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**17th Sunday after Pentecost September 15, 2024 Video**

*Good morning. This is Richfield Lutheran Church’s video worship service for September 15th. The printed bulletin for this service can be found on our website, Richfield-Lutheran.org.*

*Our gospel is Mark 8:27-38. Three weeks ago, we heard Peter’s confession of faith as told in John’s gospel. This week we hear Mark’s version, when Peter says, “You are the Messiah.” In John, the stumbling block is Jesus’ invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus’ words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus’ words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.*

1. **GATHERING**

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

**O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

1. **WORD**

**Gospel: Mark 8:27-38.** *(This story provides the turning point in Mark’s gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross*.*)*

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

27Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”  28And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”  29He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”  30And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

31Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.  33But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.  35For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.  36For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? 37Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?  38Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** *What Do You Say?* Pr Brian

**Apostles Creed**

In response to the good news, we confess our shared faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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 People**

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God’s good creation, and all who are in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve…. Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*(A brief silence.)*

We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**III. THANKSGIVING**

**Offering**

*You can support this and other of God’s ministries through Richfield Lutheran Church today via our website: Richfield-Lutheran.org/give. Thank you for your faithful generosity.*

**Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**IV. SENDING**

*On September 15th, in addition to this video recording and its phone-in option, we have in-person worship at 9:30. We celebrate Holy Communion! Afterwards we share fellowship. All are welcome.*

*Next Sunday, September 22, our gospel is Mark 9:30-37.* *Jesus’ teaching and action are directed to the church whenever it is seduced by the world’s definition of greatness: prestige, power, influence, and money. The antidote to such a concern for greatness is servanthood.*

*Until then, go forth with God’s blessing.*

**Blessing**

God all mighty, God most merciful ☩ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace, as you continue to follow Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**This Week’s Daily Bible Readings:**

Monday, September 16. Psalm 119:169-176

Tuesday, September 17. Colossians 3:1-11

Wednesday, September 18. John 7:25-36

Thursday, September 19. Psalm 54

Friday, September 20. Romans 11:25-32

Saturday, September 21. Matthew 9:9-13

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