Worship in the Home

Sunday after Pentecost





"Come...Be a Part of Peace!"

2600 Atlantic Avenue, Fernandina Beach FL 32034 904.261.6306 www.poplcweb.org

August 1, 2021

In this time of world-wide crisis, we are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ. While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Use this resource as an aid for prayer in the home. As with our prayers in the gathered assembly for worship.



Set out and light a candle and you may wish to have a bowl of water as a reminder of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

CONFESSIONG AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Kneel, sit or stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

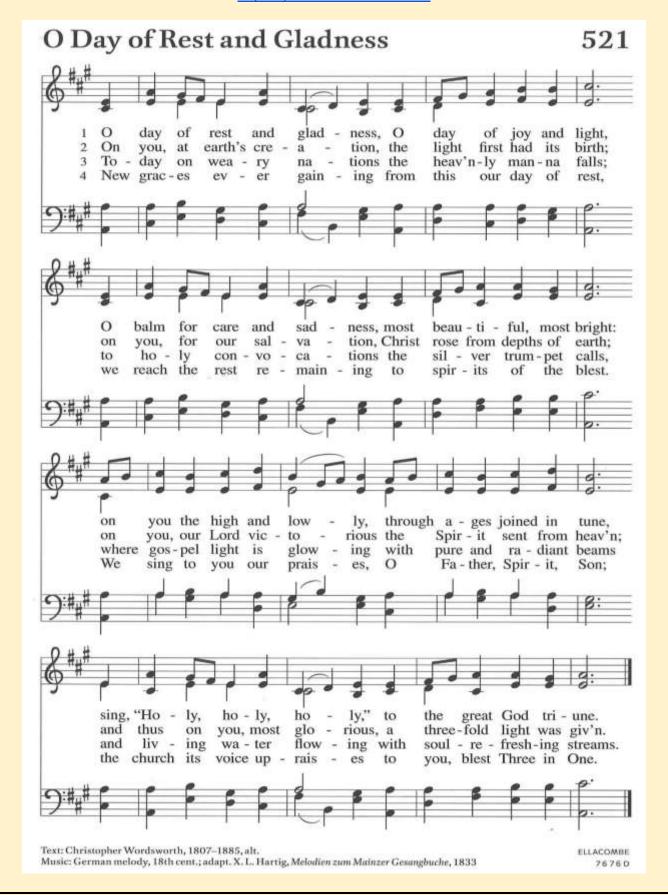
In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

DEVOTIONAL MUSIC

Click the following link for audio presentation – https://youtu.be/Ql6mstdAGrk



KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, And for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY



O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." ⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" ¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 78:23-29

²³So God commanded the [|] clouds above and opened the [|] doors of heaven,



²⁴raining down manna upon | them to eat and giving them | grain from heaven.

²⁵So mortals ate the [|] bread of angels; God provided for them [|] food enough.

²⁶The LORD caused the east wind to blow | in the heavens and powerfully led out | the south wind,

²⁷raining down flesh upon | them like dust and flying birds like the sand | of the seas,

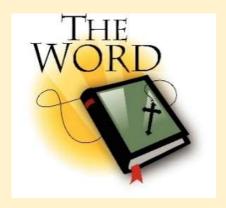
²⁸letting them fall in the midst | of the camp and round a- | bout the dwellings.

²⁹So the people ate and | were well filled, for God gave them | what they craved.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-16

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love. ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. 7But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." 9(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and from and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



GOSPEL: John 6:24-35

The holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat." 32Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." 35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**



SERMON—Pastor Ida Iverson

"WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?"

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

For some reason when the lectionary was put into place, we have a run of lessons with Jesus talking about how he is bread, today he says that he is the bread of life. I remember the very first time I came across the series and the first week because I could preach about Holy Communion and how we are fed and nourished at the table. Then the next week, it was alright because I had more that I could say about it being so essential to whom we are as Christians and Lutherans. Well, needless to say, when I discovered the third and fourth and fifth week again having to do with bread, I began to panic. So, after twenty-two years, I have learned to look at the other lessons as well and how they speak to how we see Jesus in our lives.

This week the title of my sermon for those who do not have a printed copy is: "What Are We Looking for?" After all, isn't that what Jesus is saying to those who followed him and the disciples to the other side of the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum?

After all, the evening before he had filled their bellies from just five loaves of barley, bread, and two fish. They had a restful night of sleep, and they woke up hungry expecting Jesus to be there to provide them with another meal. Except Jesus wasn't there and neither were his disciples. So, instead of heading back home, they got in boats and headed off to Capernaum to find Jesus and his disciples...could we say, looking for another meal?

