

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PENTECOST - THE HOLY SPIRIT BECKONS
Reverend John R. Hanson
Sunday, November 14, 2021, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Janet Hanson

INTRODUCTION

The readings today tell of the final resurrection and the end time. How are we to respond when we face the violence of our world or when others mock or dominate us? Can we trust in God's grace and protection? Can we live out God's peace and justice in a time of war and injustice? Christ makes a way for us where there is no way, and we can walk it confidently, trusting the one who promised us. The call to peace is difficult to answer, but it is a call we must face. May we be led into a deeper commitment to Jesus' way of peace.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Give Thanks"

Celebration Singers

THEME AND VERSE

Come, bless the Lord who guides us, whose wise teaching directs our days and focuses our minds at night, whose presence sustains us and surrounds us here. We bless the Lord who is present among us. We will not be shaken or live in fear but will sing God's praise and worship with joy!

⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. ¹⁰For you will not abandon me to the grave nor let your holy one see the pit. ¹¹You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. (Psalm 16:9-11)

TRIBUTE PRAYER IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERAN'S DAY

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials & temptations; give them courage to face the enemy around them; grant them a sense of your constant presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN

"For All the Saints"

Green # 174

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who by faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
You, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
You, in the darkness drear, their one true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, may your soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old
And win with them the victor's crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one within your great design. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

GOSPEL: Mark 13:1-8

As they leave the temple, Jesus' disciples are awed by the size and beauty of the building, Jesus warns his disciples concerning trials that were to come on them and on the world. He exhorts the listeners: Do not be alarmed.

¹As [Jesus] came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!"

²Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down."

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be

accomplished? ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray.

⁶Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs."

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.

Let us confidently enter the sanctuary of God.

Lord God, when will be the end of things? You know, so tell us, tell us, we want to know! How much longer will we suffer? How much longer do we have to work so hard? How much longer must we serve others without our reward? When will you show us your glory? When do we get to retire? How long till we get there? Forgive us the sins we can name; save us from the sins we don't see.

Jesus Christ has offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins. Our sins are forgiven! Because of this we can enter the sanctuary of our Lord, we may approach God with a true heart in full assurance of faith and spur ourselves and one another to love and to good deeds, encouraging one another for the Day approaching.

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come! We trust in you for safety, we depend on you for all we need. Guide and teach us each day. Be near us so that nothing can shake us. Make us aware of your constant presence, show us the path that leads to life. Let your Spirit fill us with joy, and may our service be your delight. Amen.

READING: Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

Jesus offered the perfect once-for-all sacrifice and then sat down at God's right hand. Because we have received forgiveness through his death, we live with sincere hearts, trusting in God's promises, and we encourage love and good works from each other. Jesus perfected us. In response we hold on to our hope and motivate each other to acts of love.

¹¹Every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," ¹³and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is,

through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

HYMN

"Lord, Let My Heart be Good Soil"

Blue # 713

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.
 Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.
 When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
 When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
 When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
 Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

SERMON - *"For us, Jesus' destruction of the Temple was not a once in time ordeal. His rebuild is constant and ever changing. Stay tuned for what God will do - again and again."*

HYMN

"God of Our Fathers"

Green # 567

God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
 Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
 Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies;
 Our grateful songs before thy throne arise.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
In this free land with thee our lot is cast;
Be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
Thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.

From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence
Be thy strong arm our ever sure defense.
Thy true religion in our hearts increase;

Thy bounteous goodness nourish us in peace.
Refresh thy people on their toilsome way;
Lead us from night to never ending day;
Fill all our lives with love and grace divine,
And glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

CCLI Song # 89006 CCLI License # 1713417

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING & PRAYER FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Lord God, call us back to you. You put your laws in our hearts, and you write them on their minds. You no longer remember our sins and lawless deeds. Where these are forgiven, there is no longer any offering for sins. In the name of Jesus the Christ, who ended the need of sacrifices and destroyed the fear of death, who fulfills the promise of new life for all who believe, we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION & SENDING

God's blessing is upon us as we return to our homes. God is with us. May we strengthen and encourage one another in our shared vision of God's kingdom here.

We live as servants of God, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And may the blessing of our adventurous God go with us. And may the blessing of his son, who shows us how to live, re-shape us. And may the blessing of the living Holy Spirit joyfully enable us in our renewed living. Amen?

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

Scripture portions are reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Worship, as an action, continues to change.

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

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

Violence, destruction, war and ridicule are common troubles that we all face in the world – perhaps even more so as we seek to follow Christ. The temptation is to respond in the same way, offering violence for violence and using force to overcome force. However, the way of Christ, revealed through the Scriptures, is the way of peace, forgiveness, and faith in God's ultimate justice.

It is interesting that, in Mark's Gospel, Jesus' warnings are associated with the disciples' awe at the temple building, which represented wealth and power (both of a spiritual wealth and a political power). It is when we get absorbed in the trappings of power and wealth that we become violent and oppressive.

Daniel's prophecy reflects on the conflicts of power against power. The way of "powerless peace" that Jesus demonstrated, which brings us into right relationship with God, and enables us to support and encourage one another presents a stark contrast to these violent power plays promoted in his world and in ours.

Power and violence do not only happen on national and global scales through wars and revolutions. Every human community and family has its share of power plays and conflicts – some of which can turn violent. Often the most simple form of peace making is refusing to retaliate, refusing to hold a grudge, and embracing the sacrificial way of forgiveness.

Every person, and every community, has been hurt by someone else, or some other group. Our natural human inclination is to try and hurt them back, to even the score. But the way of cross is the way of absorbing the violence and pain, and responding in love, forgiveness and acceptance. As hard as it is to do this, we are called to live in the Kingdom way, a way to which we are all called. We need to choose this response today!

John van de Laar at sacredise.com