

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost



The Lihue Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii

Ka Hale Pule 'O Na Lahui Apau . . .

Church Of All Peoples . . .

. . . Hele Pu Makou me Iesu Kristo

. . . Walking Together With Christ

October 25, 2020

The Lihue Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii

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Welcome to the Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost!

Introduction

Jesus' summary of the law in today's gospel echoes our first reading from Leviticus. We are called not only to love God with heart, soul, and mind, but also to love our neighbor as ourselves. It is out of such deep care that Paul shares the gospel with the Thessalonian community. In the confession of sins, we acknowledge that we have not loved God, neighbor, and self; yet we gather to hear the word of forgiveness and to be strengthened by word and meal to be signs of God's love and mercy in the world.

Overview

Jesus is REALLY into relationships!

Love God, love neighbor, and love self. Jesus is really into relationships! Oftentimes, even if unintentionally, we put loving self first, and because "we are bound to sin and cannot free ourselves" we usually do a poor job of actually loving ourselves. This means we have less love to give to neighbor and even less for God. Jesus puts relationship with God first. He doesn't do this to make us last but so that we can fully understand love and relationship the way God desires it for us.

Today's readings give us insight into the ways God desires us to be in relationship: by being just in all our dealings with others, by not being lead astray by the wicked, by sharing the gospel with humility and tender care, and by loving God and neighbor. It might sound simple, but relationships are far from simple. Relationships are complex creatures with complex issues. Even the best relationships include struggle.

People in our congregations struggle with relationships each and every day. Love should be an easy thing, but it takes work and effort to love God, love others, and love oneself. The psalmist uses the image of trees planted by streams of water to describe people who "delight in the law of the Lord." These are not weak, brittle, or dying trees; these are strong trees that prosper. Our faith plants us, nourishes us, and strengthens us to love.

How can we be like trees planted by streams of water? In what ways can the church help people to make and maintain healthy relationships? How do we encourage self-worth and humility? This is an excellent day to ask these questions, to create forums where answers can be discussed, and to remind one another how much God truly loves us.

Announcements

1. All Saint's Day – November 1 – Wear white for All Saints and send Noreen names
2. ALL CHURCH WORK DAY and Garden Ministry Launch – November 7 @ 8am
3. Food distribution (LCC + LLC + LMC) – update and date (Nov 14 @ Vet's Center)
4. Food Bank distribution help – Thursday, November 19!
5. Youth Group – parent volunteers for weekly meals + sanitization assistance

Weekly Events

1. Hybrid – Virtual + Local Youth Group
 - a. **Sunday, October 25**, 5:30-7:00pm, @ Fellowship Hall
 - b. **Zoom Link** - <https://zoom.us/j/92234312100>
2. College and Young Adults Ministry
 - a. **Tuesday, October 27**, 5:30-7:00pm @ Fellowship hall
3. Women's Book Study – Molokai'i
 - a. **Wednesday, October 28**, @ 7:30-8:30pm via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/96513446272>
4. Bible Study – “The Twelve” - Haggai
 - a. **Thursday, October 29**, @ 5:00-6:30pm @ Fellowship hall + Pupus and BYOB!
5. Centering Prayer with Liedeke Bulder
 - a. **Saturday, October 31**, @ 9-10am via zoom <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9079773456>

Prayer Concerns

Please remember these people in your prayers during the week: Jake Whisenhunt, Rick Rentz, Stan Weeks, Judy Hoffman, Norman Dibble, Marie Johnson, Minora Higa, Kazue Zaima, Virginia Hines-Aflague, John Mattek, Gerald II (Bobby Girald's son), Kristie Schmid (Tony's sister), Lolli Hagen, Abraham Torres, Sr., Kristy Kahananui, Sonny Koerte, Joan Duarte Ebesu, Mallory Rodriguez, Steve Schantz, Leonarda Cadiz, Peter Alisna, Lea Cadiz, Tirzah Pope, John McIntyre, Pastor Matthew Weber, Joyce Anglemyer, Stephen Shioi, Peggy Hood, Jason Shimono, Richard Rasay, Nancy Nelson (formely Mandell), Karen & Patrick Pavao, Edward Rasay, Richard Duarte (Friend of Kurt Javinar), Karen Richards (friend of Nancy Mandell), Marcos Larson (Liedeke's son), Dora Jane Rowell, Franklin Parraga, Penny Parraga, Leticia Ancog (Kurt Javinar's sister), Yvonne Shinseki, Al Dressler (Larry's Father), Shirley Hallman (Denese Alcott's Mother), Mercy Ballesteros, Mike LaBerge, Anna Marie & Phil Croghan, Judy Carlson, Caroline Johnson, Sheila Belarmino, Ray Roderick, The Church Council, and leaders in the ELCA. If you have additional prayer requests, please let the church office know. “Ask it in my name . . .” Mahalo for your love.

