



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Wilton, WI
 12th Sunday after Pentecost
 August 23, 2020
**Inviting People to Journey with Christ's
 Family in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

Gathering
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God**

Soli Deo Gloria



1 O God of bless - ings, all praise to you! Your love sur -
 2 All praise for proph - ets, through grace in - spired to preach and
 3 All praise for mu - sic, deep gift pro - found, through hands and
 4 All praise for Je - sus, best gift di - vine through word and
 5 A bil - lion voic - es in one great song, now soft and



rounds us our whole life through. You are the
 wit - ness with hearts on fire. Your Spir - it
 voic - es in ho - ly sound; the psalms of
 wit - ness, in bread and wine; in - car - nate
 gen - tle, now deep and strong, in ev - 'ry



free - dom of those op - pressed; you are the com - fort of all dis -
 choos - es the weak and small to sing the new reign where might - y
 Da - vid, and Mar - y's praise, in word - less splen - dor and lyr - ic
 love song of bound - less grace, priest, teach - er, proph - et in time and
 cul - ture and style and key, from hill and val - ley, with sky and



ressed. Come now, O ho - ly and wel - come guest:
 fall; with them may we live your gos - pel call:
 phrase, with all cre - a - tion one song we raise:
 space, your stead - fast kind - ness with hu - man face:
 sea, with Christ we praise you c - ter - nal - ly:



So - li De - o glo - ri - a! So - li De - o glo - ri - a!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Word

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

FIRST READING

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

Isaiah 51:1-6

¹Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

P: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 138

- ¹I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
- ²I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your
steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.
- ³When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.
- ⁴All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
- ⁵They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.
- ⁶The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.
- ⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
- ⁸You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND READING

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

Romans 12:1-8

- ¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

P: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

The gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

What's in a name? When your parents were preparing for your birth, they discussed what they would name you. Perhaps they would name you for a family member--a parent, grandparent or other relative. Perhaps they would name you for a family friend. Perhaps they would name you because they liked the sound of a particular name; a name they had heard or read in a book. Perhaps they checked-out a book of names from the library and explored the meanings of some potential names. Perhaps all of the above.

While many of us do not think about our names in this way, most, if not all names, have a meaning. Some names are related to nature, one's vocation, or one's hometown. Some have a religious or moral meaning. For example, Gloria means "Glory (to God), Justin means "Just," Ann means "Gracious or Merciful," Gregory means "Vigilant," Caroline means "Joy or Song of Happiness," Stephen means "Crown or wreath," Kathrine or Cathleen means "Pure One," George means "Tiller of the Soil or Farmer," Nalani means "Heavens," and Joel means "Yahweh is God." (Source--*Behind the Name*, and *Baby Names*, online)

In ancient times, a person's name was especially important. Even before meeting someone, by simply hearing their name, a person knew something about them. This is true in the Bible, as well. We recall the story of Elizabeth and Zechariah naming their son, John (whom we know as John the Baptist), in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1. We recall the context, in that Zechariah's voice had been silenced. Scripture states--

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No, he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his [Zechariah's] mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him." (Luke 1:59-66, NRSV)

In Matthew 1:23, Jesus is called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." In our passage today, Jesus is called the Messiah, which means "Anointed one." There are many other examples in the Bible of names being given because of their meaning. But the point is, that in ancient times, a name was more than what one person called another person.

Our Gospel passage for today is in the setting of Caesarea Philippi. It begins with Jesus asking the disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They respond, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." (vs. 14)

If we explore the meanings of these names, we discover that John, means "YHWH has been gracious." Elijah, means "My God is Yahweh." Jeremiah, means "YHWH will raise." YHWH/YAHWEH means, "The God of the Israelites." Each of these names demonstrates a special relationship between the person and YHWH.

But, Jesus asks the disciples a second question that gets to the heart of his first question, "But, who do you say that I am?" This question moves beyond the meaning of one's name. It moves beyond who other people think Jesus is. It moves beyond the reality that Jesus could not be John, Elijah or Jeremiah, because they are no longer living on earth! Rather, Jesus is asking the disciples to speak for themselves about what they know about him; what they have seen, heard, and otherwise experienced during their time with Jesus. What have their experiences with Jesus told them about him? "But, who do you say that I am?"

Peter responds, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." Jesus replies, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven." (vs. 17) Peter has responded in a way that goes beyond what humans would say, to get to the heart of who Jesus is. Jesus is the Messiah, the "anointed one", the Son of the Living God. What the disciples have experienced through their interactions with Jesus is none other than God's revealing Godself to them through God the Son! Jesus is the Son of the Living God! When the disciples see, hear and experience Jesus' revelations, they see, hear and experience God!

Jesus states, "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." (vs. 18) The meaning of Peter's name is "Rock," but his statement about Jesus expresses what is most important: Peter's acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of the Living God," is the basis, the foundation, on which God's church is built! God's church is built on what Christians believed in ancient times about Jesus. God's church is built on what Christians have believed throughout the past 2000 years--all the yesterdays and today. God's church is built on what Christians will believe in all the tomorrows, in all the days to come! God's church is built on the revelation and knowledge that God is a Living God! God is not only a name, but the Holy one whom all of us, each and every one of us who believe in God, has encountered!

