

Holy Communion
Sunday, July 28, 2019
Pastor - Rev. Scott Benolkin
Organist - Lori Free

Organ Prelude

Pastor's greeting

Opening Hymn: **#812 Faith of Our Fathers**

Order of Worship: pages 94-96, 147-150

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm: 138

Second Reading: Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **#781 Children of the Heavenly Father**

Apostle's Creed: page 105

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

Offertory: Hymn 186 in Service Music - "Create in me..."

Communion: pages 152 - 155

Communion Hymn: **#638 Blessed Assurance**

Sending Song: **#537 On Our Way Rejoicing**

Dismissal

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS
CELEBRATING OUR 137th YEAR
IN HIS SERVICE
1882 - 2019

The Rev. Scott K. Benolkin is the pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Rockford, Illinois. A Minnesotan by birth, he grew up in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Lenexa, Kansas. He is a graduate of Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Syracuse University, and the University of Minnesota. Before hearing God's call to the ministry of Word and Sacrament he worked as an economist for the EPA and the Federal Reserve. He enjoys computer programming, disc golf, and traveling with his wife Monica and seven-year-old daughter Claire.

*We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today.
If you spend time in Door County please consider becoming
a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for
information.*

**All baptized Christians who celebrate the Real Presence
in the Sacrament of Communion are invited to the Lord's
Table.**

Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School

**Visit us at BethanyEphraim.org,
and follow our worship service live, and archived,
on the web site.**

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Treasuring your promise to hear us when we call, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of your creation.

A brief silence.

Merciful God, you know your church. Guard and keep the whole body of Christ. Increase in us strength, love, and peace so that we are a blessing to the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Creator, you know the work of your hands. Guard and keep your creation. Bless the work of those who tend the earth's resources and who seek to provide abundantly for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful King, you know the nations, and you are the head of every ruler and authority. Guard and keep the world in justice and mercy, and let the words of your mouth bring peace on earth. Your kingdom come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Lord, you know our needs. Guard and keep those who are hungry, those who are victims of violence or oppression, and those who are weary from illness (*especially*). Give us today our daily bread. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, you know our congregation. Guard and keep those who enrich us with the gift of music in this place, proclaiming the gospel in song (*as did Johann Sebastian Bach, Heinrich Schütz, and George Frederick Handel whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Merciful Lord, you know your saints. Guard and keep those faithful departed (*especially*). Inspire our confidence in you until that day when we are all raised in the power and glory of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and more we ask in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, by the power of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



Celebrate

Sunday, July 28, 2019
7th Sunday after Pentecost

Persistence in prayer evoked the admiration of Jesus and wins the attention of the Lord when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus the Lord—is to be rooted in prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 18:20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom, for the sake of the few righteous people who are in it, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

The LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! ²¹I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

²²So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" ²⁶And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will

forgive the whole place for their sake." ²⁷Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." ²⁹Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." ³⁰Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." ³¹He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." ³²Then he said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

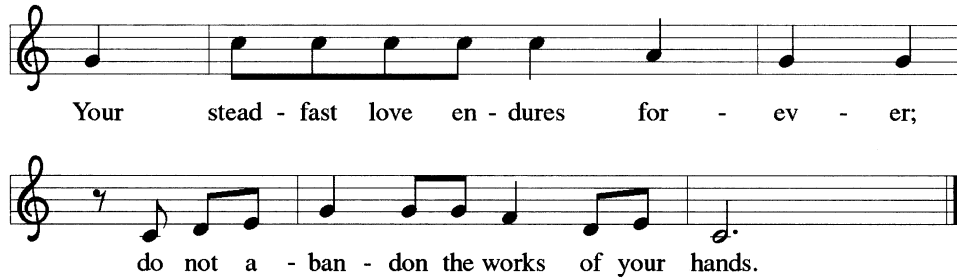
Preparing for Next Week

Monday (commemoration of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany; Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, 1030) Psalm 55:16-23. **Tuesday** Romans 9:30—10:4. **Wednesday** Matthew 5:43-48. **Thursday** Psalm 49:1-12. **Friday** Proverbs 24:1-12. **Saturday** Ecclesiastes 1:1-11. **8th Sunday after Pentecost** Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-12; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21.

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I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with ¹ my whole heart;
before the gods I will ¹ sing your praise.

² I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast ¹ love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name
and your word a- ¹bove all things. **R**

³ When I called, you ¹ answered me;
you increased my ¹ strength within me.

⁴ All the rulers of the earth will praise ¹ you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words ¹ of your mouth.

⁵ They will sing of the ways ¹ of the LORD,
that great is the glory ¹ of the LORD.

⁶ The LORD is high, yet cares ¹ for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty ¹ from afar. **R**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you ¹ keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right ¹ hand shall save me.

⁸ You will make good your pur- ¹pose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works ¹ of your hands. **R**

Paul warns his congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection, which is enacted in baptism.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸ See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. ⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰ and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. ¹¹ In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses

and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

[¹⁶ Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. ¹⁷ These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.]

Gospel

Luke 11:1-13

In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to child-like trust and persistence in prayer.

[Jesus] was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ² He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone
indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time
of trial.”

⁵ And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ ⁷ And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are

with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ ⁸ I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

⁹ So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ¹¹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? ¹² Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”