



Just Love-Family
Just Love-Community
Just Love-Nation

Sunday, September 27, 2020
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Today's service has been prepared and led
by Zion's Women of the ELCA

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Place for Everyone . . .

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THE REV. MOLLY HAGGERTY, Interim Pastor



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

*Peace to all who enter God's house for worship today.
We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with
one another.*

Congregation, please **stand/sit** as you are able.

P Presiding Minister **C** Congregation **L** Assisting Minister

Welcome to our Visitors

If you are a visitor, please see one of our greeters and fill out our gold visitor's slip. We hope that you will come back and worship with us again!

INTRODUCTION

Janet Polak

The “Red Nose” you received upon entering Church today is a fun way to recreate our Church Family connections, and break through barriers. “Red Nose” encourages people to come together, share a laugh, and gives us something to smile about - goes well with our masks. Through these previous months of separation, we’ve cried, laughed, gained a few pounds, and experienced many changes in our lives. We have now entered the “new normal”.

As a WELCA group, we studied about “Just Love” that we are going to share with you today. “Just Love” encompasses: Family, Community, and Nation. How do we define “Just Love”? A love of justice AND we have just love or loving. Through our time together, we explored how we hold each other accountable for loving in just ways in family systems - it is a two-edged sword. Micah tells us exactly what God expects of us: “To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God”.

PRELUDE

THE GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

☩ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the strength of our ancestors, the host of this meal, the builder of the city that is to come.

☩ Amen.

☩ If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ. Let us confess our sin to the one who is faithful.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☩ God our helper,

☩ we confess the many ways we have failed to live as your disciples. We have not finished what we began. We have feasted with friends but ignored strangers. We have been captivated by our possessions. Lift our burdens, gracious God. Refresh our hearts and forgive our sin. Raise us to the new life you have chosen for us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

☩ There is rejoicing in heaven when sinners repent. Put your trust in these promises: God will never leave you or forsake you. You who were lost have been found. For the sake of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice with the angels at this good news.

☩ Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: (blue hymnal #752 verses 1 & 3)

Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

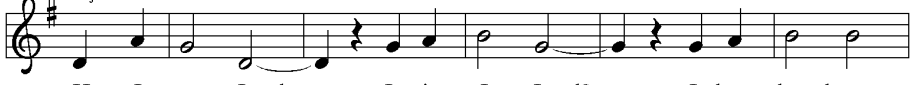


I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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GREETING

Debbie Sweger

From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

☞ And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Debbie Sweger

Let us pray. Holy One, we thank you that you are a God of love and a God of justice. In this time together, open our hearts, minds and spirits to the wisdom of your word, that we might receive new insight for our lives and a new way forward in times of conflict and challenge. In the name of Jesus.

☞ Amen

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: John 11:1-6 Diane Covalt-Wiser
Just Love: Family

Our Biblical text for this session is a familiar one, focusing on the events that led up to Jesus' raising of Lazarus. Here we encounter a family in crisis. Lazarus is seriously ill, and his sisters Mary and Martha are desperately looking for a way to help him. So they send for their friend, Jesus. You can see in this passage how close Jesus is to this family. Being part of a family brings expectations. Mary and Martha have different ways of showing their "just love" while they wait for Jesus expectantly.

Mary, Martha are family with Jesus. Both had a very different way of explaining to Jesus about Just Love.


Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord the one you love is sick." When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

This is the word of the Lord.

☛ Thanks be to God.

Reflections: Part of the Gather Magazine bible study that WELCA uses is exploring thought provoking questions within each lesson. For this passage reflect on these questions:

1. What expectations might Mary and Martha have for Jesus in this situation?
2. As one day and then another unfolds without Jesus showing up what do you imagine Martha and Mary say?

PSALM: 61  by whole verse **Diane Covalt-Wiser**

¹Hear my cry, O God, and listen to my prayer.

²**From the end of the earth I call upon you as my heart grows faint; set me upon the rock that is higher than I.**

³For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

⁴**I will dwell in your house forever; I will take refuge under the cover of your wings.**

⁵For you, O God, have heard my vows; you have granted me the heritage of those who fear your name.

⁶**Add length of days to the life of the king; let his years extend over many generations.**

⁷Let the king sit enthroned before God forever; bid love and faithfulness watch over him.

⁸**So will I always sing the praise of your name, and day by day I will fulfill my vows.**

SECOND READING: Luke 19:1-10 **Coletta Railing**
Just Love: Community

Just love enables us to be seen as we really are and loved nevertheless. It frees us to be truthful about who we are, but also opens opportunities to become who were created to be - God's beloved children. Love thrives when it is built on foundations of faith, courage and community.

