

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

Morning Prayer Service

**The Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost** – September 17, 2023

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you. *John 13.34*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God, we confess that 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 neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All-Ages Song: *10 Commands*

**MORNING PRAYER**

Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

God rules over all the earth: **O come, let us worship.**

Invitatory - Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, \*

**the world and all who dwell therein.**

For it is he who founded it upon the seas \*

**and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**

“Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? \*

**and who can stand in his holy place?”**

“Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, \*

**who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,**

**nor sworn by what is a fraud.**

They shall receive a blessing from the Lord \*

**and a just reward from the God of their salvation.”**

Such is the generation of those who seek him, \*

**of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*

**and the King of glory shall come in.**

“Who is this King of glory?” \*

**“The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.”**

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*

**and the King of glory shall come in.**

“Who is he, this King of glory?” \*

**“The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.”**

God rules over all the earth: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A reading from the book of Exodus 14:19–31.

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh’s horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

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

Psalm 114

Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, \*

**the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,**

Judah became God’s sanctuary \*

**and Israel his dominion.**

The sea beheld it and fled; \*

**Jordan turned and went back.**

The mountains skipped like rams, \*

**and the little hills like young sheep.**

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \*

**O Jordan, that you turned back?**

You mountains, that you skipped like rams? \*

**you little hills like young sheep?**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, \*

**at the presence of the God of Jacob.**

Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \*

**and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans 14:1–12.

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: *God Whose Almighty Word* (CP #560)

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew (18:21–35). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

**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 to the dead. 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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

Let us pray with confidence to the Lord, saying, “Lord, hearour prayer.”

Deliver us, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open our hearts to your grace and truth.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Fill us with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Send us into the world in witness to your love.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Bring us to the fullness of your peace and glory.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant, O Lord,

that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and for ever. **Amen.**

Remember, Lord, your people bowed before you, and those who are absent through age, sickness, or any other cause.

**Care for the infants, guide the young, support the aged, inspire the faint-hearted, and bring the wandering to your fold.**

Journey with the travellers, encourage the oppressed, defend the widows, deliver the captives, heal the sick.

**Strengthen all who are in tribulation, necessity, or distress. Especially those harmed by Hurricane Lee, and other disasters around our world.**

Remember for good those who love us, and those who hate us, and those who have asked us, unworthy as we are, to pray for them. [**Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin. Take a moment to offer your own petitions and requests to the Lord.**]

**Remember especially, Lord, those whom we have forgotten. For you are**

**the helper of the helpless, the saviour of the lost, the refuge of the wanderer, the healer of the sick. You know the need of all and have heard each prayer: save us in your merciful lovingkindness and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Collect

*Almighty God,*

*you call your Church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you.*

*Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you;*

*through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,*

*one God, now and for ever.* ***Amen****.*

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn: *How Firm A Foundation* (MP #527)

Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**