

HIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 29, 2021 ~ 10:00am

A HOLY HIT PARADE

FOR YOUR MEDITATION

“Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication.”

We enter, never as strangers, because God welcomes each of us. And just as God welcomes you, so do we. No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, we welcome you this morning! May you experience God’s presence and receive the blessing God has prepared for you.

THE PRELUDE

A WELCOME IN CHRISTIAN LOVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

THE INTROIT

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST & PEACE CANDLES

***CALL TO WORSHIP** SUNG ~ Congregations choice

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known, and from You no secrets are hid. We come together, gathered by Your Holy Spirit, thankful for a place where there is room for everyone, and no one is turned away. You welcome the least, the lost, the homeless and the hopeless for You are a God who shelters all. Be with us as we worship. Cleanse our hearts, encourage our souls that we are equipped to serve You in whatever way You need. God in Community, Holy in One, we rejoice in our oneness in Christ, hear us as we pray in one voice the words we are taught..

***THE LORDS 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

***THE GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING:

New Testament: Ephesians 6: 10-20 Lay Reader- Lynn Sharpe

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

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SERMON: “Righteously Clothed”

HYMN Congregations Choice

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

SHARING OUR CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

We covenant with God through our tithes and offerings

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

God of all, You abide with us; You provide for us, You guide us. Out of gratitude we bring our gifts before you. Bless them that they may be used by this church to bring all good to those in need. Amen.

HYMN - Congregations Choice

SENDING OUT

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE - NCH # 76 “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” vs 1**

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from this dwelling leave. The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe. The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us to work for God’s realm and to answer the call.

THE POSTLUDE

The end of worship, the beginning of service.

Go forth and serve God gladly.

* “We extend our spirits to God”

We Welcome all who worship with us this morning. If you are a visitor and have no church home, we hope you find a home here. If you are “passing through,” we offer you God’s blessings as you continue on your journey and thank you for sharing with us.

WEEKLY PRAYER

God, thank You that You have given me all I need to be victorious in the spiritual battle in which all Your children are engaged. Help me to rely on You and not on my own abilities. Help me to find all I need in You and in the power of Your might, in Jesus name I pray, AMEN.

LAY READER – Anyone wishing to share in the leadership of worship by reading the Scripture or bringing a children’s sermon, please sign-up on the appropriate list in the Parish Hall and speak with Dixie Silvestri.

TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH

August- Lou Scotti

September- Tim Anderson

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Church meeting is Sunday September 19th. All reports from boards and committees are due by Friday August 27th. Please remember to list all committee members who served this past year.

NOTES ON THE TEXT

Ephesians 6: 10-20

Living the Christian life is a struggle, even for the most pious. It is because our human capacity is limited. We have difficulty focusing on anything that does not directly concern ourselves, our circumstances. Is it any wonder the early martyrs took themselves away from society, secluding themselves in caves and the desert, away from the distractions.

Here is chapter 6 of Ephesians, Paul attempts to redirect us by telling us our struggle is not really with flesh and blood. We might use those as an excuse. But the real conflict is spiritual.

And because the conflict is spiritual we need to look, literally look, upon these passages with the eyes of faith. We cannot see with our physical eyes the things about which Paul speaks. More important, Paul discusses how we may have victory in this conflict, which we accept we are in by faith.

We know Paul's exhortation as spiritual armor. Paul gives spiritual meaning to the armor of a Roman soldier. By putting on the armor of God we, too, will be equipped to fight and win in the spiritual struggle in which we find ourselves. Paul describes six pieces of our spiritual armor.

I. We Wear the Belt of Truth

The first part of our spiritual armor is truth. Two ideas are significant about truth. First, Christians should know and believe the truth about who God is and what God has done. This relates to cognitive facts about what the Bible says about God and his mighty acts. Human notions of God will not do. Second, we must be truthful people. Telling the truth to ourselves and others, in love, is essential in the spiritual battle in which we are engaged.

II. We Wear the Breastplate of Righteousness

Another aspect of our spiritual armor is right living. Many a believer has been sidelined due to corrupt behavior. The visual image is the piece of armor that protects the chest and heart. In order to protect this large area of the body a large sheet of metal was fashioned to guard it. The protection for our spiritual lives is personal holiness.

III. Our Feet Are Shod with the Gospel of Peace

This third item of equipment calls us to evangelism and missions. Every believer is to be actively involved in sharing the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ alone. When we fail to spread the word about Christ we are unprepared for spiritual conflict. Along with personal evangelism we can be part of mission efforts away from our homes. Church planting, church construction, and short-term mission volunteers are specific ways we take the gospel of peace to those around us and the world.

IV. We Wear the Shield of Faith

A defense device that allowed the bearer to fend off arrows and spears was the shield. Likewise, Christians can extinguish the fiery darts of the enemy by clinging to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Defining faith is often easier than explaining how to live by faith. A life of faith is characterized by dependence on the Lord. Paul wrote to the church at Rome that whatever was not of faith was sin (Rom. 14:23) . Perhaps another way of looking at the life of faith is to think in terms of pleasing the Lord. Does what I am doing bring pleasure to the Lord? Faith is a vital part of our spiritual armor.

V. We Wear the Helmet of Salvation

