Holy Communion Sunday, September 22, 2019 Pastor - Rev. Dennis Tollefson Organist - Lori Free

Organ Prelude

Pastor's greeting

Opening Hymn: WOV #781 My Life Flows On in Endless Song

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

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Amos 8:4-7

Psalm: 113

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: WOV #765 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

Apostle's Creed: page 105

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

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

Communion: pages 152 - 155

Communion Hymn: WOV #756 Lord, You Give the Great Commission

Sending Song: WOV #723 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Dismissal

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

Pastor Dennis Tollefson is currently retired and lives with his wife Mary in Minnetonka, MN. He has served parishes in Vermillion and Wakonda, SD; Fargo, ND; Madison, WI; Cambridge and Ham Lake, MN.

Dennis graduated from St. Olaf College and served three years as an infantry officer in the U. S. Marine Corps. He attended Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Dennis and Mary have three married daughters and eight grandchildren.

Dennis and Mary have been serving at Bethany for 26 years since coming for the first time in 1993.

Currently they are leading a small group from Westwood Lutheran Church in St Louis Park, Minnesota discussing a prayer of good courage found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 304, Evening Vespers.

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 <u>BethanyEphraim.org</u>, 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.

Sustained and nurtured by our generous God, we gather as one to pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, you call your church to serve you. Free your people from the deceptions of false masters so that we discover the true richness of serving in your name. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Creating God, you have made all kinds of creatures. Protect animals in the midst of seasonal migration, whether by water, through the air, or over land. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Wise God, you rule the nations. When the powerful trample on the needy and take advantage of the poor, turn them from their selfish ways. Show us your ways of truth that lead to justice. Lord, in your mercy, Healing God, you raise up those who have been brought low, and you remember the forgotten. We lift up to you all who are in need (*especially*). Grant them joy and comfort in your presence. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Mothering God, you give us life. Give strength to families experiencing infertility or challenging pregnancies, to foster parents, parents of adopted children, single parents, and families of all varieties. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Eternal God, you hold us close even in death. We lift to you our thanks for those who have recently died and are now at rest with you. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Assured by your promise to hear us, we lay our prayers before your throne of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

hear our prayer.

Monday Psalm 12. Tuesday 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Wednesday Proverbs 21:10-16. Thursday Psalm 146. Friday Proverbs 28:3-10. Saturday Proverbs 28:11-28. Michael and All Angels Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3; Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22; Revelation 12:7-12; Luke 10:17-20 *OR* 16th Sunday after Pentecost Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31.

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Celebrate

Sunday, September 22, 2019 15th Sunday after Pentecost

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recall that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

Prayer of the Day

God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Amos 8:4-7

Amos was called by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Peace and prosperity in Israel led to corrupt business practices and oppression of the poor. The prophet declares that God will not tolerate such a situation.

Hear this, you that trample on the needy,

and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over

so that we may sell grain; and the sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,

and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.



Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants I of the LORD; praise the name I of the LORD.

²Let the name of the | LORD be blessed, from this time forth for- | evermore.

³From the rising of the sun to its ¹ going down let the name of the ¹ LORD be praised.

⁴The LORD is high a- | bove all nations, God's glory a- | bove the heavens. R

⁵Who is like the | LORD our God, who sits en- | throned on high,

⁶but stoops | to behold

the heavens | and the earth?

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out ¹ of the dust and lifts up the poor ¹ from the ashes,

⁸enthroning them | with the rulers, with the rulers | of the people.

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a ¹ childless house to be a joyful mother of children. ¹ Hallelujah! **R**

The Pastoral Epistles offer insight into how early Christians understood many practical matters, such as church administration and worship. The church's focused prayer for others is an expression of the single-minded passion God has toward us in Jesus.

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God:

there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Gospel

Luke 16:1-13

Jesus tells the curious story of a dishonest man who cheats his employer and then is commended by him for having acted so shrewdly. Jesus wonders why his own followers are less creative and diligent in their stewardship given that they are managers of a far more valuable household.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' 3Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' 5So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' 6He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' 7Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He

said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

10"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."