EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, July 14th, 2024

9:00 am

Service of Holy Communion

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281 Years of "Joyously proclaiming the good news of God's love!"

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA Founded in 1743

Sunday, July 14th, 2024

INTRODUCTION

We embody our reverence for God's presence in many different ways. You may show your reverence for God's presence in whatever way is right for you. You might do this by standing, folding your hands or raising them, bowing your head, or entering more deeply into reverence in ways that are not visible, even as they are deeply felt.

Note that congregational responses are printed in **bold**. Children's worship kits (complete with children's bulletins, coloring materials and fidgets) can be found at the usher's station.

This week, our service has a special theme: prayer! The music and liturgy of this service is shaped around prayers lifted up to God. Our lectionary readings are about prayer in action. When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear an answer to our endless prayer: that all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus and in God's kingdom.

PRELUDES

Prière – on Tannenberg Maurice Linglin

Look Up Child – on Piano Words and music by Lauren Daigle, Paul Mabury and Jason Ingram Arr. by Matt Schinske

Heaven and Peace Within – on Allen John Whitaker, Arr. by Rachel Sawyer

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.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

More announcements can be found in the back of your bulletin. If you have an announcement you would like printed, please let Erin, our office manager, know by sending it to church@zionofspringcity.org!

GATHERING HYMN



THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Whenever the cross + symbol appears, all may make the sign of the cross on their own bodies: forehead, chest, left shoulder, right shoulder.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the splitting of the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the Jordan River your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as your children, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

To you be given honor and praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

– Word —

God speaks in scripture, preaching, song and prayer.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God who listens, before you we offer our hope, our fear, our pain, and our joy. In prayer we are joined to you by the Holy Spirit, who intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. Be with us when we call you, and may our prayers rise before you as incense. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE



FIRST READING

Amos is not the kind of prophet attached to temples or royal courts. Rather, he is an ordinary farmer from Judah (the southern kingdom) called by God to speak to Israel (the northern kingdom). God's word of judgment through Amos conflicts with the king's court prophet Amaziah, whom Amos encounters at Bethel. The prophecy Amos receives includes the image of a plumb line, which is a string with a weight at the bottom, used to determine a perfect vertical line for measurement.

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

⁷ This is what [the Lord GOD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. ⁸ And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line."

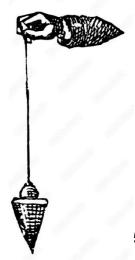
Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; ⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹ For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'"

¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; ¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

¹⁴ Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

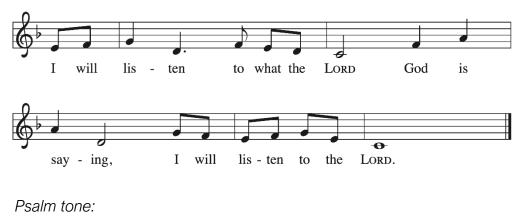
This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Psalms are an ancient form of musical scripture that were written by King David and his associates to be sung during worship. Let's try this out for a few weeks and see how we like it!

First, the choir will sing the refrain, then the congregation will repeat it. Then, according to the psalm tone, the choir will sing the unbolded verses, and the congregation will join in for the bolded verses.

Refrain:





⁸ I will listen to what the LORD ^I God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their I hearts to you.

⁹ Truly, your salvation is very near to those ¹ who fear you, that your glory may dwell ¹ in our land. *Refrain*

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness have ^I met together;

righteousness and peace have I kissed each other.

- ¹¹ Faithfulness shall spring up ¹ from the earth, and righteousness shall look ¹ down from heaven.
- ¹² The LORD will indeed ^I grant prosperity,
 - and our land will ^I yield its increase.
- ¹³ Righteousness shall go be-¹ fore the LORD and shall prepare for ¹ God a pathway. *Refrain*

SECOND READING

Though we are not the people who God first called, through Jesus, we have been adopted into the great family. Through Jesus, we are invited to be co-creators of the kingdom.

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

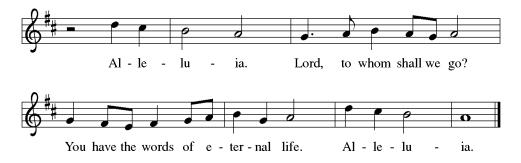
¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.

¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

At this time, the congregation may rise in body or in spirit to greet the holy gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

This is the Holy Gospel according to Mark. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ King Herod [Antipas] heard of [Jesus and the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus's name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵ But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶ But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷ For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸ For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹ And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰ for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹ But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²² When his daughter Salome came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³ And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom."

