

Worship

Wednesday, September 21 - 7:00 p.m.

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church



PRELUDE

“Whether we know it or not, like it or not, honor it or not, we are embedded in community. Whether we think of ourselves as biological creatures or spiritual beings or both, the truth remains: we were created in and for a complex ecology of relatedness, and without it we wither and die. This simple fact has critical implications: **community is not a goal to be achieved but a gift to be received.**

When we treat community as a product that we must manufacture instead of a gift we have been given, it will elude us eternally.

When we try to ‘make community happen,’ driven by desire, design, and determination—places within us where the ego often lurks—we can make a good guess at the outcome: we will exhaust ourselves and alienate each other, snapping the connections we yearn for.

Too many relationships have been diminished or destroyed by a drive toward ‘community-building’ which evokes a grasping that is the opposite of what we need to do: relax into our created condition and receive the gift we have been given.”

“In true community we will not choose our companions, for our choices are so often limited by self-serving motives. Instead, our companions will be given to us by grace. Often they will be persons who will upset our settled view of self and world. In fact, we might define true community as that place where the person you least want to live with lives.... Community will teach us that our grip on truth is fragile and incomplete, that we need many ears to hear the fullness of God’s word for our lives. And the disappointments of community life can be transformed by our discovery that the only dependable power for life lies beyond all human structures and relationships.”

INVOCATION

Gracious God, who created all humanity in your image:
Make us grateful for the companionship of other people, receiving them as gifts of your grace;
Shape us into companions for all who yearn for community;
And satisfy with your own gracious gifts those of us who work in isolated places.

Jesus, friend of sinners, companion of the outcast, advocate for justice:
Open our eyes to see you in our neighbors who suffer injustice of any kind

Holy Spirit, fire of God, giver of life to the church, make us sharers in the holiness of God:
Bestow on us the mind of Christ, that we neither think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think nor diminish ourselves in self-deprecation, calling common what you have called holy.

God of grace, who creates us into a new community:
**Make us to be authentically the body of Christ and a vehicle of love
and joy in this world, until we offer full and perfect praise forever —
Amen**

HYMN: *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* —ELW #697

READING: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

The prophet's complaint:

O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

God's reply to the prophet's complaint:

I will stand at my watchpost

and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will say to me

and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

Then God answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Word of God, Word of Life
Thanks be to God



READING: Luke 17:5-10

The holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

⁵The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" ⁶The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. ⁷"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'?"

⁸Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'?" ⁹Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded?"

¹⁰So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!' "

The gospel of our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN: *Take My Life, That I May Be* —ELW #685



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING —Throughout the conference, we will not “pass “ the offering plate. Please place your offering in the plate at your convenience or scan the QR code to give online. Offerings will benefit Betela Seminary and the RMS 3E COVID Fund.

Thank you for your generosity!



PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that God is real and present in all places and through all time. We share a vision of God: a God whose Spirit is love, accessible to all yet beyond our understanding. We search for the meaning of God and human experience revealed in the sacred stories which have been passed down to us. We tell our stories.

We believe in God the Creator, the Almighty, who made everything that is and saw that it was good.

We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who lived among us, healed, taught, suffered, and died. He forgave those who crucified him.

In the mystery of the resurrection, he continues to live more profoundly through the ages as the Incarnation of Love, the Christ, who shows us the Way which leads to the reconciliation of the earth and all people.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Breath and Wind of God, the giver of life, the Holy Wisdom who inspires and moves the people of God to love God with our whole being; to love our neighbors as ourselves; to strive for justice and peace; to act in respect for every person and the whole of creation; to forgive as we have been forgiven; to love as we have been loved; to build communities of hope.

We believe that life overcomes death and nothing can separate us from God's love — Amen

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

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.
We praise you, O God

Generations bless your faithfulness: through water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.
We bless you, O God

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.
We thank you, O God

In the night in which he was betrayed,
Our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks;
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
this cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering God's love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of our faith

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Amen

We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us in the language of our hearts

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION

DISTRIBUTION



HYMNS

We Come to the Hungry Feast —ELW #479

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am —ELW #814

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying —ELW #752

Ubi caritas et amor —ELW #642

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.

Give us strength for all that lies ahead
that we might serve with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

BLESSING

God, who gives life to all things
and frees us from despair,
bless you with peace.

And may the holy Trinity, † one God,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

Amen

HYMN: *Canticle of the Turning* —ELW #723

SENDING

God in peace. Serve God boldly!

Thanks be to God!

CREDITS

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Page 6 Art by Deacon Sarah Bjornebo, "After the Hayman Fire"

Affirmation of Faith by Deacon Sarah Bjornebo

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