

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
GOD'S TIME IN OUR TIME
Reverend John R. Hanson
June 26, 2022, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

J. Hanson, Musician

INTRODUCTION

It is not enough to resist evil. It is not enough to not do what is destructive or harmful. It is not enough to avoid what we consider to be sin. For our world to change, for real transformation to happen, for life to be the abundant, beautiful, joyful experience that God created it to be we must embrace, proclaim, and live what is good, what is creative, and what is healing. This is a central and persistent call of the Gospel.

WELCOME AND VERSE - From Psalm 16

Come, bless the Lord, in whom we find our refuge and safety.

You are our God; all the good things come from you alone.

Come, bless the Lord, who gives us a rich inheritance and surrounds us with abundance.

You are our God; our lives are in your hands.

Come, bless the Lord, who guides us on the path to eternal life, whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

You are our God; we will not be shaken. We worship you together!

HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Green # 561

For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:

For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild:

For yourself, best gift divine, to the world so freely given;
Agent of God's grand design, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

CCLI Song # 43200 CCLI License # 1713417

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION God is good. **All the time.**

GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62

Jesus is unwavering in his commitment to his mission in Jerusalem and will not be swayed by pettiness. In a series of striking cases in point, he calls his disciples to a similar single-mindedness.

⁵¹When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵²And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you

wherever you go." ⁵⁸And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶²Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

God is good!

HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Green # 561

For yourself, best gift divine, to the world so freely given;
Agent of God's grand design, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather together to worship in the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us take this time to be honest with God.

Almighty and loving God, you set us out on the path of life free, yet we enslave ourselves with self-indulgence. You place us in a pleasant land with all that we need, and we run after gods of our own making. You give to us the good heritage of our salvation, yet we choose the works of the flesh over the fruit of the Spirit. Call again to us, Lord, so we may turn from our sins. Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we know in our heart. Save us, Lord, from the sins we hide. For all these, Lord, we are deeply sorry.

God does call us to new life in the salvation brought to us by Jesus Christ. Because of Christ our sins are forgiven, our path is made again clear, we can still hear the call to follow, and we ourselves may again bear the fruit of the Spirit.

In the name of the Father, and the Son + and the Holy Spirit. Amen

WELCOME

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**
**O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life. Amen.**

READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

For Paul, the freedom Christ gives is not permission to do whatever we want. It is the invitation to be what we could not be otherwise. The power and guidance of Christ's Holy Spirit produce a different kind of life, one marked by the fruit of this Holy Spirit.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as

I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²²By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

HYMN

“Make Me a Captive, Lord”

TUNE Green # 170

Make me a captive, Lord, and then I shall be free.
Force me to render up my sword, and I shall a conqueror be.
I sink in life's alarms when by myself I stand;
Imprison me within thine arms and strong shall be my hand.

My heart is weak and poor until its master find;
It has no spring of action sure, it varies with the wind.
It cannot freely move till thou hast wrought its chain;
Enslave it with thy matchless love and deathless it shall reign.

My power is faint and low till I have learned to serve;
It lacks the needed fire to glow, it lacks the breeze to nerve.
It cannot drive the world until itself be driven;
Its flag can only be unfurled when thou shalt breathe from heaven.

SERMON

HYMN

“Here I am, Lord”

Blue # 752

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin, my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

***Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.***

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have born my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them, they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide, Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / THE LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we go from here, we remember: God is always with us. No matter what we face, no matter what trials or hardships come our way, God is right beside us, guiding and directing our path. So we do not live in fear but in joy, celebrating Christ's forgiveness, strengthened by his meal, trusting in his presence and singing God's praise. Amen.

BENEDICTION & SENDING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace.

May we do God's work!

Scripture portions are reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2012 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Worship, as an action, continues to change.

Use this space to guide your thoughts as the Spirit may lead you.

Use this time to center your distractions in order to help activate your worship.

The journey into living the values of God's Reign continues. In the last few weeks we have recognized our need for forgiveness and God's resources, and we have confronted the ways that evil works in our world. This week the focus shifts to God's call for us to embrace the positive power of God's reign, and the difference it makes in the world. In Galatians, Paul contrasts the destructive ways of evil and sin with the life-giving fruit of God's Spirit. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus urgently calls all people to follow him and to live and proclaim God's reign immediately – not as some after-death hope, but as a world changing reality that we can experience and share now, right where we are.

The work of justice, of standing against evil (the *via negativa*) can sometimes leave us feeling cynical and can cause us to embrace expediency as we work for goodness – believing that in the face of evil, we sometimes need to use evil means to achieve good ends. This week, we are called to a higher standard of affirming God's goodness, grace, salvation and reign in our world, even in the midst of evil and suffering. This means that there is a need for voices that will call us all to appreciation and protection of goodness. In the corridors of power, good people need to stand for what is good – not partisan, expedient or “not bad”. In every community and every situation good people need to work to protect and proclaim what is good – natural wonders, our environment, places of hard work and great contribution to the world, places of healing and of caring for others.

It is not just money that these people and organizations need. It is affirmation, support and recognition. It is a celebration of the good that is being done. And it is partnerships with others who will stand together to raise up goodness and demonstrate its life-giving power.

As Christians we are too often known for what we stand against, for the way we label all sorts of things as sin, just because we're afraid or we don't understand. Too often we rage against the darkness, instead of responding to God's call to simply shine a light where we can. In what ways have you and your community fallen into this trap? How can you begin to be those who search out goodness wherever you may find it, whoever may be doing it, and celebrate it, acknowledge it, support and partner with it? How can you begin to be known for the goodness you stand for, rather than the badness you stand against? How can you hear God's call to be light, to live and proclaim God's life-giving reign (the paths of life), and to raise up the power of goodness in your church and community?

John van de Laar at sacredise.com