

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 18, 2021**

**9:30am Worship**

**The Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Opening Prayer**

**\* Confession & Forgiveness p. 116-118**

*L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

*L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.***

*L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*L: Most merciful God, **C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

*P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.***

**\* Gathering Hymn # 834**

**“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”**

**\* Greeting p. 147** *L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.***

**\* Kyrie p. 147** *L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.***

*L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

*L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.***

*L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **C: Lord, have mercy.***

*L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C: Amen.***

**\* The Feast of Victory p.140**

**\* The Prayer of the Day (all pray) **O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.****

## **First Lesson: Nehemiah 9:32-38**

**32** “Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day. **33** Yet you have been righteous in all that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly. **34** Our kings, our princes, our priests, and our fathers have not kept your law or paid attention to your commandments and your warnings that you gave them. **35** Even in their own kingdom, and amid your great goodness that you gave them, and in the large and rich land that you set before them, they did not serve you or turn from their wicked works. **36** Behold, we are slaves this day; in the land that you gave to our fathers to enjoy its fruit and its good gifts, behold, we are slaves. **37** And its rich yield goes to the kings whom you have set over us because of our sins. They rule over our bodies and over our livestock as they please, and we are in great distress.

**38** “Because of all this we make a firm covenant in writing; on the sealed document are the names of our princes, our Levites, and our priests.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 23**

*L: 23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

**C: 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.**

*L: 3 He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*

**C: 4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

*L: 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.*

**ALL: 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## **Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:11-22**

**11** Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—**12** remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **14** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **17** And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

**18** For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. **19** So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, **21** in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. **22** In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

\* **Gospel Acclamation** p. 142

\* **Gospel Announcement**

\* *Pastor*: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

\* **The Gospel Lesson: Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

**30** The apostles returned to Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught.

**31** And he said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. **32** And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves. **33** Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they ran there on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them. **34** When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. And he began to teach them many things.

**53** When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored to the shore. **54** And when they got out of the boat, the people immediately recognized him **55** and ran about the whole region and began to bring the sick people on their beds to wherever they heard he was. **56** And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or country-side, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

*Pastor*: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon** – Children will share their VBS songs

**Hymn # 87** (*TOSB vs. 1 & 2*)

**"I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"**

**The Sermon** Series: "Nehemiah—God's Faithful Servant"

Part 7 - "Covenant, Commitment, And Cleansing" **Pastor William Shields**

(sermon text: Nehemiah 9:32-38)

\* **The Apostle's Creed** p. 105

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.

**The Hymn of the Day # 772**

**"Oh, That The Lord Would Guide My Ways"**

**Prayers of God's People**

**Words of Institution**

\* **The Lord's Prayer** p. 145 **C: 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.**

**Distribution of Communion**

**Communion Hymn # 542**

**"O Living Bread From Heaven"**

\* **The Blessing**

\* **Benediction**

\* **Sending Hymn # 821**

\* **Dismissal** *P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

**“Shout To The Lord”**

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

**Announcements:**

*Altar Flowers  
Given in honor of their  
61<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
by Dick and Barb Mills*

Lydia Circle  
Meets  
Tuesday, July 20 – 6:00pm

**OHIO FIRST LUTHERAN  
Celebrating 100 (101) years  
Sunday, August 22, 2021**  
Special service 9:30-11:00am  
NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clements will give the  
message & several former  
pastors will be assisting.  
Catered luncheon follows in the Fellowship Hall.  
Reservations are requested,  
call 815-376-7431.  
Friends of the church –past & present- warmly  
invited to attend. Cost is \$5/adult \$2.50/child  
under 12 is free.

**Many thanks to generous hearts! Grocery donations plus Thrivent helped us feed every attendee & adult volunteers all week in addition to providing pizza and special treats for our closing. Your food was appreciated! –From the kitchen staff of VBS**

Continued prayers for: John Purvis, Mary Hull, Kate Newby, Sara Himes, Janette Dunn, Pat Anderson, Lani Swinford, Sue Scruggs. Cancer patients: Matt Scruggs, and Matt’s mother, Susan, Marvin Hartz, Kim Darrough, Diane Welch, Mary & Tom Lee (Kate Feurer’s parents).