



**SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
SYNOD** EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

SERVICE 2 of 3 | **RUTH: THE LOVING LEADER**

Thank you for joining your brothers and sisters across the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod for this service. Pastor Peter Asplin and Synod Council are joyful to share this service, and to provide a space for restoration and rejuvenation for the pastors and deacons of our synod during these difficult days.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Sundays after Pentecost

The Season of the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020

The Season of Protest Against
Violence Towards African-Americans 2020

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power
through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering

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.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be With you

And also with you.

Let us pray,

God of the people, your servant Ruth showed great love when she clung to Naomi. Teach us to show great compassion, and to turn to you when we are in need. Teach us to not fear seeking help in this world and inspire all to care for others in need.

Amen.

Word

First Reading: Ruth 1 and 2, selected verses

¹⁵ So [Naomi] said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

¹⁶ But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die –
there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!"

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

¹⁹ So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰ She said to them,

"Call me no longer Naomi,
call me Mara,
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

²¹ I went away full, ``
but the LORD has brought me back empty;
why call me Naomi
when the LORD has dealt harshly with me,
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

²² So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Ruth 2:1 Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. ² And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favor." She said to her, "Go, my daughter." ³ So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers.

⁸ Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women." ⁹ Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped, and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn." ¹⁰ Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?" ¹¹ But Boaz answered her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. ¹² May the LORD reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!" ¹³ Then she said, "May I continue to find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants."

So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz." ²⁰ Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!" Naomi also said to her, "The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin." ²¹ Then Ruth the Moabite said, "He even said to me, 'Stay close by my servants, until they have finished all my harvest.'" ²² Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, "It is better, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, otherwise you might be bothered in another field." ²³ So she stayed close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end of the barley and wheat harvests; and she lived with her mother-in-law.

Response after the conclusion of the reading: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

Gospel: Luke 6:36-38

³⁶ Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Blest Be the tie that binds. [Text, John Fawcett. Music, Johann Nageli]

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the one holy catholic and apostolic church, its members and its mission.

God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

OR

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words.

Into your wide and merciful embrace, O God, we place all for whom we pray, trusting in your unfailing love made manifest to us in Jesus, your Son, our Lord.

Amen.

OR
Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Offering [Dennis Lane, Executive Committee, member of Immanuel, Etna]

Let us pray,

Lord God, in this time of pandemic and violence and terror, we are certain you are active, bringing blessing and help, bringing healing and wholeness to a world in need. Your church remains active with you, serving in hamlets and forests, in cities and suburbs. We give thanks for you and for the gifts your people share with your church for your work in the world.

Amen.

Thank you, each of you, for the gifts you have given throughout these days of Covid-19, to your congregations, to food banks, for the support of those suffering violence in this world. Thank you, congregations for continuing to share mission support with the wider church. Through your ministries and through your faithful stewardship, the work of God continues.

Closing Prayer

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as 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.**

Sending

Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

The assembly may be sent into mission.

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

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