



IT'S HARD TO SEE WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Neil Parker
Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost
24 October 2021

Photo: Hans Peter Gauster-unsplash

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades, including light lime green, medium green, and dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect.

Meditation & Prelude

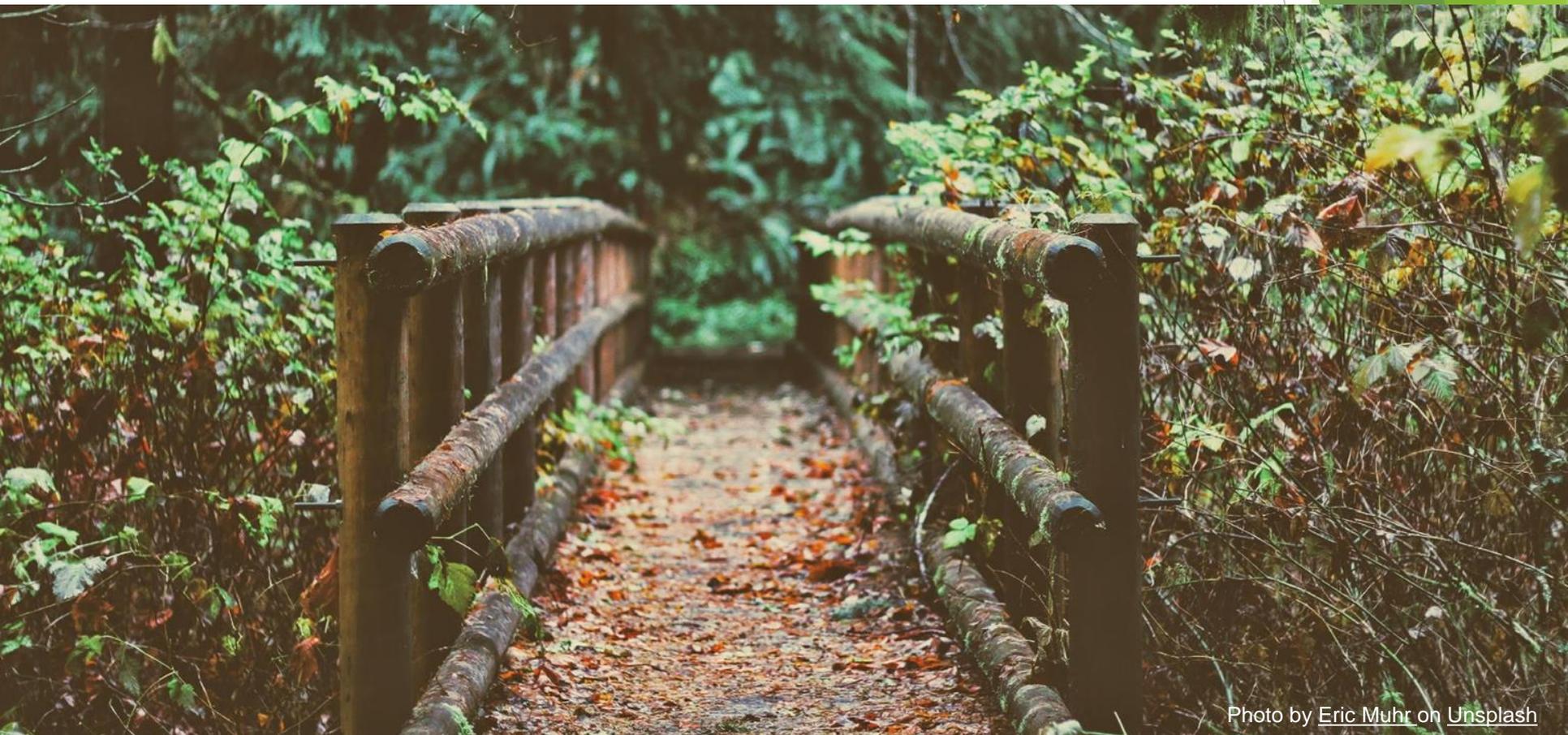
Tomasz Piętak, organ

Welcome and Peace

Lighting Candles

Wash and Pray

Opening Song



Wash and Pray

Scientific studies have shown that thoroughly washing your hands with soap and warm water for 20-30 seconds helps prevent the spread of germs. Coincidentally, the Lord's Prayer takes about 30 seconds to say aloud or in your head. So next time you're washing your hands, use that half minute to pray AND help prevent the spread of germs!



