



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship for streaming service during COVID-19

August 9, 2020

9:30 am



about today's service

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.

P: Presiding Minister C: Congregation L: Lector

+ Gathering +

We gather together to praise God and receive God's love.

Welcome Pastor Liz Frey

Gathering Music "My Lighthouse"
FaithX (pre-recorded)

Announcements Pastor Liz Frey

Confession and Forgiveness Pastor Liz Frey

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me" PILOT

1. Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life's tempestuous sea; unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock and treacherous shoal; chart and compass come from thee. Jesus, Savior, pilot me.
2. As a mother stills her child, thou canst hush the ocean wild; boisterous waves obey thy will when thou say'st to them: "Be still. "Wondrous sovereign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

3. When at last I near the shore, and the fearful breakers roar, twixt me and the peaceful rest, then, while leaning on thy breast, may I hear thee say to me:

"Fear not, I will pilot thee." Text: Edward Hopper, 1818-1888
(pre-recorded)

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

Prayer of the Day Pastor Liz Frey
P: Let us pray. 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 Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ Word +

We listen to the story of God's mighty acts for the sake of God's people.

Children's Message Amy Koch, Faith Formation

Solo: "Tis So Sweet/He Hideth My Soul" Mark Hayes
Christyan Seay, soloist

Reading: Romans 10:4-15 John Artevich Jr

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.

⁴For Christ is the end of the law so that there is righteousness for everyone who believes. ⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But 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). ⁸But 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); ⁹because 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. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "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? ¹⁵And 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!"

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation Pastor Liz Frey

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 14th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33 Pastor Liz Frey

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 the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

²²[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.²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When

evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But 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." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Liz Frey

Series theme:

"Uncomfortable: How far are you willing to follow Jesus?"

Weekly sermon title: *"The Law Is The Law...Or Is It?"*

Solo: "It is Well with My Soul" Joseph Martin
Christyan Seay, soloist

Prayers of the Church Nancy Martin

Lord's Prayer Pastor Liz Frey

P: Let us pray the prayer our Lord taught us.

C: 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 deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Passing of Peace Pastor Liz Frey

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

+ Meal +

When we celebrate communion we remember that Jesus died for us and we experience His love and forgiveness. As we eat the bread and wine Christ is present with us.

Eucharistic Prayer Pastor Liz Frey

P: Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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.

P: Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

P: Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. Amen

+ Sending +

We have heard the Word of God and offered our gifts. Now we are sent out, strengthened by the Holy Spirit to be God's people in the world.

Blessing

Pastor Liz Frey

P: The Lord be near you at all times, the Lord walk beside you so that you will not be troubled, the Lord fill your hearts with gladness, and your mouth with joyful song; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, † the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Pastor Liz Frey

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Song: "Jailbreak"

FaithX (pre-recorded)

United and empowered to worship, connect, serve.

worship leaders

Presiding & Preaching Minister: The Rev. Elizabeth E. Frey

Assisting Minister: Nancy Martin

Children's Message: Amy Koch, Faith Formation

Music: H. Timothy Koch, Debbie D Wilson

Audio Visual: Jon Lobaugh, Steve Kauffman

Bulletin Production: Steve Kauffman

Bulletin Artwork: Trinity Staff

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The Law Is the Law – Or Is It?

The Reverend Elizabeth E. Frey

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Well, I've done this before so I think I can do it again. Can I confess something to all of you? Sharing my faith in a public way makes me feel uncomfortable. You're probably thinking, "Pastor Liz, you're standing up today preaching. That's public. And this sermon is being livestreamed. On the internet. That's public." Yes, but hear me out: I'm talking about

my everyday life. My life away from the church. You see I've been thinking about this a lot.

A couple of weeks ago, I wore an Eagles hat during a children's message. If you recall, I asked the kids to think about what they love to talk about. For me, it's the Philadelphia Eagles hence the hat and all things Harry Potter. I also asked the kids to ponder this question: Am I willing to talk about Jesus like I talk about those other things? And honestly, even I struggle to talk about Jesus in my everyday life, friends.

I've also been thinking about social media and its role in sharing the love of God with the world. Think about it: it's so easy to see something that we like or something that inspires us and click "share." What are the things that dominant your Facebook or Instagram or other platforms of social media? Because as I scroll through my Facebook profile or my Instagram stories, much like my children's message: it's the Eagles, pictures of Kyle and I hiking or fishing, and the occasional Harry Potter reference. Why is it so easy to talk about those things on social media, but not Jesus? Why is it so easy to avoid conversations of faith in our everyday lives?

In our reading from Romans today, Paul tells his friends in Rome: "For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved... For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." Friends, we have been given this amazing thing from God. God has saved us from our sin. God has showed us abundant love. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are okay with God. God has made our relationship with God right.

On top of that good news, there is more. This amazing gift is for all people. No matter who we are. No matter where we come from. No matter what we do. This amazing gift from God is for me. It's for you. It's for every person. No. Matter. What.

How does that feel, friends? How does it feel to know that you have received the grace of God? What does it feel like to hear that gospel message and believe it in your heart? Is it freeing? Does it feel like a weight off your shoulders?

It's amazing. We've been given this gift from God; don't you want that for someone else? If this is a message for all people, we are called to make sure all people know it. Or in Paul's words: "But 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 [God]? And how are they to proclaim [God] unless they are sent?"

Or I love how the Message translation proclaims these verses: "But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it?"

Friends, we have been given this amazing gift and our world needs us to share it! But there are moments that we hold onto this gift from God too tightly. Sometimes, it seems that this gift is our best kept secret. Or maybe we just feel uncomfortable sharing the gospel in our everyday lives. But friends, our world is broken. It is hurting. There are so many harmful messages out there. Our world is in deep need, a deep need for the grace of God.

About a year or so ago, a friend of mine from high school posted a story on Facebook. He was at the gym (not too far from Camp Hill, in central Pennsylvania), lifting weights and listening to music when a man approached him. This man said some awful things to him. This man used his faith to attack my friend, claiming that God could never love someone who dresses like him or acts like him or loves like him. Reading this story broke my heart,

and friends, it breaks God's heart as well. So, I had to say something; I had to talk about Jesus and my faith in who God is. I clicked "comment" on the post and publicly, reassured my friend – and anyone else who might need to know - that God did love him, that God created him just the way he was, and that God delights in seeing him be true to who he was created to be, filling the world with love and light just as Jesus calls us all to do.

Friends, God calls us to shout the gospel message as much as we can. God calls us to give out as much of God's love as we can. God calls us to share God's grace as much as we can. God's love and God's grace are not limited resources. The more we share the gospel the more God's grace and God's love grows.

There are so many people in this world who don't know how awesome God is. There are so many people who don't know what it feels like to know that God loves them. There are so many people who don't know what God's grace feels like. Remember thinking about that free feeling? Remember what it feels like to hear the gospel and believe it in your heart? Don't you want that for someone else?

You have been given this gift. You don't have to pay God back. It's free and it is freeing. You are loved by God. No matter what.

Hearing that message probably changed your life. I wonder... Might God be calling us to change someone else's?

Amen.

Don't just listen to the Sermon...Ponder how you can live it!

Use these questions as a starting point to dive deeper into the sermon each week. Can be used individually, with family and friends, or with your Life-group!

1. Think of your experience of God's grace. How does it feel to know you have been given this free gift from God?
2. What words would you use to describe God's grace?
3. How do you feel about sharing your experience of God with others?
4. Can you think of a moment in your life when you could have shared your experience of God with someone else? Did you? What happened?