

18th Sunday after Pentecost

BERGEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 26, 2021 – 10:30 a.m.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

LITANY OF LEARNING

Today is Rally Sunday. We rally as people of God as we start another year of Sunday School and Confirmation, a year of learning about Jesus. Today we celebrate the greatness of God the creator and God's creation—God created us with minds to learn and God opens our hearts to understand that all learning is for the glory of God. Today we remember that we continue to learn at all ages, not just as young children. So, no matter how old we are, this litany of learning is for us.

We come before you, Lord, to proclaim your greatness. You have given us creation, which is the fruit of your creative brilliance and power. You call us to care for your world and all your creation. Help us to learn about your world so that we can be faithful to our calling.

ALL: We thank you for creation. We praise your name forever!

We promise to use our minds to study your world, to use our eyes, hands, and ears to learn, and to use our mouths to discuss, question, and probe.

ALL: We are wonderfully made! We praise your name forever!

We celebrate ideas, numbers, words, and skills. We celebrate puzzles, paints, and colors. We celebrate imagination, instruments, and enzymes. All of it, Lord, is a part of your world.

ALL: Your world is marvelous! We praise your name forever!

We thank you for teachers who teach about your world. We thank you for students who see the wonder of your world unfold before them as they study. We thank you for books that explain and help us explore the wonders of your world. We thank you for our friends and classmates.

ALL: We praise your name forever!

Help us to learn with joy. Nudge us to set higher goals when learning is easy, to keep on trying when learning is difficult, and to use the full potential you've given each of us.

ALL: Thank you, Lord, that we serve you in our learning. We praise your name forever!

Help us to know that as we age, you will show us where to serve you further, using what we have learned to meet the challenges of your world. Help us to be faithful.

ALL: We praise your name forever!

We thank you, God, for our teachers and students. We support and encourage them in learning.

ALL: Give us a desire to learn.

Give us strength and energy.

Give us a desire to do our very best.

Father, bless our students and teachers!

ALL: We praise your name forever! Amen!

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

INTRODUCTION & BLESSING OF STUDENTS

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us
with an open heart.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

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

Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

PSALM: PSALM 19:7-14 READ RESPONSIVELY.

⁷The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the
simple.

⁸**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the
heart;**

**the commandment of the Lord is clear and
gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous
altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more
than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than
honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let
them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great
offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation
of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:13-20

Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.

¹³Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand.

Alleluia.

Your word, O Lord, is truth; sanctify us in the truth. Alleluia. (John 17:7)

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: MARK 9:38-50

³⁸John said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." ³⁹But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. ⁴⁰Whoever is not against us is for us. ⁴¹For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

⁴²"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. ⁴³If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ⁴⁵And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

⁴⁹"For everyone will be salted with fire. ⁵⁰Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Please stand for our confession of faith.

CREED

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 sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share the peace with a wave to your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
you cause streams to break forth in the desert
and manna to rain from the heavens.

Accept the gifts you have first given us.

Unite them with the offering of our lives

to nourish the world you love so dearly;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.



LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us 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.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, † one God,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

CHIMES OF BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

Thanks be to God.

Mort Meyenburg, Vicar

320-841-1085, mortm60@gmail.com

Angie Thostenson, HWP Office Manager

507-766-0909, office@healingwatersparish.org

Gathered in Faith ~ Sent to Serve

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #22801. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. From onelicense.com. Copyright 2021. Used with permission under One License #A-737652. All rights reserved. From CCLI. License #1784769. All rights reserved. From Daywind.com. Copyright 2021 Daywind, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission under Daywind Master Lease.

www.healingwatersparish.org



Gathered in Faith - Sent to Serve

Healing Waters Parish

Augustana • Bergen • St. Lucas