0 Our Father in heaven,



1 hallowed be your name,



2 your kingdom come,
your will be done,



3 on earth as in heaven.



4 Give us today our daily
bread.



5 Forgive us our sins



6 as we forgive those who
sin against us.



7 Lead us not into
temptation



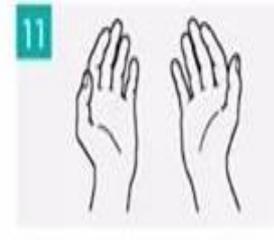
8 but deliver us from evil.



9 for the kingdom, the
power, and the glory are
yours



10 now and forever.



11 Amen.

Opening Hymn - CH 272, v. 1,4.5

The Church's One Foundation

1 The church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, our Lord;
we are a new creation
by water and the Word.

From heav'n he came and sought us to be
his holy bride; with his own blood he bought
us, and for our life he died.

Opening Hymn - CH 272, v. 1,4.5

The Church's One Foundation

4. Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war, we wait the consummation of peace forevermore; till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest, and to great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Opening Hymn - CH 272, v. 1,4.5

The Church's One Foundation

5. We now on earth have union with God
the Three in One, and mystic sweet
communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us
grace that we like them, the meek and
lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

GREETING ONE ANOTHER



A young child in a dark jacket is looking at an open book. An adult's hands are visible, pointing to the text in the book. The scene is set in a church, with a wooden chair and other people in the background.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN
Jesus Loves Me

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:7-9 (NIV)

Read by Cintia Sue

This is what the LORD says: “Sing with joy for Jacob; shout for the foremost of the nations. Make your praises heard, and say, ‘LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.’ See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:7-9 (NIV)

Read by Cintia Sue

women in labor; a great throng will return. They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

SECOND READING: MARK 10:46-52^(NIV)

Read by Cintia Sue

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

SECOND READING: MARK 10:46-52^(NIV)

Read by Cintia Sue

⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

SECOND READING: MARK 10:46-52^(NIV)

Read by Cintia Sue

⁵¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” ⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.”

Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

RESPONSIVE PSALM 126 (NIV)

Read by Rev. Dr. Neil Parker

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.

² Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” ³ The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

RESPONSIVE PSALM 126 (NIV)

Read by Rev. Dr. Neil Parker

⁴ Restore our fortunes, LORD, like streams in the Negev. ⁵ Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. ⁶ Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.



SERMON:

**WHEN WERE
YOU BLIND?**

RESPONSIVE HYMN-CH 566

By Gracious Powers

1 By gracious powers so wonderfully
sheltered,
and confidently waiting, come what may,
we know that God is with us night and
morning
and never fails to greet us each new day.

RESPONSIVE HYMN-CH 566

By Gracious Powers

2 Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure
salvation
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.

RESPONSIVE HYMN-CH 566

By Gracious Powers

3 And when this cup you give is filled to
brimming
with bitter suffering, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand.

RESPONSIVE HYMN-CH 566

By Gracious Powers

4 Yet when again in this same world you
give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived
through,
and our whole life shall then be yours
alone.

PRAYERS



OFFERING

Meditation-Tomasz Piętak, organ



DOXOLOGY - CH 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise Him, all creatures here below; praise
him above ye heavenly host: Praise Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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CLOSING HYMN - CH 722

Be Still My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Trust in your God, your savior and your
guide, who through all changes faithful
will remain. Be still, my soul: your best,
your heavenly friend through thorny ways
leads to a peaceful end.

CLOSING HYMN - CH 722

Be Still My Soul

2 Be still, my soul: for God will undertake to guide the future surely as the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: The waves and winds still know the voice that calmed them in this world below.

CLOSING HYMN - CH 722

Be Still My Soul

3 Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall dwell with forever more, when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

A PRAYER AS I PUT ON MY MASK

Creator, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth - let it be "an outward sign of an inward grace" - a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours, as I love myself.

