



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Bethel & Hemnes Lutheran Churches

August 9, 2020

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

✠GATHERING✠

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as we begin.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

P. Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P. Loving God,

C. we confess that we have not loved You with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to worship You with our whole being and to share the abundance of grace You give us. We have acted out of selfish ambition rather than the interests of others; we have nursed grudges rather than seeking reconciliation and peace. Forgive us and renew in us the mind of Christ Jesus, that we may live according to Your will. Amen.

P. Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of Almighty God, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us; and for His sake, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sin, in the name of the Father, and the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 5:1a, 5b, 8b)

C. Amen.

GREETING

P. The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue Your people from despair, deliver Your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C. Amen.

† WORD †

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah is now presented with a dramatic shift in the understanding of where God is to be found. God is not to be found in these signs. Rather, God is among the people, where the will of God is being lived out.

At [Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁴He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken Your covenant, thrown down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." ¹⁵Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 85:8-13

I will listen to what the LORD God is saying,
for He is speaking peace to His faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to Him.

⁹Truly, His salvation is very near to those who fear Him,
that His glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go before Him,
and peace shall be a pathway for His feet

²¹The LORD preserves all those who love him,
but He destroys all the wicked.

²²My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;
let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.”⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down)⁷ “or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim);⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in Him will be put to shame.”¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on Him.¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in Whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of Whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim Him?¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim Him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: St. Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of “little faith,” who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to these disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their fear and doubt.

C. (*spoken*) Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, while He dismissed the crowds.²³ And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning He came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸Peter answered Him, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”³¹ Jesus immediately reached out His hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. (*spoken*) Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,
 our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the
 Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
 crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated
 at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge
 the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident of God's care for us in the midst of the world's sufferings, we join together in the power of the Spirit to pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

For Your church throughout the world, we pray: Strengthen the faith of all who believe. Give courage in the midst of storms, so that we see and hear Jesus calling: "Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid." May we follow Christ wherever He leads. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

For the well-being of Your creation, we pray. Protect waterways, forests, lands, and wildlife from exploitation and abuse. Tame the storms that threaten human habitations, we pray especially for those recovering from fire and hurricane. Help us endeavor to sustain and be sustained by the resources of Your hand. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

For the nations and their leaders, we pray. In You, steadfast love and faithfulness meet, and righteousness and peace kiss each other. Inspire those who govern to keep peace with their neighbors and to maintain justice for their citizens. Calm the world's violence. Strengthen the world's democracies, and keep autocrats in check. Uphold a free press around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

For those in need, we pray. Everyone who calls upon Your name will be saved. Be present and accompany those who are unemployed, or homeless, or hungry, or hospitalized; those whose money has run out; those who are fearful of the future; and those we name before You now: Merv, Emily, Angie, Shirlee, Lynette, Brenda, Bill, Karen and Tom. Reach out Your hand to us all and save us when we are sinking. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

For the world facing the coronavirus, we pray. Sustain medical workers for their difficult tasks. Assist our Congress and governors in legislating wisely during the pandemic. Give wisdom to educators as they plan the fall semester. Give us kindness with one another and patience for ourselves. And we beg: give us a vaccine. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

For the end to racial injustice we pray. Frustrate all prejudices between peoples that are based on ethnic origin or skin color. Unite into one body politic all who share this land. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

We praise You, O God, for all the saints of the whole church from all times and places who have died in the faith, for the martyrs, for the leaders in the struggle for civil rights, for the victims of COVID-19, and for all those dear to us. Bring us at the end with all Your saints into Your everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from Your love, we offer these prayers to You; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C. Amen.

OFFERING

If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website (www.bethelofporter.com).

SHARING THE PEACE

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P. Gracious God,
C. You open Your hand, filling our lives with all good things and renewing the face of the earth. We offer our gifts in thanksgiving for all that we have received from Your bounty. Accept them for the sake of Him who offered His life for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

✠ MEAL ✠

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P. The Lord be with you.
C. And also with you.
P. Lift up your hearts.
C. We lift them to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P. You are indeed holy, Almighty and merciful God;
You so loved the world that You gave Your only Son,
that whoever believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life.
Having come into the world, Jesus reached out
to heal the sick and the suffering,
preached good news to the poor,
and on the cross accomplished our salvation.
C. Amen.
P. 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.
Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes:
C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P. Send now Your Holy Spirit upon us and this meal:
anoint us with Your gifts of faith, hope and love,
that, with thankful hearts, we may be witnesses to Your Son.
Through Him all glory and honor is Yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in Your holy Church, both now and forever.

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
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P. The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P. We give you thanks, faithful God, for feeding us with this one heavenly food. Transform us through this meal into the likeness of Your Son, and unite us in love for one another, that we may be Your body in the world; in Jesus' name we pray.

C. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

P. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. May you be rooted and grounded in His love.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen

DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Those who Serve:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering: During this period of suspended in-person worship services, Bethel and Hemnes continue to have recurring expenses. Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>



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