

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / ASCENSION

May 16, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “Make Songs of Joy” -set. Kevin Hildebrand
“Tidings of Joy” -Alice Jordan

OPENING HYMN “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” *LSB* 493

1. A hymn of glory let us sing!

New hymns throughout the world shall ring:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ, by a road before untrod,

Ascends unto the throne of God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2. The holy apostolic band

Upon the Mount of Olives stand.

Alleluia, alleluia!

And with His faithful foll’wers see

Their Lord ascend in majesty.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. To them the shining angels cry,

“Why stand and gaze upon the sky?”

Alleluia, alleluia!

“This is the Savior,” thus they say;

“This is His glorious triumph day!”

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4. “You see Him now, ascending high

Up to the portals of the sky.”

Alleluia, alleluia!

“Hereafter Jesus you shall see

Returning in great majesty.”

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5. Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,

And be our future great reward.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Then, throned with You forever, we

Shall praise Your name eternally.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

△ 6. O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to You let earth accord:
Alleluia, alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Acts 1:1-11*

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 1:15–23*

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 24:44–53*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Then [Jesus] said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON

I want you to think about the last week of August. What happens in Minnesota the last week of August? The State Fair! The “Great Minnesota Get-Together”. What is your favorite part about the State Fair? Is it the variety of shows and performances, whether it is the dog show, Talent Show, or a big headliner at the Grandstand? Is it the sea of vendors scattered throughout the fairgrounds? Perhaps it might be the contest building where you can see art, quilts, and decorative pies on display. Maybe it is the Agriculture building with its stunning flowers, or the barns with their live animals. If you are like me, your favorite part is the food: whether it is Sweet Martha’s cookies, cheese curds, or the variety of things served on a stick. And if you are like me, you like it even better when you go with people that you can share the food with so that you can get a little bit of everything. You can have it all without having it all. For Ascension, the Church has served up a

wonderful platter of texts for the Ascension. Instead of focusing on just one, we will take a sample of each. That way, we can have it all without having it all. Let's start with our first reading, Acts 1. In Acts 1, we see the actual ascension. Luke writes in verses 1 and 2: "In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when He was taken up...." And in verse 11, we hear from the angels, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven." The words taken up frame the account. They serve as bookends to the text. In His ascension, Jesus returns to heaven. He returns to God. He is taken up. The ascension is like a courageous, wounded soldier that returns to his loved ones after a hard fought victory. The soldier has fulfilled his duties. He has accomplished his mission. He has served faithfully, and his family celebrates his return. Jesus had accomplished the mission that He was sent to do, and He returns home. He won our salvation through His life, death, and resurrection. He defeated and conquered the devil, death, sin, and the world. Our Lord's ascension and return to the Father is a wonderful reminder of our salvation. It is one that we don't look at enough, honestly. Oftentimes, we often just look at His death and resurrection, which is right, and is fine, but the ascension deserves a look, too. It is an essential part of Jesus' work and ministry. Its not divorced from His death and resurrection. In His ascension, Jesus goes back to God victorious over sin, death, the devil, and world. He returns as Conqueror and Victor. His homecoming to the Father prepares the way for our homecoming to be with Him forever. Our sermon hymn expresses this hope so well:

"On Christ's ascension I now build
The hope of my ascension;
This hope alone has always stilled
All doubt and apprehension;
For where the Head is, there as well
I know His members are to dwell
When Christ will come and call them."

His return to the Father reminds and assures us that we will be there, too. If Jesus is there, we will be there. Jesus returned to the Father. He was taken up, and this shows a wonderful reminder of our salvation. The Church now moves us to Ephesians 1, where we take another sample. In Ephesians 1, Paul says that in Jesus' ascension that He sat down at the right hand of God "in the heavenly places, far above all rule, and authority, and power, and dominion, and every name being named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come, and He subjected all things under His feet and He gave Him as head on behalf of all things for the benefit of the Church...." We might sometimes be tempted to think that it would be nice to have Jesus still walking around down here on earth, like He did 2,000 years ago. However, Paul says that the best thing for us is to have Jesus right where He is at: enthroned in all majesty and power at God's right hand. That doesn't mean that Jesus is literally sitting down at some particular spot in heaven. The right hand isn't a place, but a position. It means that Jesus has authority over everything, and that He is in complete control of everything, whether that is in the world, in the church, and in our own lives.

