

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church- ELCA  
Melo Lutheran Church- ELCA  
Pastor David Peterson*



Now the Lord is the Spirit,  
and where the  
Spirit of the Lord is,  
there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:17

*July 3, 2011  
Third Sunday in Pentecost*

*The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with the lowly and outcast. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.*

*Welcome to worship!*

The congregation reads **bold type**.

\* Stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

DeeDee Carlson (Melo)

Rachel Roggenbuck (OSL)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p 94

\*GATHERING HYMN  
"How Great Thou Art"

ELW #856

\*GREETING & KYRIE

ELW p138

\*HYMN OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast"

ELW p 140

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

PSALM

Psalm 145:8-14

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p142

\*GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

SERMON

Pastor Peterson

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

ELW # 765

APOSTLE'S CREED

ELW p 105

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you**

OFFERING

\*OFFERATORY

"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

ELW #184

### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*We celebrate communion with an open table. All are invited and welcome at the Lord's Table who are members of the body of Christ through Baptism, have confessed their sin, trust that Jesus is truly present in the bread and wine, and believe that to receive him is to receive forgiveness. Children not having received instruction are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice is available upon request.*

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING  
\*THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p 144

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table prepared before you. Taste of God's goodness and mercy.

AGNUS DEI  
COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW p 146

**"For the Bread Which You Have Broken"**

ELW # 494

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, we give you thanks that again this day you have opened wide your hand and satisfied us with the food of life, the body and blood of Christ. Sharing your compassionate heart, may we be blessed and given to all who hunger and thirst; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful bless us, keep us, and + grant us peace.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

**"Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises"**

ELW # 535

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12**

*The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, they are designated as "prisoners of hope."*

<sup>9</sup>Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup>He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war-horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup>As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup>Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

<sup>10</sup>All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

<sup>11</sup>**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

<sup>12</sup>that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

<sup>13</sup>**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

**SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a**

*Life enslaved under sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be bad. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.*

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

<sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] <sup>16</sup>But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

<sup>17</sup>'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;  
we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

<sup>18</sup>For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; <sup>19</sup>the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Participants for TODAY**

Acolyte: Cody Goroski and Jesse Pineda

Ushers: John Walker

Lector: Jean Walker

Communion Servers:

Coffee Hosts: Rita Walker and Jean Walker

Nursery: Please attend your own children.

Melo Custodian: Lowell Hamrick

### **Participants for Next Sunday**

Acolyte: Allyson Hebert

Ushers: Dean, Carter, & Patrick Maruska

Lector:

Coffee Hosts: Jana Maruska and Lana Maruska

Nursery: Please attend your own children.

Melo Custodian: Robert Hamrick

### **Seeing Jesus as He Is**

Stereograms were discovered back in the early 1800s and have delighted and challenged viewers ever since. They are basically colored shapes which, when assembled in specific patterns, reveal particular images. The enlightening, and often frustrating, quality of stereograms is this: the viewer must come at those shapes with an open mind, with no preconceptions about what the revealed image is *supposed* to look like. The more untrained the eye, the better. It might take a few moments to relax and get rid of expectations, but the image is worth the wait.

If we come at Jesus with a sure knowledge of what he is supposed to look like and how he is supposed to act, we can easily miss his living presence among us when he doesn't conform to our expectations. We might carry assumptions from our early days in Sunday school, or previous teaching about the Bible; but we had best hold them lightly—honor them but not cling to them as ultimate and definitive wisdom or intelligence. Instead, we should listen to the living, dynamic Jesus' invitation to us today, for that invitation holds the key to seeing him as he is: "Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

Where do we see weariness being exchanged for refreshment, burdens being lifted? Some of those who perform those life-giving acts do not overtly bear the name of Jesus. But we should look again. Jesus sometimes does his work in, with, and through some unexpected people and places. In fact, as Mother Teresa once remarked, Jesus often wears "a most distressing disguise."

Take a moment, relax your expectations, let your eyes adjust to God's reality. Where do you see the living Christ in our midst? Are you being served by him even now? Are you the one doing the serving?

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