**Christ, since my lips will be covered,
uncover my heart, that people would see
my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.
Since my voice may be muffled, help me to
speak clearly, not only with my words,
but with my actions.**

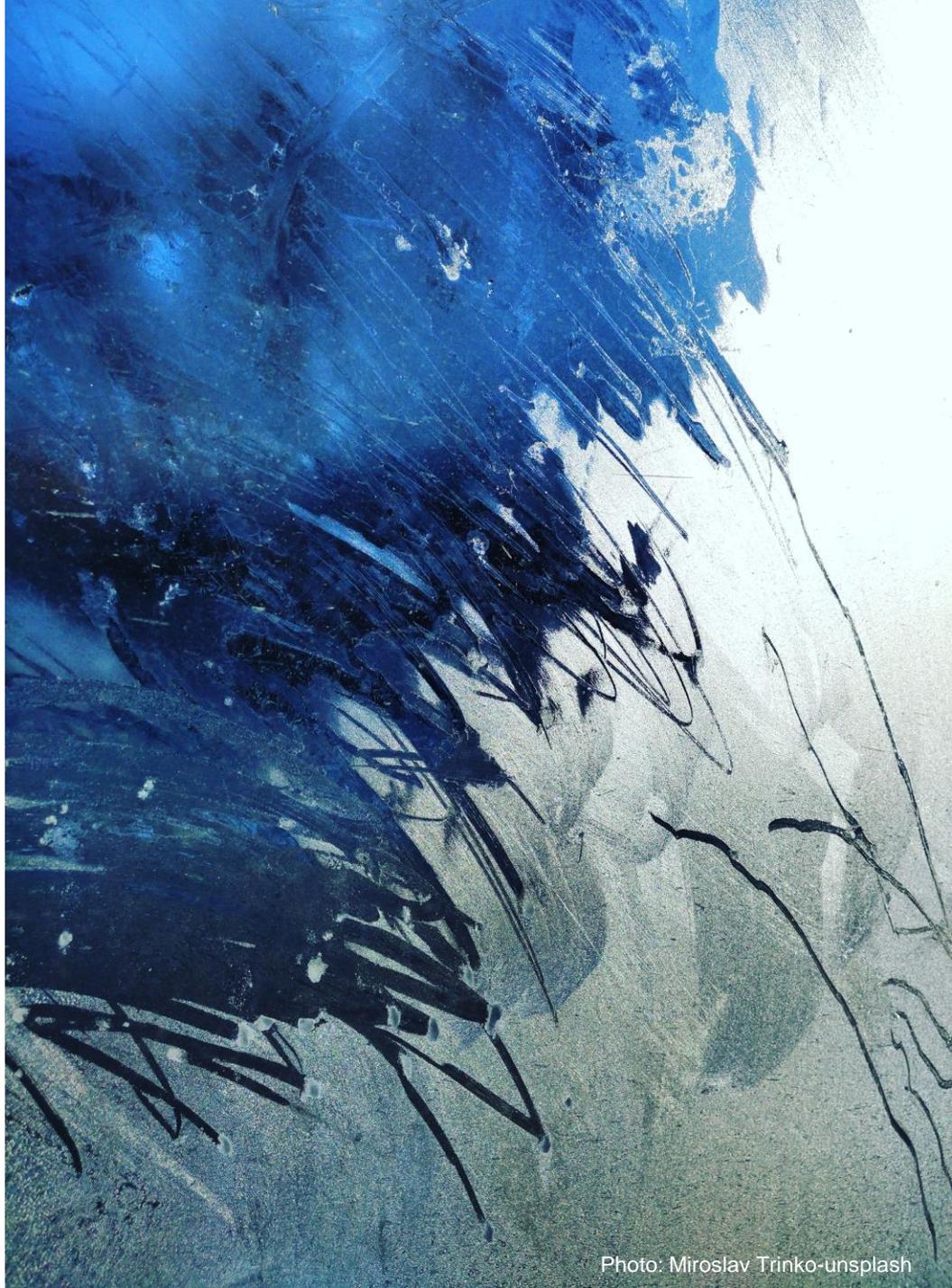
Holy Spirit, As the elastic touches my ears, remind me to listen carefully - and full of care - to all those I meet.

