

# Ascension Lutheran Church

Third Sunday after Pentecost ..... June 21, 2020

**Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!**

*God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.*

## **PRELUDE**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
full of compassion and mercy,  
abounding in steadfast love.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence for reflection.*

Eternal God our creator,  
**in you we live and move and have our being.**  
**Look upon us, your children,**  
**the work of your hands.**  
**Forgive us all our offenses,**  
**and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.**  
**By your grace draw us near to you,**  
**our refuge and our strength;**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

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, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives you all your sins.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13**

*Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.*

<sup>7</sup>O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed;  
you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"  
For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,"  
then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones;  
I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him."

<sup>11</sup>But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup>O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

<sup>13</sup>Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 69:7-18**

*Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind. (Ps. 69:16)*

<sup>7</sup>Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face.

<sup>8</sup>I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children.

<sup>9</sup>Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

<sup>10</sup>I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach.

<sup>11</sup>I put on sackcloth also, and became a byword among them.

<sup>12</sup>Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,  
and the drunkards make songs about me.

<sup>13</sup>But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD:

“In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.

<sup>14</sup>Save me from the mire; do not let me sink;

let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.

<sup>15</sup>Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up;  
do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.

<sup>16</sup>Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me.

<sup>17</sup>Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.

<sup>18</sup>Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.

## **SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11**

*In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.*

<sup>1b</sup>Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39**

*Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the tenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>24</sup>“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; <sup>25</sup>it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. <sup>27</sup>What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. <sup>28</sup>Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

<sup>34</sup>“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

<sup>35</sup>For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

<sup>36</sup>and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

<sup>37</sup>Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; <sup>38</sup>and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. <sup>39</sup>Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** ..... The Rev. Christina Auch

**HYMN #802** ..... **“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”**

## APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.  
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was  
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence before the petitions are prayed.*

Expansive God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another, that differences might not overshadow our baptismal unity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Providing God, your creation shows us that life comes from death. Renew the places where our land, air, and waterways have been ill for too long. Direct the work of all who care for birds and their habitats. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Protecting God, sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world. Revive and strengthen organizations dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you promise to be with all who are persecuted for your sake. Guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted for being who they are. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you are with us and we are never alone. Comfort those who are experiencing illness or grief. Bring wholeness and healing to all who are suffering. We pray especially for those we name aloud now or silently in our hearts...

**Grant** Adcock (Bob and Vickie Jones' grandson), **Kathy** Backof (Donna Lilly's friend), **Dan** Birch (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Carolyn** Blitz (Bill Bridges' friend), **Kathy** Bradley (friend of Bill Bridges), **Chris** Carman (Judy Bridges' friend), **Betty** Connor (Karen Hubbard's friend), **Edna** Cooper (Bill Bridges Aunt), **Joan** Craig (Clarann Schiavo's friend), **The Davenport Family** (Dave and Priscilla Williams' friend), **Charles and Mary** Degree (Karen Long's friends); **Gloria** Dellinger (Greg Blalock's aunt), **Ann** Fitzsimmons (Steve and Jenny White's friend), **Mike** Greene (Gail Sherman's friend), **Markye and Carl** Greenwald (DeBells' friends), **Chris** Huffstetler (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Michael** Huntsinger (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Patti** Jenkins (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Steve** Jolly (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mark** Kent (Majorie Olsen's son), **Becky and George** Kraft (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Jim** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Kevin** Lilly (Vicky Galloway's 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin), **Anne** Lyerly (Rose Cook's sister-in-law), **Eva** McCombs (Sandra Waldrop's mother), **Jameson** McGill (Pastor Christina's friends' son), **Bernice** McDaniels (Dean Davis' daughter), **Janice** McGoven (Eleanor Hendricks' sister), **Charlotte** Morin (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Teresa** Olsen (Marjorie Olsen's daughter-in-law), **Bob** Patzer (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Margaret** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's mother), **Tommy** Price (Edith Kelly's nephew), **Beth** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Harold** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Lori** Rosamond (Pastor Christina's stepsister), **Pastor Eric** Sellers (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Jan** Tucker (Ozark bank employee), **Pam** Unger (Willi and Ray Lacy's friend), **The Vonbehren Family** (Barbara Davis' cousins), **Molly and Darryl** Waterstraat (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Alfie** Welch (Renee Buchanan's brother), **Eric** West (Bob and Vickie Jones' son-in-law), **Christopher** Willever (David Williams' grandson), **Mary Ann** Woolley (Sandra Waldrop's aunt), **John Paul** Wolff (Willi and Ray Lacy's friend), **Denise and Savannah** Yount (Sandra Waldrop's friends)

**Members:** **Dean** Davis, **Lin** Washburn, **Dot** Paul, **Bob** Bryant, **William** Coyne, **Jim** Wilson, **Steve** Eckard, **Sandy** Harman, **Bobbie** Johnson, **Bobby** Jones, **Marjorie** Olsen, **Gerald** Washburn

**Those Awaiting Arrival of Children:** Emma and Patrick Budzinski (Greg and Chrystal Blalock's daughter and son-in-law); Kristen and Becca Gillespie (Joanna Gillespie's daughter and daughter-in-law)

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, your steadfast love and faithfulness sustain your people. Bless fathers and all father figures with such love and faithfulness that children flourish and grow in uprightness and joy. Bless those who long to be fathers and those for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God.  
**Your mercy is great.**

Reigning God, you bless us with guides and caretakers in the faith. As we give thanks for those who have died, increase our care for one another until we walk with them in newness of life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace on video or say: "Peace be with you" from wherever you are or type it in the chat or comments.*

**OFFERING**

*Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.*

*Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.*

*Or mail your regular tithe or offering to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.*

**OFFERTORY** .....

**"Doxology"**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

O God of justice and love,  
we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.  
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,  
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### **BLESSING**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

### **HYMN #661**

**"I Love to Tell the Story"**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God**

### **POSTLUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Coronavirus Response:** All face to face, in person gatherings at Ascension are canceled at this time.

**Prayer Concerns:** Please call or email the office or text Pastor Christina at 704-472-7783 to update prayer requests. You may leave a voicemail but please provide the spelling of any names, and your relationship to the person being prayed for.

**Please continue your tithes and offerings.** Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.

Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

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## **Ascension Lutheran Church**

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