Remembering our Military

As we gather for worship, please remember those serving us in the military, and the families of our Hawai'i National Guard. These names have been given by loved ones and family members: Navy – TJ, Javinar, Kristian Matsumoto, Coast Guard - Brian Rodriguez, Navy - Kiana Alisna, Coast Guard - Ke'ale Renta Army - Jason Lumacad, Levi Fajardo: Air Force - Steven Javinar, Ikaika Fajardo, Army - Brandon Perkinson, Drew Cox, Tony Garton: National Guard - Benji MacKenzie, Eddie Resinto, Fred Casticimo, Philip Kamakea, Anthony Y. Torres, Master Sgt. If you know of someone you would like added to our prayer list, please advise the church office.

Ethical Responsibilities

Love is an ethic. An ethic refers to a duty, principle, expectation, or standard that informs what we should do and how we should do it. In the Holiness Code of Leviticus, God lays out (deontological, duty-based) ethics for how we should interact with God and how we should interact with one another. The most difficult thing about ethics has to do with sin and sinfulness, for we fall short and do not do the things we should do and do the things we should do (Rom 7:15). This week we have yet another chance to experience God's renewal so that we may grow in devotion and commitment to one another in love.

Welcome, Check-In, and Announcements

Type into the Facebook chatbox and respond to one, or more, of the following four check-in prompts

Moment of Mindfulness

Take a few moments to center your spirit and prepare for worship. This week, there are some of us who are carrying heavy burdens and struggling in difficult seasons. Bring these to God in your hearts through prayer and prepare to receive the fullness of peace and grace that God has to offer.

*Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P We are gathered in the name of the Father, Makua, and of the + Son, Keiki Kane, and of the Holy Spirit, Uhane Hemolele.

C Amen

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Faithful God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gifts of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in the freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Gathering Song

ELW 835

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor
 grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,
 throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in
 grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al - le -
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

5 And you, most gentle sister death,
 waiting to hush our final breath:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
 fair is the night that leads us home.
 Alleluia.

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
 and worship God with humble heart:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
 Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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*Apostolic Greeting

P 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.

*Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

*First Reading

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

The Holiness Code in Leviticus urges people to be holy because God is holy. Holiness is lived out as God's people exercise justice and love in their dealings with one another. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves.

¹The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

²Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

¹⁵You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

¹⁷You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

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

Psalm (to be read responsively)

Psalm 1

Their delight is in the law of the Lord. (*Ps. 1:2*)

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;

everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Second Reading

1 Thessalonian 2:1-8

Paul uses maternal imagery to depict the caring and nurturing relationship he shares with the Thessalonian Christians. When he first came to their city it was not to benefit himself but to share the gospel with them, which was his responsibility as an apostle of Christ.

¹You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ²but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. ⁵As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; ⁶nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

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

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris-en Lord;



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

**The Holy Gospel*

Matthew 22:34-46

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴²“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴“The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet”?”

⁴⁵If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Song of the Day

ELW 694

Sing to the Lord of Harvest

1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,

with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.

by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,

sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.
Music: WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN, Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613

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

**Prayers of the Church*

P Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing touch to those who are ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Be with our Ohana off island. As places around our nation re-open and re-close, be with them. Place hedges of protection around them as they go about their daily activities. Hold them in your love until they are able to come be with us again. God of our salvation,

C hear our prayer.

P Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Queen's Prayer

Piano

O kou a - lo - ha no A i - a i ka La - ni, A
No - lai - la e ka - Haku Ma - la - lo kou e - he - u, Ko

o kou oi - a i - o, He he - mo - le - le hoi
 ma-kou ma - lu hi - a, A mau loa a - ku no. A - me - ne.

English Translation

1. O Lord thy Loving Mercy,
 Is high as the Heavens.
 It tells us of thy truth.
 And 'tis filled with holiness

3. For thy grace I beseech thee.
 Bring us 'neath thy protection.
 And peace will be thy portion
 Now and forever more. Amen

Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share peace in the Facebook live chatbox with one another.

