

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 31, 2016

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

AS WE GATHER....."Pointless!" he cries. "Everything is pointless!" Such a cry may sound familiar to you. You'll hear something like it in today's Old Testament Reading. Do you ever feel that your work is pointless, a chasing after the wind? Do you ever feel empty at the end of a busy week? Do you ever scratch your head and wonder, "Is there a point to all of this?" If you do, you are not alone. You are not alone in feeling that way, nor are you alone as you seek to be renewed in your Savior's presence today! As you gather with your family in Christ and rest from your labors during this hour of worship, God is at work! He is here by His grace to forgive your sins, to refresh your soul, and to fill you with new life for the week ahead.

RINGING OF THE BELL

After the ringing of the bell, we take a few moments to prepare our hearts and minds in silence for today's worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALLING ON GOD

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

C: Amen

P: If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above,

C: Where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

P: Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

P: With minds and hearts set on things above, let us bow before our God.

Silence for reflection

P: Let us confess together,

C: Almighty God, we come before You in the name of Him who sits at Your right hand, Jesus, our Lord. We admit that we have sinned against You and against one another in our thoughts, words, and deeds. We deserve only Your wrath. Yet we know from Your Word that You love us and have sent Your Son to rescue and deliver us. By His death, He has destroyed our death. By His rising again, He has brought us life and light. Forgive and renew us today, filling us with joy in Your presence.

P: Almighty God, in His great mercy, has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sin. His joyful work is to redeem and restore you through Jesus' death and resurrection! Upon this your confession, I, as a servant of Christ and as your pastor, forgive you all yours in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, Praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, All who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOCUS OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....O Lord, grant us wisdom to recognize the treasures You have stored up for us in heaven, where Your Son is seated at Your right hand. Help us to find purpose in our work and joy in Your promise to always be with us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

FIRST LESSON: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26 Those who are wise find God-given joy in their work

Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. . . .

I the Preacher have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. And I applied my heart to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven. It is an unhappy business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind. . . .

I hated all my toil in which I toil under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to the man who will come after me, and who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned about and gave my heart up to despair over all the toil of my labors under the sun, because sometimes a person who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave everything to be enjoyed by someone who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What has a man from all the toil and striving of heart with which he tills beneath the sun? For all his days are full of sorrow, and his work is a vexation. Even in the night his heart does not rest. This also is vanity.

There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God, for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment? For to the one who pleases him God has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, but to the sinner he has given the business of gathering and collecting, only to give to one who pleases God. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:1-11 *Life in Christ changes our priorities*

If then you have been raised with Christ, set the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

GOSPEL: Luke 12:13-21 *Jesus warns us of the devastating power of greed*

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN "Red Book" 172

Praise to the Lord

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him for he is thy health and salvation;
All ye who hear, Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth:
Hast thou not seen How thy desires have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper they work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
Ponder a new What the Almighty can do
Who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen Sound from his people a gain:
Gladly for ever adore him.

APOSTLE'S CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Christian Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life + everlasting. Amen

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
For the advancement of Christ's kingdom, that we may share the gifts of our Savior in the work we
do in His name, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Grant us wisdom. Grant us purpose. Fill us with Your joy.

P: For all those who are united to Christ by Holy Baptism, that they may grow in their connection
with one another, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Grant us wisdom. Grant us purpose. Fill us with Your joy.

P: For all pastors, teachers, and other servants of the Church, that their work in the harvest field may
bring great joy, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Grant us wisdom. Grant us purpose. Fill us with Your joy.

P: For our congregation, that we may work together in unity for the sake of Jesus and His mission, let
us pray to the Lord.

C: Grant us wisdom. Grant us purpose. Fill us with Your joy.

P: For all our public servants, including the members of our military, that the Lord would work to
defend them as they work to defend us, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Grant us wisdom. Grant us purpose. Fill us with Your joy.

P: For all who are ailing in heart, mind, and body, (especially.....), that they may know the
healing work of Jesus in body, mind and spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Grant us wisdom. Grant us purpose. Fill us with Your joy.

P: For these and all other concerns we have, that coming before the throne of grace, we may find
mercy to help us in every type of need, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Amen.

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Red Book" 91

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

I lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God;
He hears them all and frees us from the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus, to wash my crimson stains.
White in His blood most precious, till not a spot remains.

I lay my wants on Jesus, all fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases, he doth my soul redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus, my burdens and my cares:
He from them all releases, he all my sorrows share.

I long to be like Jesus, meek, loving, lowly, mild;
I long to be like Jesus, the Father's holy Child.
I long to be with Jesus, amid the heav'nly throng,
To sing with saints His praises, to learn the angels' song.

"Red Book" 78

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim "My God how great thou art!"
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

"Red Book" 55 Great is Thy Faithfulness

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not,
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

"Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath pro vided
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness mercy and love.

"Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath pro vided
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

"Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath pro vided
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG "Green Book" 260

On Our Way Rejoicing

On our way rejoicing Gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered; Vanquished is the foe.
Christ without our safety; Christ within our joy;
Who, if we be faithful, Can our hope destroy?
On our way rejoicing; As we forward move,
Harken to our praises, O blest God of Love!

Unto God the Father Joyful songs we sing;
Unto God the Savior Thankful hearts we bring;
Unto God the Spirit Bow we and adore,
On our way rejoicing Now and evermore.
On our way rejoicing; As we forward move,
Harken to our praises, O blest God of Love!

DISMISSAL