for this week are trying to teach us. When, like Jesus, we can treat both rich and poor with equal grace and dignity; when, as Paul instructs the Corinthians, we are willing to share with others, the world becomes a friendlier, more compassionate, more gracious, and more secure place for all. Loving enemies or outcasts is never easy, but it remains a central call of the Gospel, and a central mark of the truly Christ-centered life.

From John van de Laar at <http://sacredise.com>