²⁴ She went out and said to her mother [Herodias,] "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵ Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶ The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷ Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸ brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹ When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

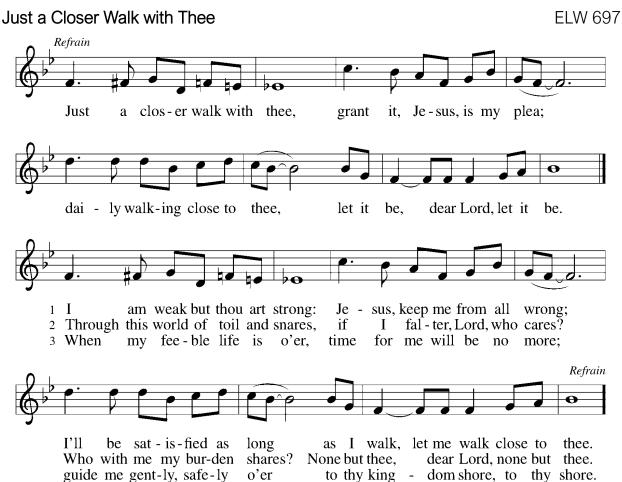
The Gospel Acclamation is reprised.

SERMON

SILENT MEDITATION

We are called in and out of a time of reflection by the ringing of a bell.

HYMN OF THE DAY



THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Together, let us confess our faith using the ancient words of the apostle's 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 INTERCESSION

United as one in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

A brief silence.

You gather your people into the body of Christ. Where your church is wounded, heal it. Where it is right, strengthen it. Where it is divided, reunite it. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

From before the foundation of the world, you are God. Revive ecosystems destroyed by human greed. Curb our desire to put wealth ahead of the health of all who call this planet home. Raise up protectors of all your precious lands, that their beauty and goodness may flourish from generation to generation. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

You establish equity and make justice. Within every nation, tribe, and land, cause laws to be rewritten and new customs to be observed in order to protect the most vulnerable, as you have commanded us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On the cross your beloved Son endured pain and death. Bring healing to those in need, hope to any in despair, and comfort to the dying. We pray especially for *Barbara Winter, Dave Grubb, Brian Mickiewicz, David Tyson, Eric Harter, Greg Wicker, Joan Emswiler, Jeanette Kaufmann, Aubree Pascale, Mary Lesh, Brookelyn Rogers, Bob Bell, Dan DeFusco, Belinda Schell, Barbara Carberry, Fran O'Neill, Lisa McComb, Paula Kaiser, Robin Sexto, and John Barnett.* God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

You send your Spirit into this community of faith. Empower our ministries that serve the poor and feed the hungry. Nurture our relationship with our parish, with our sister churches of St. Peter's, Centennial, and St. John's. May we draw closer to our synod, and build connections at the churchwide level. Bless our young people, who will travel this day to a national gathering of our church and represent us to the whole ELCA. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

All peoples praise you, O God. We give you thanks and praise for the lives of our loved ones who now rest in you. In the fullness of time gather us with all your saints in light. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Holy God, holy and merciful: into your outstretched arms we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in the one who is the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. And also with you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children (and guardians) are invited to come close for a story.

- Holy Communion -

God feeds us with the presence of the risen Christ.

OFFERING

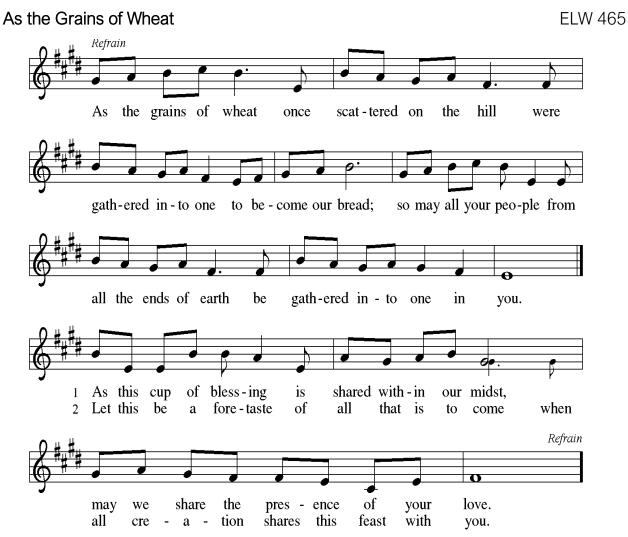
We reflect on our stewardship of the gifts of God entrusted to us for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Financial gifts may be offered in the passed plates, or online at zionofspringcity.org.

OFFERING MUSIC

Somebody's Prayin' John G. Elliot, Arr. by Mark Hayes Vocal Solo by Brian Mickiewicz



OFFERING HYMN



OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

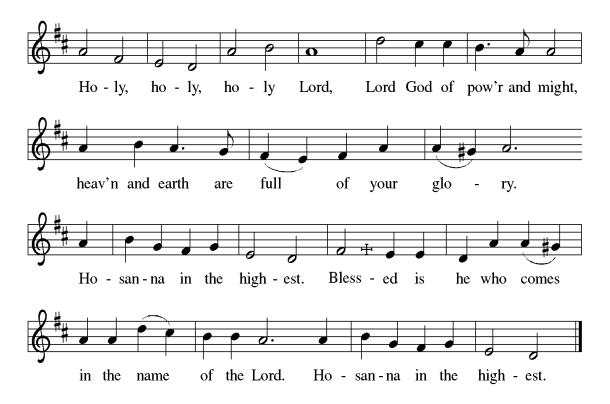
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

In these weeks after Pentecost, in this time of the color green and the Spirit poured out on us, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. We praise you, O God. We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. We bless you, O God. We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. We thank you, O God. We thank you, O God. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. **Amen.**



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

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.