This Sunday service shows us a deeply relational vision of just love toward the flourishing of all people - in our families, in our communities, and in our world. As we grapple with God's Word, we look to Jesus, the One who became flesh and lived among us, to show us what just love truly is.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a ‘sinner’”. But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

This is the word of the Lord.

☛ Thanks be to God.

Reflection: For someone of Zacchaeus’ status, climbing a tree was probably humiliating. To what lengths would you be willing to go to have an encounter with Jesus?

Have obstacles in your life ever prevented you from seeing Jesus? If so, what were they?

Jesus doesn’t put any conditions on Zacchaeus; he simply invites himself to his house. For love to be just, should there be any demands on the one who has offended?

THIRD READING: Exodus 1:8-17
Just Love: Nation

Janet Polak

There is a new king in Egypt - an unnamed Pharaoh, one in a long line of rulers who held limitless power and were worshiped as gods. This king "did not know Joseph". With Joseph in place as Pharaoh's right-hand man, Joseph's Israelite family ultimately benefits from his access to power. Pharaoh and his henchmen seek to weaken the Israelites with their cruelty, but even in the face of unrelenting hardship, the Israelites persevere.

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land. Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, "when you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live." The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.

This is the word of the Lord.

☛ Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Joey Diehl

“Five Finger Prayer”

SERMON Commentary:

“Just Love and Just Love”

Mary Wilhelm

(Silence for a time of reflection)

HYMN OF THE DAY: (green hymnal #296 verses 1 & 4)

Just As I Am, without One Plea



- 1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,
- 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
- 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict, man - y_a doubt,
- 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,



and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
fight-ings and fears with - in, with - out,
yea, all I need in thee to find,

- 5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

APOSTLES' CREED

Janet Polak

Let us confess together the words of the Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

☐ 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.

Coletta Railing: Lord Jesus, when you walked here on earth, You spread Your healing power. As a loving and compassionate God, we ask You to support all caregivers on the frontlines of response: the doctors, nurses, researchers, all medical attendants and family members who care for the sick and despairing and for those who strive to keep our families, communities and nation protected. Sustain their selfless hearts to act with compassion and concern for all they administer to in our hurting world. Give them strength of mind and body even as they put themselves at risk. Keep them and their families safe and healthy. Lord, in Your mercy.

☞ hear our prayer.

Diane Covalt-Wiser: We pray for all families that they stay safe and healthy. We pray for the wellbeing of our church families and for our children as they return to schools and collages during this uncertain time. We pray that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith and be rooted in love while he looks over our families. Lord in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

Mary Wilhelm: Dear God, we ask you to guide our leaders, especially our mayors and our community councils, our governor, and our president to make good choices in leading our local communities, our state, and our nation. Give them the guidance to work together for the good of all of our citizens. Lord in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

Janet Polak: Healing God, 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.

Debbie Sweger: God of Just Love - everyone of us is different, but each of us deserves to be treated fairly as we are in your eyes. Help us as a Nation, and guide our leaders to be fair in all decisions made, and to agree on the common good that we ask your help in showing us. Unite us as a Nation, and help all people see justice through your eyes; as you did with Zacchaeus, and to step out of our comfort zone as Shiphrah and Puah did, to do the right thing. Help all of our leaders see and understand “just love” as decisions are made, Lord in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

Coletta Railing: Precious Lord, for families and single parents with children home from schools for the foreseeable future and for educators on all levels, guide them to creative and safe solutions to help our young folks to be able to continually learn and flourish. Please give them a network of support to assist them. For older students whose courses of study are changing, whose placements are cancelled, whose paths may be uncertain, God present to them that their trust and hope may be in 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.

THE PEACE

☞ The peace of Christ be with you always.

☞ And also with you.


THE LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION MEAL

THE OFFERING: We give our offerings of time, talent, money to help live God's mission in our community.
(Please mail checks to church or send on line)

OFFERTORY HYMN

Bob & Deb Rife

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Debbie Sweger

Let us pray. God our provider, we bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out of it. Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table, and with them the offering of our lives. Nourish us now with the life that really is life, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☩ Amen.

DIALOGUE

☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ And also with you.

☩ Lift up your hearts.

☩ We lift them to the Lord.

