

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PENTECOST - THE HOLY SPIRIT BECKONS
Reverend John R. Hanson
Sunday, October 10, 2021, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

MUSICIAN

J. Hanson

INTRODUCTION

Suffering absorbs the minds of many, but it's not an issue to be debated, nor is it a problem to be solved. Suffering is to be entered into with compassion and mercy in Jesus' name. When we encounter suffering, the Gospel calls us to serve and heal. When we are faced with our own suffering, the Gospel gives us the assurance of God's presence and grace, AND a community of companions to journey WITH us. May our faith drive us to be the presence and compassion of God to those who suffer.

CALL TO WORSHIP (10:30)

"L-o-v-e, Love"

Psalm 100 Kids

THEME AND VERSE

We remind ourselves it is not we who chose Christ but Christ who chooses us. We are not here because of our goodness but because of Christ's grace. We are not here to enlighten ourselves but to allow Christ to enlighten us. We have come to worship God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and all our strength.

***They said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible but not for God; for God, all things are possible."* Mark 10:26-27**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ANTHEM (8 & 10:30)

Celebration Singers

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

God is good.

All the time.

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."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time. **God is good!**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather together to worship

in the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We are lost, for God knows the number of our transgressions and how great are our sins.

Lord God, do we lack in being righteous? We have kept most of the commandments. most of the time. We are good Christians; we tell everybody that! And we follow you - see we are here today. Do you see us? We are not like "those" other people. When is it, tell us, when will we be rewarded? Save us, Lord, save us from our sins.

God, who demands righteousness, who divides soul from spirit, who judges all, sends for our sake a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God. For Christ's sake our sins are forgiven. We receive mercy and grace finds us. Now through the Holy Spirit, let us make our confession honest and live that grace and mercy throughout our whole lives.

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

SERVICE OF HOLY BAPTISM

THE BAPTISMAL WELCOME

CHILDREN'S SERMON

"Worthy"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Who is this Word that cuts through our clutter, sees when we sit and when we stand, reads our moods and motives, uncovers every secret in our hearts? Lord, you know us better than we know ourselves. Please mend what needs mending and fill our hearts with your love and light. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

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.

HYMN

“How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

Green # 345

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, and drives away all fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole and calms the heart's unrest,
'Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, my prophet, priest, and king,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, accept the praise I bring.

SERMON - *Our value is found in Christ! Only God, in Christ, can wrestle our ego from its strangle hold on the Spirit. God searches for and claims us. Will we allow God to make us whole?!*

HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - I Surrender All”

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ my God.
All the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice them to his blood.

All to Jesus I surrender, make me, Savior, wholly thine.
Let me feel the Holy Spirit, truly know that thou art mine.

I surrender all. I surrender all. All to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BLESSING & PRAYER FOR COMMUNION

God of infinite patience and wisdom, like the young man in the scriptures, we are owned by our possessions and held captive by our treasures. You offer us healing and hope. You transform our lives from captivity to freedom. Help us to place our trust in you knowing that wonderful things can be accomplished, which will provide all people with hope and peace. In the bread and wine, encourage and strengthen us. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Now go from this place with renewed inspiration to do the work of God. Seek good not evil, love goodness, and establish justice. This is the greatest offering we can make, letting justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Wherever we go, we will live as servants of God.

The grace of Christ crucified and risen, the eternal love of God, and the indwelling of the Spirit who fills the faithful with many gifts will be with you this day and for evermore.

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

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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 overwhelming awareness in this week's Scripture is of the reality of suffering, and the pain and indignity that it brings. In Hebrews we find the assurance that Jesus is trustworthy because he was tempted as we are and overcame, and because he offers us mercy. Finally in the Gospel, after graphically revealing how hard it is for the wealthy to embrace the sacrificial life of God's Reign, Jesus assures his disciples that their sacrifice – and the persecution which they will experience – is not in vain, and that God will restore good things to them. A huge part of the struggle for those who suffer is the sense of loneliness, isolation and unwantedness that is brought on by the pain, and that heightens it. Jesus also shared this experience.

However, underlying all of it, is the assurance of God's compassion and the mercy that God offers. And, in Jesus' words in Mark's Gospel, there is the call for us to be agents of God's mercy, grace and friendship.

Every community has suffering people, but often these people find themselves feeling isolated even within our churches. Too often we try to avoid facing or acknowledging the reality of suffering, and in the process, we leave sufferers feeling hurt, humiliated and lonely. This week, is there a "wealth that you can give to the poor" in your community? Whether it's a wealth of friendship or compassion or support, we do have wealth to offer struggling, sick and lonely people.

The friendship, the "standing with" and the acknowledgment is often a far more powerful gift than any material help we can offer – which sometimes only confirms our superiority and further enslaves those we oppress.

Furthermore, when we face suffering ourselves, it is always important that we have the humility to receive the help and compassion of others, and not embrace a proud, stoic aloofness. It is only as we walk through suffering together that we can really experience and reflect the mercy and compassion of God.

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