I'm sure that some of the kids here have read the book Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day. I'll bet that some of you grown-ups have read it too, and if you haven't read it, I'm sure that you have experienced it in one way or another. The book is about a little boy named Alexander who goes to bed one night with gum in his mouth, and then wakes up next morning with gum in his hair. He then trips on his skateboard getting out of bed, and then he drops his sweater in the sink with the water running. But, it gets worse. At school, his best friend deserts him, his teacher fails to appreciate him, and his Mom forgets to put dessert in his lunch. But, it continues. After school, the family goes to the dentist, and only one person has cavities. Wanna guess who? After a bad dinner, he has a bad bedtime. The bed bath is too hot, he gets soap in his eyes, his favorite marble goes down the drain, and he has to wear embarrassing looking PJs to bed. To top it all off, his night-light burns out, he bites his tongue getting into bed, and the cat refuses to sleep with him (perhaps one cannot blame the cat!). We all have had bad days like that where everything just seems to go wrong. If could go wrong, it did go wrong. And sometimes, it may seem as if everything everywhere is going wrong, whether that is in our homes, in our church body, in our city, in our nation, and in our world. Sometimes, you get the feeling that things are just spinning chaotically out of control, and that is why Jesus' ascension is so important. His ascension says things are not spinning out of control. Jesus rose on Easter morning, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. No matter how things

may look or seem, He is in control. Jesus says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me”. We can be sure that nothing happens without our ascended Lord’s knowledge and permission, and we know that everything, yes, everything, that does happen will ultimately be used by God to bring about blessing into the lives of those who trust in Him. He does all things for the benefit of the Church! He does all things for our good in Him. When it looks like things are coming apart at the seams, in the world, in the church, or in your own life, remember our Lord’s ascension. Jesus is on His throne. He has got the whole world in His hands. No matter how things look, Jesus is in control. He will work it for our good, and for the benefit of the Church. The last place the Church takes us for a sample is Luke 24. There we see that the ascension is not just an end, but it is also a beginning. Jesus’ ascension marks the end of His earthly ministry, it is the ending to Luke, after all. As a result, we can often view the ascension like movie credits. When you see the credits begin to roll as the last scene fades into view, you know the movie is over, and it is. When we see the ascension, we can be tempted to think that Jesus is done, and His ministry is over. In reality, though, His ascension is like listening to a CD. When one track ends, another one begins seamlessly, without you noticing. It continues right on. The ascension is what links the books of Luke and Acts together; track continues. While His ascension marks the end of His earthly ministry, it begins His work in the Church. You see Jesus sending the promised Holy Spirit to be with and to empower His disciples. You see the message that is to go out into all the world, “that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” The book of Acts is all about this, and the ascension is what brings them together. The track continues! The credits aren’t rolling. You see how Jesus expands His Church as His disciples are His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. Last Sunday, we heard how Jesus expanded it through Peter going to the gentile Cornelius. In the coming weeks, we will see how the Church moves out from Jerusalem. In the last half of Acts, you see Paul advancing out to the outer limits of the world, and to Rome, the place where all roads led to in the ancient world. But the CD isn’t stopping, the tracks continue. The Apostles’ acts and the Church’s work in every generation is Jesus’ doing. He worked through the Apostles and others then by His Spirit, and He works through you and me today with that same Spirit. He works through the interactions that we have with people at diners, the library, and grocery store. He works through the conversations we have with relatives, family, friends, and coworkers. He uses the relationships we have to work opportunities, and He works through the words that we share, even when we might bumble and fumble them. He is the One that makes our witness effective, not us. Our Lord still works through His Word by His Spirit, and His sacraments are as effective as ever, delivering the Spirit, strength, life, and grace. Our Lord’s work is not ended, but it continues today through you and me. One day, though, it will come to an end with a beautiful crescendo at His return. In the meantime, the track is still playing, the song continues, and the work goes on. On ascension day, we are given a beautiful sample of texts. We see our Lord being taken up, we see Him on His throne, and we see Him still working today. IN JESUS’ NAME, AMEN.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

HYMN “On Christ’s Ascension I Now Build” *LSB* 492

1. On Christ’s ascension I now build

The hope of my ascension;

This hope alone has always stilled

All doubt and apprehension;

For where the Head is, there as well

I know His members are to dwell

When Christ will come and call them.

2. Since Christ returned to claim His throne,

Great gifts for me obtaining,

My heart will rest in Him alone,

No other rest remaining;

For where my treasure went before,

There all my thoughts will ever soar

To still their deepest yearning.

3. O grant, dear Lord, this grace to me,

Recalling Your ascension,

That I may serve You faithfully

In thanks for my redemption;

And then, when all my days will cease,

Let me depart in joy and peace

In answer to my pleading.

