

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 13, 2020

Zoar Church, Tofte, MN

Welcome and Announcements

September Mission: Birch Grove Community School
Wednesday Drive-In Movie Night this week: **Amazing Grace**

Confession & Absolution *From Reclaim*

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

Congregation: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sin to God our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth

P: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Time for silent reflection)

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for your refuge to your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring your grace for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Most merciful God, you have given your only Son to die for us. Have mercy on us, and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. By your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will and true obedience to your word, so that by your grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given his only son to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name, he gives power to become children of God and bestows on them his Holy Spirit. All who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing - Reclaim # 227

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing
Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love.
Teach me ever to adore thee;
May I still thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Hither by thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
Seal it for thy courts above.

Scripture Readings:

Micah 4:1-4 (NIV)

In the last days

the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;

it will be exalted above the hills,
and peoples will stream to it.

Many nations will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He will judge between many peoples
and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide.

They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

Everyone will sit under their own vine
and under their own fig tree,
and no one will make them afraid,
for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 4:16-19 (NIV)

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Gospel: John 15:1-4, 18-19 (NIV)

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

Message: "Fruit of the Spirit: Pruning " - Pastor Daren Blanck

Hymn: Day By Day - Reclaim # 210

Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
Where at last I'll find eternal rest.

Day by day, I know you will provide me
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
O'er the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
Till in glory I behold your face.

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
When my burdens grow too great to bear;
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
You will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.

Prayers

Petitions for peace, justice, and healing for the world, the church, our communities, our neighbors, medical workers, police, first responders, members of the armed forces, and victims of forest fires and floods.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father. He will come again
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

Closing Hymn: Take My Life and Let It Be - Reclaim # 233

Take my life, and let it be	Take my hands, and let them move	Take my voice and let me sing
Consecrated, Lord, to thee;	With the impulse of thy love	Always only for my King
Take my moments and my days;	Take my feet and let them be	Take my lips, and let them be
Let them flow in ceaseless praise	Swift and beautiful for thee.	Filled with messages from thee.

Benediction and Sending

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God. We Will! Alleluia.

Sending Hymn: It is Well - Reclaim # 224

V.1: When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
"It is well, it is well with my soul"

V.2: Though Satan should buffet,
though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed his own blood for my soul

V.3: My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought,
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to his cross, and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain:

It is well with my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul!

God Be With You - Reclaim # 55

V.1: God be with you till we meet again,
By his counsels guide, uphold you,
With his heep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.

V.2: God be with you till we meet again,
'Neath his wings protecting hide you,
Daily manna still provide you,
God be with you till we meet again.

V.3: God be with you till we meet again,
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put his arms unfailing round you,
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain: Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.