

# PENTECOST 21

October 14, 2018 5:00 PM

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☞ Blessed be the ✝ holy Trinity, the One who fashions us, the One who heals us, the One God who reforms us again and again.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

*Silence for reflection and self examination.*

☞ Source of all life,

☞ **we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.**

☞ God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ✝ God's love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

☞ **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

#### GREETING

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

☞ **And also with you.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

### Fat Camels and Narrow Needles: Only Possible for God

A rich man approaches Jesus and asks how to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him to sell what he owns, give the money to the poor, and follow. Jesus will accept nothing less than our very selves. Like the rich man, we too are left defenseless and grieving by Jesus' radical call to leave behind and give away what we count on for our own security. He wants us, and therefore also wants the things that keep us from him; he gazes upon us in love, even as he calls us to leave behind our false sources of security. How hard it is for us camels to pass through the eye of the needle! We too grieve at the impossibility. It is in fact impossible for us, yet more than possible for God to make it so. For we have a "great high priest who has passed through the heavens, the Son of God," who is both able to sympathize with our great weakness but also to provide mercy and help. While eternal life on the other side of the needle is a free gift that only God can give, it is a gift that claims the entirety of our lives and therefore reshapes our stewardship of whatever earthly goods we do have. For first and foremost we are called to follow the Christ who gazes upon us in love. Since we are his, following him we will enter through the eye of the needle, leaving behind what cannot fit through with us. In doing so we are promised that we will gain everything: a hundredfold more in this life in a new community under the Cross, "and in the age to come eternal life" (Mark 10:30).

☩ Amen.

**FIRST READING: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15**

*Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. <sup>7</sup>Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! <sup>10</sup>They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. <sup>11</sup>Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. <sup>12</sup>For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. <sup>13</sup>Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. <sup>14</sup>Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. <sup>15</sup>Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

☩ The Word of the Lord! ☩ Thanks be to God!

**PSALM 90:12-17 (read responsively)**

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.  
<sup>13</sup>**Return, O LORD; how long will you tarry?**  
**Be gracious to your servants.**  
<sup>14</sup>Satisfy us by your steadfast love in the morning;  
so shall we rejoice and be glad all our days.  
<sup>15</sup>**Make us glad as many days as you afflicted us**  
**and as many years as we suffered adversity.**  
<sup>16</sup>Show your servants your works,  
and your splendor to their children.  
<sup>17</sup>**May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us;**  
**prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

**HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:17-31**

☩ The Gospel according to Mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Chapter ☩ Glory to you, O Lord

*Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.*

<sup>17</sup>As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked

**speaking a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ,  
our rock and our redeemer. Amen**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

☩ Holy and compassionate God,  
☩ **in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous.**  
**May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might  
speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ,  
our rock and our redeemer. Amen**

**BENEDICTION**

☩ God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of  
the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the  
church: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
☩ Amen.

**THE DISMISSAL**

☩ Go in peace and serve the Lord.  
☩ **We Will! Thanks be to God!**

- ☐ 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 him thanks and praise.**

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

- ☐ Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us all to pray:
- ☑ **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.**

**THE DISTRIBUTION**

**THE BLESSING**

- ☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- ☑ **Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

- ☐ Holy and compassionate God,
- ☑ **in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous.  
May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might**

him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”<sup>18</sup> Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.<sup>19</sup> You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’”<sup>20</sup> He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.”<sup>21</sup> Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”<sup>22</sup> When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”<sup>24</sup> And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!<sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”<sup>26</sup> They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?”<sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

<sup>28</sup>Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.”<sup>29</sup> Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news,<sup>30</sup> who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.<sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

- ☐ The Gospel of the Lord. ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

*Pastor Layne Nelson*

**THE PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE** (Lord in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer**)

**NINTH GRADE FAITH STATEMENTS**

*Sadie Wood  
Brandon Wynthein*

**WE SHARE GOD’S PEACE**

- ☐ Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace.
- ☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**