FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Responding to Assisted Suicide

AS WE GATHER

We welcome to our pulpit this morning Pastor Roger Wohletz who has been the pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Denver since 2009. Pastor Larson and he are trading pulpits this morning.

This morning Pastor Wohletz is speaking to us on how all life is precious to God, regardless of the circumstances. Using our Old Testament lesson as a basis, he will also address the topic of how a Christian can respond to the increasing incidents of Physician Assisted Suicide in our society. Once rare, it is now legal in nine states and the District of Columbia. As of January of this year, 4,429 death-inducing prescriptions have been issued and 66.3% of those have been filled and used.
GATHERING SONG

LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH

Lord, I Lift Your name on high; Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I’m so glad You’re in my life; I’m so glad You came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high

PREPARATION

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG MIGHTY IS OUR GOD

Mighty is our God, mighty is our King;
Mighty is our Lord, ruler of ev’rything.
Glory to our God, glory to our King;
Glory to our Lord, ruler of ev’rything.

His name is higher, higher than any other name;
His pow’r is greater, for He has created ev’rything.

Mighty is our God, mighty is our King;
Mighty is our Lord, ruler of ev’rything.
Glory to our God, glory to our King;
Glory to our Lord, ruler of ev’rything.
INVOCATION
Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES
Pastor: God invites us to speak to Him.
People: He wants to hear from us.
Pastor: He longs to hear our supplications and prayers,
People: our intercessions and thanksgivings for all people.
Pastor: God desires that all people are saved
People: and come to a knowledge of the truth.
Pastor: Whether rich or poor, rulers or the destitute,
People: God desires to save all people.
Pastor: Blessed be the name of the Lord
People: from this time forth and forevermore!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION
Pastor: Though God invites us to speak with Him in prayer, we have ignored His invitation. We may be tempted to choose complaining and worrying over conversing with God. We may be tempted to listen to ourselves and the world instead of to God’s Word. We turn to God’s infinite mercy and ask for His forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.
Pastor: Heavenly Father,
People: we confess that we have ignored You and the gift of prayer and conversation with You. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins. Restore us as Your beloved people.
Pastor: God hears your confession and invites you back into holy conversation with Him. Almighty God in His mercy showed His love for us in this, that He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen. We rejoice in the mercy of God’s forgiveness. We will listen and speak to Him.
OLD TESTAMENT READING: Amos 8:4-7
(The Lord does not forget dishonesty toward the poor.)

Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land, saying,
"When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?"—skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales, buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, selling even the sweepings with the wheat.
The LORD has sworn by the Pride of Jacob: "I will never forget anything they have done.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 1 Timothy 2:1-15
(God desires all people to be saved.)

I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles. I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing.
I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for Holy Gospel.
Jesus told his disciples: "There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, `What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer."
"The manager said to himself, `What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg—I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.'
"So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, `How much do you owe my master?'
"Eight hundred gallons of olive oil,' he replied.
"The manager told him, `Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred.'
"Then he asked the second, `And how much do you owe?'
"A thousand bushels of wheat,' he replied.
"He told him, `Take your bill and make it eight hundred.'
"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.
"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?
"No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."
The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God's sight.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Christa Kirschner
SONG OF THE DAY  “Praise to You, Giver of Life”

1. Praise to You, Giver of Life, Sharing with love and delight
2. Children of heavenly grace, Each with a soul and a face,
3. Each one is precious to You, Each is a promise in bloom.

All that You are—
Born in Your heart,
Lives not too small or too great.
Life in its loveliness,
Sharing Your dignity,
Children of every age, Each in Your measureless,
Giving Your very breath With all Your heart
Covered, Glimpsing eternity In every star-
Image made, May we love unafraid, Father of all

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: Felice de Giardini

SERMON  “What’s Your Net Worth?”  Pastor Roger Wohletz
TEXT: Amos 8:4-7

NICENE CREED  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.
OFFERING

OFFERTORY

MORE LOVE, MORE POWER

Hierro

More love, more power, More of You in my life;
More love, more power, More of You in my life.
And I will worship You With all of my heart,
And I will worship You With all of my mind,
And I will worship You With all of my strength,
You are my Lord, You are my Lord.

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

* SACRAMENT *

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. 
People: And also with you. 2 Timothy 4:22
Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.


Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”
LORD’S PRAYER  Matthew 6:9–13  Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

THE WAY (NEW HORIZON)  Smith/Bashta/Barrett

Through every battle Through every heartbreak
Through every circumstance
I believe That You are my fortress Oh, You are my portion
And You are my hiding place, oh I believe You are

CHORUS: The way, the truth, the life
I believe You are The way, the truth, the life I believe (You are)

Through every blessing Through every promise
Through every breath I take
I believe That You are Provider You are Protector
And You are the One I love, I believe you are CHORUS

It's a new horizon and I'm set on You
And You meet me here today with mercies that are new
All my fears and doubts, they can all come too
Because they can't stay long when I believe (You are) CHORUS

OPEN THE EYES OF MY HEART/HOLY, HOLY, HOLY  Baloche/Dykes

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You
Open the eyes of my heart Lord, Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love As we sing holy holy holy

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You
Open the eyes of my heart Lord, Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

Holy holy holy Holy holy holy Holy holy holy I want to see You
Holy holy holy Holy holy holy Holy holy holy I want to see You
Holy holy holy Holy holy holy Holy holy holy I want to see You

Holy holy holy Lord God Almighty Early in the morning Our song shall rise to Thee
Holy holy holy Merciful and mighty God in three persons Blessed Trinity

Holy holy holy Lord God Almighty All Thy works shall Praise
Thy name In earth and sky and sea Holy holy holy Merciful and mighty
God in three persons Blessed Trinity
Amazing grace how sweet the sound  That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found Was blind but now I see so clearly

CHORUS: Hallelujah grace like rain falls down on me
Hallelujah all my stains are washed away
(They're washed away)

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed  CHORUS

When we've been there ten thousand years Bright shining as the sun
We've no less days to sing Your praise Than when we'd first begun  CHORUS X2

Hallelujah yeah Hallelujah yeah
Hallelujah yeah oh yeah
Hallelujah all my stains are washed away
They're washed away
GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and * give you peace.  Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

CLOSING SONG  FOREVER REIGN  Morgan—Ingram

You are good, You are good, when there’s nothing good in me.
You are love, You are love, on display for all to see.
You are light, You are light, when the darkness closes in.
You are hope, You are hope, You have covered all my sin.
You are peace, You are peace, when my fear is crippling.
You are true, You are true, even in my wandering.
You are joy, You are joy, You’re the reason that I sing.
You are life, You are life, in You death has lost its sting.

CHORUS: Oh, I’m running to your arms, I’m running to your arms.
The riches of Your love will always be enough.
Nothing compares to Your embrace. Light of the world, forever reign.

You are more, You are more, than my words will ever say.
You are Lord, You are Lord, all creation will proclaim.
You are here, you are here, in Your presence I’m made whole.
You are God, You are God; Of all else I’m letting go.  CHORUS

I’m running to your arms, I’m running to your arms.
The riches of Your love will always be enough.
Nothing compares to Your embrace. Light of the world, forever reign.

My heart will sing, no other Name, Jesus, Jesus.
My heart will sing, no other Name, Jesus, Jesus.  CHORUS

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God.
Fearfully & Wonderfully Made
Serving in Worship

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT</td>
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<td>Reverend Roger Wohletz</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES</td>
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<td>Michael Zehnder</td>
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<td>ORGAN ASSISTANT</td>
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<td>Gwen Geisler</td>
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<td>USHERS</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Art Gordon, Members of the Congregation</td>
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<td>Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation</td>
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<td>Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Cathy Utecht</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLOWERS</td>
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<td>Mary Hert, in loving memory of Scott (son) and Dayni (niece).</td>
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Brief bio: Pastor Roger Wohletz grew up in Kansas City, MO (go Chiefs!) and graduated from Northeast Missouri State University in 1994 and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1998. He previously served as pastor at congregations in Albuquerque, NM and rural Illinois and has served as the pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Denver since 2009. His wife, Jenniffer, is a pre-school teacher at Shepherd of the Hills Christian School in Centennial. They have two sons, Nathan, a senior at Lutheran High School in Parker, and Noah, an 8th grader at Shepherd of the Hills. Pastor Wohletz enjoys hiking, camping, history, and strategy board games.