**Offering Prayer*

P Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Offertory

Pastoral ministry might seem like something that *one person* does: the pastor. In our tradition, we are all pastors. This is the doctrine of the priesthood of *all* believers. While you may not be an ordained pastor, you are still a leader in ministry, called and baptized and sent to do great things. Your first vocational ministry is where God has called you to work. And sometimes, work becomes so fulfilling (or just time filling) that we aren't always able to get involved in the church in the ways we would like. Here is where you can partner with us in the ministries we support, so that, even though you're not carrying out the ministry, you support our work in your way.

Dear friends, in the times of COVID we invite those who are financially stable and able to move into a greater partnership with us in this season do so through the giving of gifts, tithes, and offerings. This work *is not possible without your support!* We invite you to pray in this season and discern how God might be inviting you to grow in your giving and support to Lihue Lutheran.

If, in this discernment, God puts it on your heart to give, donations can be made online, mailed in, or given on our website [here](#) or you can copy and paste the weblink below @

https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=tYgT1GfNxRUldiimjHMvORYXmm3bazY6GfrmTtVDZydsksODEa-Up5lt373GHnco2evTp0mld6BrVzd2nG0p8xSFKZ9u6c4AzLo4CjNx7k=&ver=3

Offertory Song

Lord of Aloha

God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma - ker of beau - ty and source of the breeze,
 5 King of Cre - a - tion, an - cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.
 9 Auth - or of mer - cy, Giv - er of grace, Bles - sed Re - deem - er who died in our place, Fath - er of one O
 14 ha - na are you, Lift - ing our voic - es we sing "Al - le - lu" Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.
 19 God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma - ker of beau - ty and source of the breeze,
 23 King of Cre - a - tion, an - cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.
 27 Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

Sacramental Remembrance of Communion

*Lord's Prayer (spoken in unison)

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.

*Blessing

P Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C Amen

Sending Song

ELW 671

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;
 blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
 Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;
 send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
 2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fac - es dis -
 dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,
 set us free by the truth you now bring us.
 mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

Shine on me, shine on me:
 Shine on me, shine on me:

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
 Music: Graham Kendrick
 Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE
 9 9 10 10 3 3 and refrain

Dismissal

A Go in peace! Serve the poor! C Thanks be to God

Comments from the Cloud of Witnesses

It is a great thing to know this mystery: how Jesus is both David's Lord and David's son, how the one person is both a man and God, how in the form of a man he is less than the Father, and in the form of God he is equal to the Father. That you may grasp this, you must be trained in virtue. We come to the Lord's door and knock; it is our life that knocks. The heart seeks, the heart asks, the heart knocks. And God opens to the heart. But the heart must first love God for his own sake; for this is the true love of God, not seeking from God any other reward than God's own self. If you rejoice that God gives us the earth, how much more should you rejoice when God gives you himself, who made heaven and earth?

—Augustine

[Augustine, *The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, IV, 166.]

ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY

St. Augustine wrote a lot about sin. He is well known, especially in Catholic theology, for writing on the sin of pride. Pride is indeed a grievous sin, but one that we might not always be aware of. Pride is an ambiguous sin in that, it doesn't always take on a specific form. Therefore, it can be hard to discern that a root issue of a sin is pride when what we see is defensiveness, an overwhelming insistence on *my way or the highway*, refusal to be helped or receive from others, apathy, coldness, callousness, or indifference towards others. Pride is foundationally socially because it always occurs between people, in relationships, and affects people and relationships. Biblically, pride can harden the heart and distance one from another. This is why, compared only to sexual sin, God seems to specifically hate the sin of pride. Proverbs 16:5 says, "You can be sure of this, the proud will not go unpunished."

The reason why God hates pride so much *is because God loves people!* Pride gets in the way of love of others and love towards one another. It is a dividing line and cold wedge that creates disunity and harbors resentment, suspicion, callousness, and in a fuller form, cold indifference.

The opposite of pride *is not humility*. The opposite of pride is love, openness to others, freedom to let others be who they are (in all of their entirety – good *and* bad), and a continually *showing up* for one another. Love does not insist in having its own way but concedes to the needs, wants, and desires of others. This does not flatten one in total surrender to the other but maintains a healthy boundary that is defined by mutuality, equality, and equity; here the needs and wants of both/all find consideration.

Dear friends, what I see in this world is a coldness of heart and callousness of emotion in the minds and lives of people. It is driving wedges between us and artificial and unnecessary lines where they shouldn't exist. God's call to us is to return to love, one that is considerate, kind, compassionate, and one that does not insist on or seek its own way or benefit; but one that is Christ-like and seeks the edification of others above itself. May we not be conformed in this season to the patterns of this world but transformed by the renewing of our hearts and minds that we might love others as Christ loved us.