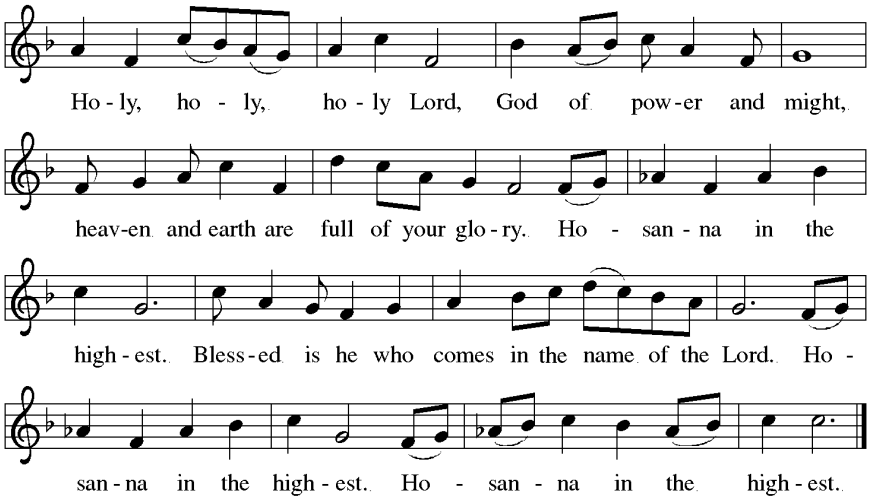
☩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

THE SANCTUS

Bob & Deb Rife



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

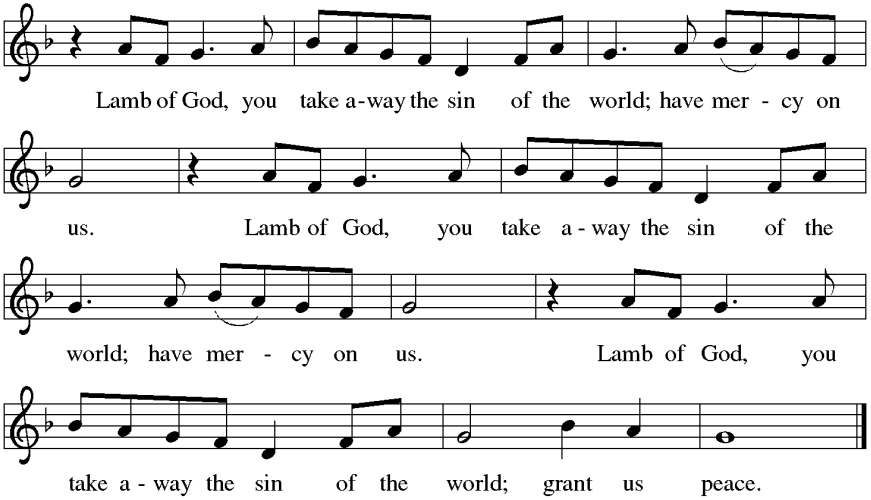
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come, take your place at the feast.

LAMB OF GOD

Bob & Deb Rife



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

The elements were given as you entered.

P Please peel the top film and take your bread.
The body of Christ given for you.

C Amen.

P Open your cup by peeling back the foil.
The blood of Christ shed for you.

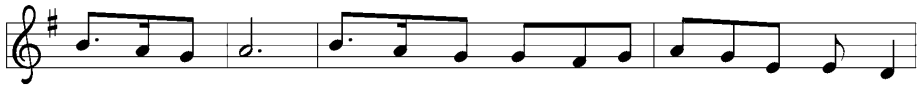
C Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN (blue hymnal #734 verses 1 & 3)

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

☐ The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☑ Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE Bob & Deb Rife



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

THE LITURGY OF SENDING FOR SERVICE

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER Janet Polak

Let us pray. Lord, Thank you that “before a word is on our tongues, you, Lord, know it completely”. Thank you that there are no surprises with you. Help us find deep comfort in the fact that you are unshockable, and nothing is too great, too terrible, too large, or too heavy for you. Help us see the problems that face us in light of how big you are. May we learn to trust you more, and ourselves less.

☛ Amen.

BLESSING

☒ Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Almighty God ☩ bless you with grace, mercy, and peace, now and forever.

☛ Amen.


SENDING HYMN (blue hymnal #765 verses 1 & 4)

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

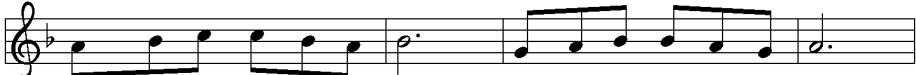
Refrain




Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh-bors to us and you.
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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DISMISSAL

Diane Covalt-Wiser

Go in peace. Live in love as Christ loved us.

☑ Thanks be to God. We will!

POSTLUDE

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