I can just picture Jesus, shaking his head, rolling his eyes and the wheels spinning as he thinks back to the Israelites complaining to Moses that they would have been better off in Egypt as slaves of the pharaoh where they had stew and plenty of bread to sop-up the gravy. Oh, yes it was so much better back then. I could almost picture Moses and Aaron too shaking their heads, rolling their eyes and the wheels spinning with disbelief at what the people forgot about their time in Egypt and how God had led them out of Egypt and through the Red Sea.

What are <u>we</u> looking for? Are we looking back and thinking it was so much easier during a different time of our lives? Are we looking for quick fixes? How many of

us stand by the microwave and think, why is this taking so long? Are we like the Israelites forgetting where they had come from or the crowd going across the Sea of Galilee asking Jesus why he had left them to fend for themselves? What are we looking for? When is enough, enough?

On Tuesday morning when I met with Pastor Mike and Tom, we talked a bit about what it is that we need compared to what we think we need and what we already have. I really have gotten to the point in my life where unless something is broken or worn out, I do not buy a lot. I have the essentials and I doubt that I will ever run out of dishes or pots and pans, glasses, stemware, furniture, bedding...well you get the idea. Then I look around and think who is going to want all this stuff I have when I die?

What am I looking for? Is there anything that I need that I do not already have? Then as I read the lessons for today, I keep seeing how easy it is to forget. Forget that we have so much, and for most of us here, more than we need.

Jesus tells the people not to work for that which will perish, but for what gives eternal life. He is telling them God has already given them what they truly need through him, just as it was God, not Moses or Aaron, that provided for the Israelites in the wilderness. Yes, it was God that provided what cannot be earned or bought. When Paul writes to the Ephesians, he explains how all are given a calling, and we are to work together in those callings to bring unity, caring, love and faith to those around us. Paul too is emphasizing that God gives to us all we need and the ability to share with others by living out our callings – whatever that calling may be. To me, some days it feels like we have this narrow path that we are walking on, but there are other paths that lead off from it that distracts us from the calling we have been given.

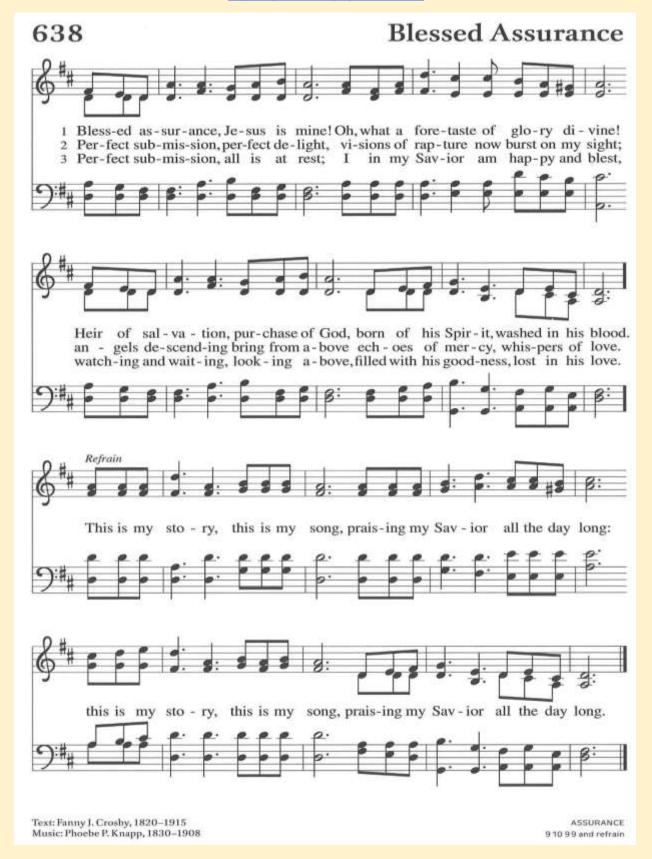
Oh, I know most of you who are reading this or listening to me are saying to yourselves; "I'm too old, I've done my part, I don't need to hear this again." Except, it does not matter how old we are, we are always in need of reminders that all we have comes from God and that includes the saving grace of Jesus Christ, who not only provided food to quell physical hunger for multitudes, but food for the soul that gives to us eternal life. Remember, we come into this world empty handed, and we will leave this world empty handed. Then as we gather in this place and the millions of others around the world in places just like this, we are invited to come to the table empty handed...yet we leave after receiving the greatest gift of a meal ever given to the world, Jesus Christ. A meal that strengthens us, equips us, and sends us out into the world believing in Jesus Christ who God sent into the world to give us life now and for all eternity.