What experiences can we describe that demonstrate God's work in our lives? Most of us can recall specific times when we have felt God's intervention, God's encounter, God's living presence with us. Perhaps it was a time when we sinned and asked God for forgiveness, and a weight seemed to be lifted from our shoulders. Perhaps it was a time when a loved one was ill, and they felt God's healing touch. Perhaps it was a time when we were far from home, feeling alone, and we experienced God's reassurance and calm. Perhaps it was through the workings of the Holy Spirit, as we set out to do things far beyond what we could ever do on our own. Each one of us has our own, unique experiences with the Living God that have shaped how we describe God and how God has been revealed to us! Through our gospel passage today, we are reminded that the Living God works in us and through us. When we stay connected to God through hearing God's word, through prayer, through receiving the bread and wine, and through other means, God leads us and guides us in the way we should go.

This is the foundation of the church, as well. In our daily lives we experience others who are hungry, lonely, sick, naked, homeless, or otherwise without the necessities that they need to live and thrive. When we experience them, we can recall Jesus' words to Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (vs. 20)

Far beyond the meaning of our names is the reality of how we live out our lives as followers of Jesus. Are we binding on earth based on prejudices, stereotypes, discrimination, or other injustices, or are we loosening based on equality, justice and peace? Do our actions point to the Living God being the one who is active in our lives? Jesus asks his disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" Jesus, who died on the cross to atone for the sins of all humanity. Jesus, whose death and glorious resurrection gave all who believe in him forgiveness of sins. Jesus who offers us grace, salvation, and hope for the future. We have experienced God's gifts of forgiveness, grace, love, mercy and more, in our own lives. Because, in our hearts, we know who Jesus really is, "...the Messiah, the Son of the Living God." Ame

Apostles' 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

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Lord our rock, you are our foundation in Jesus Christ, your Son, whom we confess as the living God. Prepare your church for its mission in bearing witness to Christ, both here at home and throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call forth praises from the far reaches of the universe to the smallest of creatures. Join our songs to theirs, that a spirit of praise and thanksgiving will arouse us to cherish this wondrous home you give us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord. Direct the leaders of countries, legislators and magistrates, mayors and councils, to walk in your ways. Help leaders regard those in need with mercy and fulfill your loving purposes in the governance of peoples. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are bereaved, in trouble or adversity, or sick and in need of care, especially Katie, Bill, Dakota, Carla, Ruth, Judy, Alrita, Dick, Lisa, Pam, Curt, Deb, Lois, and all those we name aloud and in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call us into this community Wilton, in which we, though many, are one in Christ. May we recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are the everlasting Rock from which we were hewn, and you restore your people to joy and gladness. In blessed memory and hope, we thank you for the lives of our beloved dead (*especially*). Bring us with them to our heavenly home. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

P: 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.

SENDING

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

Blessing
Hymn

Glorious Things of You Are Spoken



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
2 Sec, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from c -
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, see the cloud and
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God! He whose word can - not be bro - ken
ter - nal love, well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters,
fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring,
mem - ber am, let the world de - ride or pit - y,



formed you for his own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges
and all fear of want re - move. Who can faint, while such a
show - ing that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their
I will glo - ry in your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain



found - ed, what can shake your sure re - pose? With sal -
riv - er cv - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace which,
ban - ner light by night and shade by day, safe they
plea - sures, all their boast - ed pomp and show; sol - id



va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, you may smile at all your foes.
like the Lord, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age.
feed up - on the man - na which God gives them on their way.
joys and last - ing trea - sures none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: BLAENWERN, William P. Rowlands, 1860–1937

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Bill Collar, Dakota Holiday, Carla Von Haden, Ruth Johnson, Judy Bever, Alrita Ornes, Dick Krause, Lisa Rhodes, Jim Bender, Pam Liefke, Curt Brueggen, Deb Paeth, Lois Reineke, Darlene Benish, Tim, Peggy,

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Robert Cale.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHICKEN DINNER

We are having a chicken dinner fundraiser on September 13, 2020, to help reduce the effect of the pandemic on our finances. The meal will cost \$10.00 and will consist of ½ barbeque chicken, potato salad, beans, cranberry relish, dinner roll, and 8 oz. water. All meals will be take-out with serving time from 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM. We are asking for your help in selling tickets. All tickets must be sold in advance to allow for precise ordering. Lori Brueggen or Nalani Bever will be contacting you. Thanks for supporting this project.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We'll be packing school supplies in again this year in support of Lutheran World Relief. The following are items for the school kits:

- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE 2 ½" eraser
- FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

Please bring the items with you to drive-in church or call Nalani (608-387-2311) and she will make arrangements to get them from you. Thank you.

CONTACTS DURING CORONAVIRUS CLOSURE

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever (608-387-2311).

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani or Louise Buchholz (608-435-6435).

Additional Contact Information:

Pastor Cathleen: cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu

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*The Sunday Assembly, Lorraine S. Brugh, Gordon W. Lathrop, Augsburg Fortress, 2008

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