

King of Glory Lutheran Church, Boise, Idaho
15th Sunday of Pentecost
September 10th , 2023
Preacher - Mary Rickerd



GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Today's Scripture readings reveal Jesus' ambitious blueprint for dealing with conflict in the Church, and in daily living with each other. These guidelines are not easy! A challenge: Do we know each other well enough so that we can ask difficult questions and then listen to the answers that will encourage a healthy life in the Gospel?

We start worship understanding that we are here to learn about our Creator, God, and to give thanks for our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and to acknowledge the Holy Spirit who we ask to be among us now. **AMEN**

We welcome those in our balcony watching by Live Stream or a recording. You are important to us and you are a wonderful part of our worship experience.

Please know that you may want to gather a few items for worship, a bulletin from our website, KOGlutheran.org or a lit candle or some celebratory food like wine/juice and some bread, etc for communion later on in this service. We are grateful that you are worshipping with us.

Announcements

Confession

Leader:

We gather here where God would teach us to be more compassionate.

We gather here where Jesus teaches us how to choose forgiveness over holding a grudge.

We gather here where the Spirit imparts wisdom that we learn how to welcome all to this gathering.

Confronted by the law and called to life in the Gospel, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

All:

God of love and community, we confess that we have not loved as you have asked of us.

We look to ourselves to fulfill your law.

We seek to satisfy our own desires.

We turn away from our neighbors and live for ourselves alone. We curse those who cut us off in traffic. We are jealous of those who buy what we cannot afford. We gossip about a good friend. We shout at each other on social media.

Forgive us. Release us from our petty grudges. As your people, empower us to become more loving, merciful, gentle and compassionate. Amen.

Leader:

Love is the fulfillment of the law. In Jesus, God's love for us is made known. Through Jesus our sins are forgiven and we are made whole. As your people we are welcomed into this community of faith, no longer alone. As forgiven people, we claim your words of truth, justice, peace and mercy. We live fully knowing God makes us new. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn - ELW 878 Soli Deo Gloria (*Verses 1, 2, 4, 5*)

Pastoral Greeting

From Psalm 119 we hear these words: God, teach me lessons for living so I can stay the course. Guide me down the road of your commandments; I love traveling this freeway! Affirm your promises to me—preserve my life through your righteous ways! (*The Message*)

Prayer of the Day Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your mercy. Remove far from us everything that is harmful. Lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise - With One Voice, setting 5, "Hymn of Praise"

Ezekiel 33:7-11

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Psalms 119: 33-40

³³Teach me, O Lord, the way ^l of your statutes,
and I shall keep it ^l to the end.

³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall ^l keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with ^l all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of ^l your commandments,
for that is ^l my desire.

³⁶**Incline my heart to ^l your decrees
and not to ^l unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from be- ^l holding falsehood;
give me life ^l in your way.

³⁸**Fulfill your promise ^l to your servant,
which is for ^l those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach ^l that I dread,
because your judg- ^l ments are good.

⁴⁰**Behold, I long for ^l your commandments;
by your righteousness en- ^l liven me.**

Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel Acclamation – ELW #512 "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" (*one time through*)

Matthew 18:15-20

“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW # 720 We are Called (*All 3 verses*)

Creed

We believe in God who is the creator of heaven and earth and all that makes up the universe. God is known to us in the scriptures, in the answers to our prayers and in the joy that we experience in the laughter of a child, in the kindness of a stranger and in the connections with other divine creations.

We believe in Jesus, who was God's gift to us. He taught, healed, listened and showed compassion to all he met. Some people were so afraid of him that they killed him. God conquered death and resurrected Jesus from the dead. Jesus is known to us in the scriptures and through others who teach, heal, listen and show compassion.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who is God among us. The Spirit is known to us in the whispers of messages from God in our ear. The Spirit speaks to us in dreams and in the work of helpers when we are in distress. We can feel the Spirit at work when change is happening in our lives and opportunities arise.

AMEN *(Connie Winter-Eulberg)*

Intercessory Prayer

Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence

Gracious God,

Strengthen and sustain the ministries of the church with wisdom and enthusiasm. Stirred by the Holy Spirit, guide Bishop Elizabeth and Bishop Meggan as leaders in renewing the church.

Unite the ministries of the Treasure Valley cluster congregations for the sake of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbors.

Move this community of faith to see your visions of the future. While we cannot see the future clearly now, we are confident your hand is leading and supporting us.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Creative God,

We give thanks for this fall season with its new beginnings; harvests that feed the hungry and nature's rhythms of change.

Protect and assist all who are recovering and rebuilding in the wake of disasters.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Sovereign God,

You bless us with gifts of reason and perseverance.

We pray for refugees and immigrants. Grant them safe passage and the diligent support of advocates, caring companions, and welcoming communities of faith.

Encourage national, state and local leaders to serve all people with integrity.

Shape within us your love that we may be servants of peace, truth and justice.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Loving God,

Inspire us to fulfill your commandment to love one another, especially those:

Who are going through health problems;

Who lack health care;

Who have suffered from gun violence;

Who live from paycheck to paycheck despite being fully employed.

Remove barriers and heal hurts that have divided families.

May your love break the walls of separation, warm the coldness of isolation and lead to new beginnings for all who are alienated from themselves, from others, and from You.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Welcoming God,

Thank you for this community of faith.

Give us courage to follow your directive to love and care for our neighbors even when they sin against us.

Open our ears to hear what is said.

Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

God of Wisdom, we pray for the desires of our hearts—

Keep five seconds of silence

Into your wide embrace, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

Offering Prayer

Holy God, giver of all good things, receive the gifts we bring, fruit of the earth and the work of human hands that these gifts may be used to your purposes for life and love in the world.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

Honor, praise, glory and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving Creator.

In the beginning you reached your hands into the earth and formed humanity in your own image. You breathed into us your own breath of love and gave us hearts and hands and voices to live your loving purpose in the world.

Seeing the lonely creature of earth, you created a partner so that we would know the joy of community. Through the history of your people, you never abandoned us, but brought us into community with one another and with you, and guided us through your prophets.

In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus, born into a human family and raised in a hometown, who gathered around himself a community formed by your love. Sitting at dinner with friends and knowing that one among them would break the bonds of love, 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. In the same way 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 all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send your Spirit upon this meal, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors that by and through us your love may be known in the world.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive
those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

Invitation to Table: All are invited to receive the bread and wine/juice. Jesus welcomed all. Jesus said, "Take and eat. Take and drink."

For those on Livestream and those with us by viewing the recording, take whatever bread/cracker and wine/juice that you have. Take and eat, this is the gift Jesus gave you. Take and drink, this is the cup of salvation.

Leader: May this meal bless you and keep you in God's grace. **AMEN**

Prayer after Communion

Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others. **Amen.**

Benediction

Travelers on the journey of faith, pay attention!

God is at work all around you.

Go ready to witness the signs of God's love in your midst and to be a sign of God's love wherever you go. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ELW #546 – Be Your Presence (*all verses*)

Dismissal Assisting Minister: God bless your hands and your work that through you God's love may be known. **Thanks be to God.**