



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship for streaming service during COVID-19

August 23, 2020

9:30 am



about today's service

Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

P: Presiding Minister C: Congregation L: Lector

+ Gathering +

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

Welcome Pastor Jack Horner

Gathering music "Earth and All Stars" Mark Albrecht
Sara Lobaugh, flute

Announcements Pastor Jack Horner

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor Jack Horner

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: "The Church's One Foundation" AURELIA
(vs. 1,2,4,5)

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she is his new creation by water and the word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

- Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth: one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace endowed.
- Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore; till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
- Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won. Oh, blessed heavenly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace, that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900

(video)

Greeting Pastor Jack Horner

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 Jack Horner

P: Let us pray. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Song: "Oh How Good It Is"

FaithX (pre-recorded)

Children's Message

Kelly Falck, Faith Formation

+ Word +

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

Reading: Romans 12:1-8

James Fox

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in

generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Pastor Liz Frey

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: *Matthew 16:13-20*

Pastor Liz Frey

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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: *"Be All You Can Be"*

Solo: "Holy is Your Name"

David Haas

Chris Mirocco, soloist

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Jack Horner

Lord's Prayer

Pastor Jack Horner

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 Jack Horner

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 Jack Horner

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 of Communion to the Homebound

Pastor Jack Horner

P: Compassionate God, we are all homebound during this time. Bless those who receive your word and sacrament at home. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Pastor Jack Horner

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 Jack Horner

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Song "Firm Foundation"

Traditional

United and empowered to worship, connect, serve.

worship leaders

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Dr. Jack M. Horner

Preacher: The Rev. Elizabeth E. Frey

Children's Message: Kelly Falck, Faith Formation

Music: H. Timothy Koch, Debbie D Wilson

Audio Visual: Jon Lobaugh, Daniel Andrews

Bulletin Production: Steve Kauffman

Bulletin Artwork: Trinity Staff

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

"Be All You Can Be"

The Reverend Elizabeth E. Frey

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

As I talked about many times, I was part of a very church-involved family. Church attendance and volunteering were a regular part of my family's life as my brother and I grew up. And this was because my parents made their faith in Jesus and service to the church their top priority. Sure, we were sitting in the second row every Sunday morning, but my parents modeled the value that church was about more than just coming to worship. Church was more than just prayer, song, sitting, kneeling, and standing in the sanctuary every Sunday. My parents modeled committed, faithful "living sacrifice" to God.

In our reading from Romans today, Paul uses this "living sacrifice" language. Paul writes: "I appeal to you therefore, friends, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice." What does that mean? Paul was writing this letter to a group of folks that understood sacrifice as worship to God. Recall animal sacrifice in the temple that we read about in the Old Testament. What Paul is doing here is recreating this idea of worship; instead of slaughtered animals sacrificed on an altar, Paul is thinking of physical sacrifice that is still living, that is human sacrifice that is still alive.

Worship takes the form of service, of using our bodies to serve God and neighbor. Paul wants the Romans and us to expand our idea of what worship looks like. As I was thinking of this scripture this week, I started thinking about how we talk about worship. In normal times, we would gather for a worship service. Hmm... when we serve, we worship God. Service equals worship. Worship can be – and in Paul's mind should be – more than just sitting, standing, kneeling, praying, and singing on Sunday morning.

So why is Paul urging his fellow Christ followers in Rome to be living sacrifices to God, to use their bodies in service to worship God? Because Paul was also writing to a church within conflict and tension, a church in a crisis. Paul was writing to a Roman church made up of Christ following Jews and Gentiles, and because this church was diverse and expansive, there was tension between these groups. There was some division. Sound familiar? Conflict and division between different groups of people?