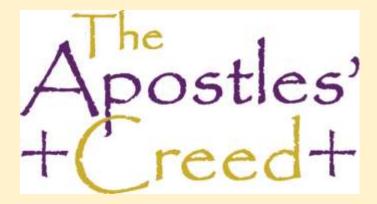
What are we looking for? Funny how we can look in all the wrong places when it is right in front of us in a loaf of bread and a cup of wine that will satisfy our hunger and quench our thirst forever. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Click the following link for audio presentation -

https://youtu.be/yuyf1YQvcwY





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 to the dead. 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 sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You call your church to be the body of Christ. Waken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts, wilderness places, and areas where wildfires are burning. Protect the residents and those rushing in to contain the fires.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill in those who govern patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the will-being of the community, the country and the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. We ask you to especially guard and keep these we name before you either silently or aloud: Martin Iverson, Marsha Woleshin, Kenneth Graviel, Andrew Hermanson, Nick Ivanovic, Baby William, Allan Johnson, Zoia Foster, Donna Cormier, Clay Chaffee, Lucy Creel, Tammy Olive, John Meisburg, Bertha Kelly, Carey Blair, David Dupree, all those who serve in the military, for those under care for the Covid virus

We give thanks for all the prayers you have answered by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Life giving God, you bring the joy of life, be with Diane Elliott, Melody Mandrick as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day with the bread of life until we are gathered with all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet.

Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
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

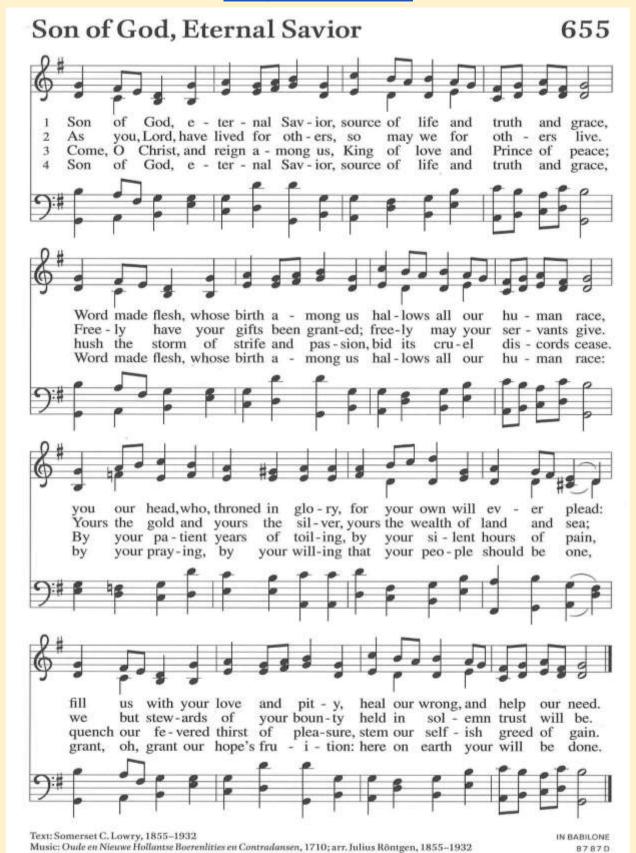
The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**



SENDING HYMN

Click the following link for audio presentation

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Readings of the Week:

Sunday after Pentecost Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15, Ephesians 4::1-16, John 6:24-35

Sunday after Pentecost 1 Kings 19:4-8, Ephesians 4::25—5:2, John 6:35, 41-51

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw

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IN NEED OF PRAYER

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for all the prayers you have heard and answered and the peace you have given, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Osprey Village

Jane Cotner - Room 3106

Savannah Grand

Jo Kruer - Room 332 Mary Jordan- Memory Care Unit

Appalachian Trail

Nick Ivanovic

At Home

Emmy Lou Sorum / Michele Pester / Clay Chaffee / Dorothy Schwager / Orv Lind / Lucy Creel / Blake Carter / Allan Johnson / Carey Blair / Pastor Ida & Marty Iverson / Marsha Woleshin

Family of Katherine Holmberg at her death



Luke Ellison, Army National Guard, Syria (nephew of Mark & Susan Foutz) Lt. Tim Cassel, Coast Guard, Valdez, AK (son of Glen & Norma Beyer) Lt. J.G. Eric Strommel, Kings Bay, Subbase, GA

Components of an Effective Prayer

"A" ADORATION Worship of God, first for who He is, Second for all His benefits

"C" CONFESSION If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive and cleanse us from unrighteousness

"T" THANKSGIVING Gratitude to GOD for His blessings

"S" SUPPLICATION Expressing our petitions to GOD for individual and specific needs and desires

Keeping Our Prayer List Up to Date ...

Call our Church Office to add friends and family to our prayer list.

We often can all use as many prayers as we can get.

