

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 25, 2016

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

AS WE GATHER..... “Won’t you be my neighbor?” Years ago, many kids who tuned in to a popular children’s show were asked this daily in song by Fred Rogers as a way for children to consider relationships with those around them. The Lord through His timeless Word also invites us to consider our neighbors. Not through song, but instead through various “woes” found in Amos, the people then and we today are called to ask ourselves, “Won’t you care for your neighbors? Won’t you help and love your neighbors?” By God’s grace and empowered by the Gospel, we find our answer in the joyous task He’s given to us.

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL OPENING If Anybody Asks You By Mark Hayes

CALLING ON GOD

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

C: Amen

WE CONFESS.....

P: As the Lord’s prophet Amos spoke to the people of Israel, so His Word speaks to us today: “Woe to those who are at ease in Zion. Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph!” Together we confess our sins:

C: Gracious and ever-providing Lord, we are by nature sinful. We are often complacent and filled with apathy in our worship and prayers. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, and renew our spirits, that we may obey You and serve our neighbors with joy and gladness all the days of our life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

P: Beloved in the Lord, God has heard our confession, and because of the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus, He has answered with good news. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

SONG OF PRAISE

Green Book 543

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do
If with his love he befriend you.

Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen Sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....God of truth and life, You called people in comfort and complacency back to You and to the tasks You had prepared for the sake of Your kingdom. Continue to guide us in the direction of righteousness that we may trust in You rather than in ourselves, serving our neighbors to the glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

OLD TESTAMENT Amos 6:1-7 Words of warning for people who remove God from their lives

“Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes! Pass over to Calneh, and see, and from there go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Phillistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Or is their territory greater than your territory, O you who put far away the day of disaster and bring near the seat of violence?

“Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

EPISTLE | Timothy 3:1-13 *Qualifications for overseers and deacons*

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL Luke 16:19-31 *The rich man and Lazarus*

[Jesus said:] "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked the sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

SERMON HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard human's dignity and save human's pride:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one:
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

C: We believe in God, the Creator of all things, the source of all goodness and love.....

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, true God yet true man.

He was crucified, died and was buried for our sin that we might be free and know the joy of life.

He was raised on the third day and ascended to heaven, and will come again in power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.....

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the power of God at work inside of us.....

We believe in the church of God, the people of faith throughout the world.....

We believe that our sin is forgiven and that we will live together with God for now and throughout eternity. Amen.

OFFERING

The offerings gathered are a sign of our whole lives offered to God in humble gratitude for his greatest of all offerings, his Son offered for our salvation.

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. Lord God, like the people to whom Your prophet Amos spoke, You have taught us through Your Word that the pursuit of a self-centered and complacent faith is not what You have intended for us.

Rather, You call us to walk in Your will and ways for the furthering of Your kingdom and the loving of our neighbors.

C: We praise You for Your wisdom, Lord. You know our struggles and our weaknesses and how easily we are deterred from Your will. Empower us to live a life focused on faith, love, care for others, endurance, and joy in You.

P: Lord God, Jesus taught us that there is no eternal value in placing the pursuit of riches as the priority of our life as it leads to a path of separation from You.

C: Strengthen our faith, Lord. Teach us to rely on You rather than our own pursuits and interests. Strengthen us through the work of Your Spirit in us.

P: Grant that those whom You have called and placed as overseers and leaders in Your places of worship may faithfully fulfill the calling in which You have placed them that they may speak Your Word in confidence.

C: Grant that each person in every vocation serve You and others in Your name all the days of their life.

P: Lord God, let the cries of all in need come before You, (*especially.....*). By Your merciful goodness, grant healing to their bodies and peace to their souls.

C: Comfort and support all who are burdened and sorrowful, that in all their sadness, faith may remain firm.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG "Red Book" 235

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don't you try to blow it out; I'm going to let it shine;
Don't you try to blow it out; I'm going to let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel? No! I'm going to let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the neighborhood; I'm going to let it shine;
All around the neighborhood; I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hold it high so all can see; I'm going to let it shine;
Hold it high so all can see; I'm going to let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

DISMISSAL