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PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

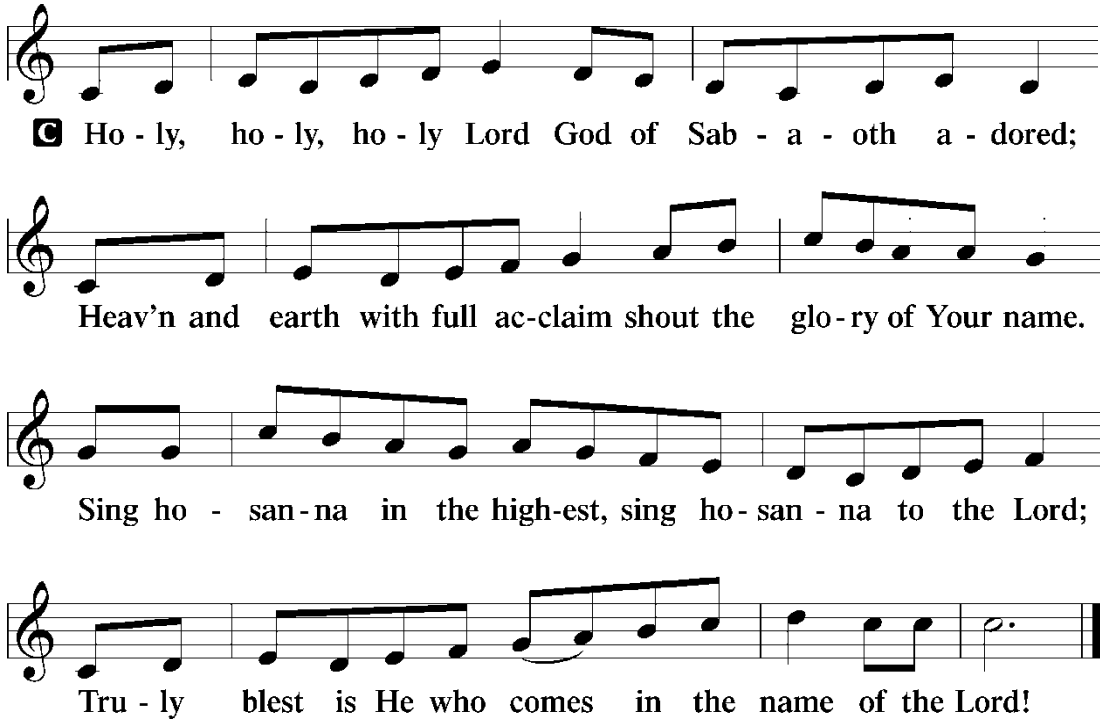
People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, Lord, our God, for You have come to redeem Your fallen creation. Through the saving work of Jesus Christ, whom to know is everlasting life, we are granted all good things and are directed in ways of peace. Through the working of Your Holy Spirit, bestow upon us Your benediction, that we would share Your blessed vision of all people and all creation, reflecting Your gracious love in all our words and deeds throughout our life’s journey on earth. Together with angels and archangels and with all who rejoice in the courts of heaven, we praise Your glorious name:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him. Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into

death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" -set. Kevin Hildebrand

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Crown Him with Many Crowns" *LSB 525*

1. Crown Him with many crowns,

The Lamb upon His throne;

Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns

All music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing

Of Him who died for thee,

And hail Him as thy matchless king

Through all eternity.

2. Crown Him the virgin's Son,

The God incarnate born,

Whose arm those crimson trophies won

Which now His brow adorn:

Fruit of the mystic rose,

Yet of that rose the stem,

The root whence mercy ever flows,

The babe of Bethlehem.

3. Crown Him the Lord of love.

Behold His hands and side,

Rich wounds, yet visible above,

In beauty glorified.

No angels in the sky

Can fully bear that sight,

But downward bend their wond'ring eyes

At mysteries so bright.

4. Crown Him the Lord of life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

5. Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is king of all.
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POSTLUDE "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing" -David Schelat

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Acts 1:11 – “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”*
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ is ascended, and Christ will come again. We live our lives in this world in the sure confidence of the world to come. We live as people who know our Lord Jesus and who know that He is coming back. This makes all the difference in how we approach our stewardship and how we care for the things of this world.

NEW ADDRESS DIRECTORIES have been printed. Feel free to pick up a copy from the narthex table or the counter in the office.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Please check with Pastor Kooi for the current start time. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

29 DOWN, 71 TO GO! The youth made great strides in their shoe collection efforts last week but still need your help. Please use the insert in today's bulletin to spread the word. If you have not cleaned out your closet yet, there is still time! We will be accepting shoes until June 24th. We can accept kids' shoes, hiking boots, flip flops, high heels, tennis shoes, etc. Please spread the word to your book club, running club, youth sports teams and any other groups you may be part of. If you need a shoe pick up, please contact Pam Uran.

HELP NEEDED: Have you been thinking about ways you can get involved at Emmaus? We are looking for additional help on the following boards for 2021-2022. Worship, Fellowship, Social Ministry and Practical

Services. Interested in helping usher, lector, count offerings, assist with Sunday School or the Youth? We have spots for you too! Please reach out to Pastor Kooi, Nicole P, Pam U or Todd P if you have questions or would like more information. We look forward to joining with you to continue the ministry of Emmaus!

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Wisdom Knows When” Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler. Does someone need to hear words of rebuke-or redemption? A message about harsh words, gentle answers, and the wisdom of God. (Proverbs 15:1)