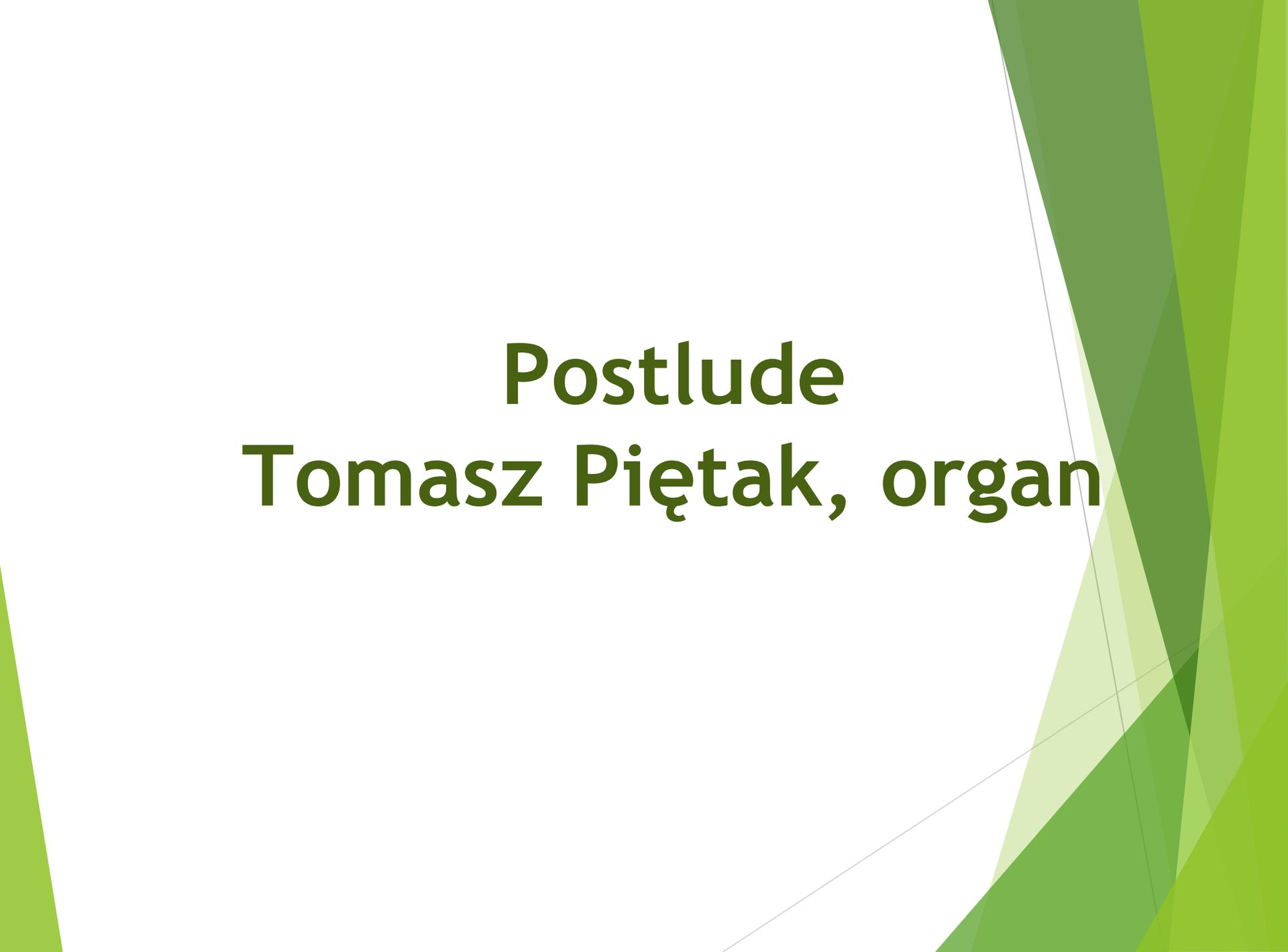
May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner, and each breath that it holds, be filled with your love. In your Name and in that love, I pray.

May it be so. May it be so.

BLESSING

Go in peace to love
and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God



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Postlude

Tomasz Piętaś, organ



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