You see years earlier, in the 40s, the Jewish population was expelled from Rome by the Roman leader Claudius. Then, some years later, when Claudius had died, the Jewish community was able to return to Rome, only to find a growing Gentile church there. These groups historically butted heads: there was tension between them. So, in part, Paul was addressing this tension, seeking to bring these Christ followers of different backgrounds together. He was writing a letter to a church that really needed some conflict resolution skills and maybe some team building exercises. He was writing to a community that needed to be healed, who's hearts and minds needed to be transformed so that God's message could be proclaimed. God's message could be proclaimed when this Roman church came together as one body, serving God with their hearts, minds, and bodies.

In our current context, there are some parallels. The rollercoaster of 2020 has taken us on a ride of deep political divisions, a crisis of health with a pandemic, a national reckoning with racial inequality, and that is just naming the big ones. It's an understatement to say that there is division, tension and crisis going on around us and in us.

So, friends, now more than ever, worship takes new forms. We've learned – by way of the

pandemic and quarantine – that the church is more than a building; the church is actually us, the people who follow Jesus. Worship happens in our living rooms, on our porches, over the phone, and in many more ways. It seems right to start seeing worship to God as service as well. And now more than ever, in the middle of a pandemic and national political division, our world needs us to the church. Our world needs us to model Christian behavior: behavior that goes beyond political divisiveness, practices love of neighbor, and recognizes us as one body.

Paul uses this analogy of one body to underscore the importance of living sacrifice. Much like he says in his letter to the Corinthians, he also says to the Romans: “For as in one body, we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.” I love that: “we are members one of another.”

We need one another. Or – and not to sound cliché, but - “we’re all in this together,” as the Disney Channel classic High School Musical teaches us. Or far more profoundly put by Martin Luther King, Jr.: “We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the way God’s universe is made; this is the way it is structured.” When you are all you can be, the church can be all it is called to be.

And so, that takes us to the final part of this letter to the Romans. We are all given gifts of service from God so that the body of Christ is united and works together for the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us talk about these gifts Paul writes about because I know each of you has a few of them.

First, prophecy: now friends, Paul does not mean predicting the future here. Paul is talking about prophetic preaching, preaching that speaks into the moment and addresses what is happening and what the gospel might say about it. Ministry: taking care of the practical needs of the church. I see this as a variety of gifts: serving as a member of altar care, greeting folks coming into Trinity, serving food for Garden of Eatin.’ Teaching: teaching others about the Bible and love of Jesus. This is leading a faith formation class for adults or

kids. Exhortation: encouraging others in following Jesus and being a part of the body of Christ. We all can do that. Giving: sharing our possessions and money generously in support of the gospel. Leadership: being a member of council or leading a ministry team. And compassion: caring for others. Making phone calls to our homebound members and in normal times, taking communion to them or visiting those in the hospital. Serving at the food pantry or tutoring kids. Serving God by showing kindness and respect.

Friends, for this thing called the body of Christ to work, we have all got to play our part. God does not leave us hanging. God gives us the gifts to meet the moment. God gives us all gifts for the body of Christ to function as one, together. You are called to be all you can be so that the church can be all it is called to be. Pray on it. Give me a call. I would love to talk to you about how God might be calling you to be a part of the church.

I have said all of this to echo something I said a few weeks ago. Your life has changed as a result of receiving the grace and love of God. And so, I appeal to you to offer up your bodies to God in response to what God has done for you. I appeal to you to consider how much God has given you, to contemplate how God has changed you. I appeal to you to offer up your bodies in service to the one who offered up his body for you. 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. Who in your life models/modeled service to God, the church, and neighbor to you?
2. Where have you experienced the church as one body: “as members one of another?”
3. How is God calling you to be a part of the body of Christ in an authentic and practical way? Discern and pray about your gifts for serving God, the church and your neighbors. The ELCA has put together this gifts assessment that might aid you in your discernment:
<https://www.elca.org/our-work/congregations-and-synods/faith-practices/spiritual-renewal/assessment-tools>. Additionally, Pastor

Liz would love to talk to you about how you might serve in new ways. Her door is always open for conversation about volunteering and service.