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.
PRELUDE  “The Lord, My God, be Praised”  David Cherwien

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

HYMN  “The Lord, My God, be Praised”  *LSB 794*

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.

* WORD *

Kyrie (spoken)

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: 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.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE  “Sing to the Lord a New Song”
SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy; and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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 the Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE 1 Timothy 2:5–6a Ascension Chorale

Verse for Pentecost 15

1 Timothy 2:5–6a

Congregation: REFRAIN

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

Choir: For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all.

Congregation: REFRAIN

(The parable of the dishonest manager)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

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.
HYMN 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,
Life in its loveliness,
Giving Your very breath
Covered, glimpsing eternity,
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

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, You desire that all people are saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. Send out messengers and missionaries to every corner of the earth that people from every tribe, nation, and language would hear the saving mercy of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
People: hear our prayer.
Pastor: Lord, send Your mercy to all who are struggling financially, the homeless, the poor, the unemployed, the underemployed, and those dealing with
unexpected situations. Lead them through this challenging road and provide people and systems to help them. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Lord, You invite us into holy conversation with You through prayer, but we often neglect this invitation. Help us to speak to You more frequently and more fervently. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, especially . . . Have mercy upon them and heal them according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Special intercessions may be added here… Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer.

**Pastor:** Lord, we commend all of these things to Your infinite mercies, which are new every morning. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** hear our prayer. Amen.

---

**THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** And also with you.

---

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “Those Who Trust in the Lord”  
Heinz Werner Zimmerman  
Ascension Chorale  
Ann Westra, synth bass

---

**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.
PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

961 Sanctus


THE WORDS OF OUR LORD  
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.*

**AGNUS DEI**


**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

“Christ Our Human Likeness Sharing”  
“In Holy Conversation”  
“For the Fruits of His Creation”

*LSB 847  
LSB 772  
LSB 894*

**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.
HYMN “Son of God, Eternal Savior” LSB 842

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “The Lord, My God, be Praised” Paul Manz

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT Reverend Roger Wohletz
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES Michael Zehnder
ORGAN ASSISTANT Gwen Geisler
AGAPE Rose Berger, Bri Fort, Lisa O’Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet, Larry Westra

ELDER 8:00 Bill Redden
10:30 Don Loptien
LECTOR 8:00 Joyce Lord
10:30 Jeanette Nelson
ACOLYTE 8:00 Chrissy Coon
10:30 Hannah Schmitt
USHERS 8:00 Art Gordon, Members of the Congregation
10:30 Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation
SERVER 10:30 Kathy Johnson
ALTAR GUILD Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault, Cathy Utecht
FLOWERS Mary Hert, in loving memory of Scott (son) and Dayni (niece).

CCLI License #1903595

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.