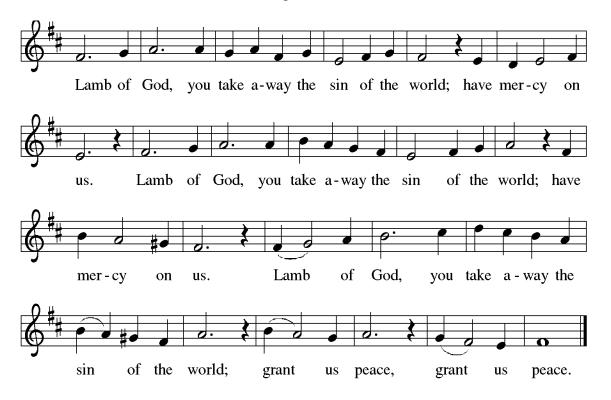
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this place, we have red wine, white grape juice, bread, and gluten-free wafers. Though the sacrament of communion is most appropriate for baptized Christians, all are welcome at Christ's table, and nothing in all creation can separate you from the love of God. If you would like to come forward for a blessing instead of communing, you may indicate that by crossing your hands over your chest. If you would like to take communion at your seat, please let an usher know and the ministers will come to you.

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come and see!

AGNUS DEI

During the Lamb of God, the communion ministers come to the altar for communion. Once the ministers are ready, the congregation may come forward, row by row. Bread and wafers are available in the center. Red wine and white grape juice are available on the left side of the altar, and red wine on the right side.



SHARING IN COMMUNION

This is the Body of Christ, given for you. I believe or Amen. (Congregation may eat the bread or wafer)

This is the Blood of Christ, given for you. I believe or Amen. (Congregation may drink the wine or juice)

COMMUNION HYMNS

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.



ELW 752 ELW 808



God feeds us with the presence of the risen Christ.

SENDING AND COMMISSIONING

After worship today, a group of young people and adult leaders will set off on a long-haul drive to New Orleans for the ELCA National Youth Gathering. All participants are invited to come forward and join the pastor at the chancel steps.

You, dear people, are perfectly and wonderfully made, with your own unique gifts in service of the church and the world. God has called you to be brave and disruptive disciples of Christ, representing Zion at the ELCA National Youth Gathering.

This week, there will be times when you feel energized, and times when you feel exhausted. Times you enjoy every activity, and times you wish you were in charge. Times when the Holy Spirit will show up in joy, and times when the Holy Spirit will show up in challenge.

And so, I ask you: will you use your braveness for the sake of the gospel as you step into the journey ahead? If so, say, "We will, and we ask God to help us."

Will you show up as your authentic selves, bringing the pieces of God that only live in you to enrich the gathering and the whole ELCA?

Will you move through the city of New Orleans as Jesus would, with love and compassion for the people and the land?

Will you seek to disrupt injustice, working together in solidarity for the sake of your neighbors?

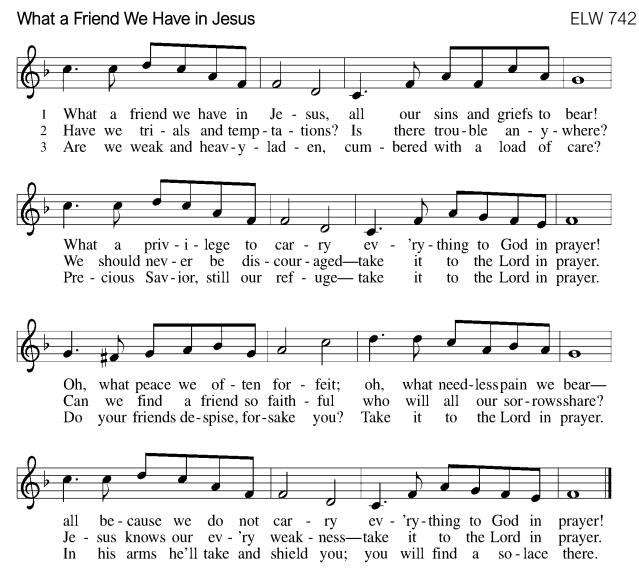
Will you lead with respect, honor, dignity, kindness, and love?

And now, I ask you, congregation: will you, lead by the Holy Spirit, keep these disciples of Christ in your daily prayers, asking for God's guidance, love, safety and blessing in all that they do? We will, and we ask God to help us.

And upon their return, will you receive them and their stories with love and openness? Will you let yourselves be changed by what God has taught them? We will, and we ask God to help us.

Congregation, blessings are not just for pastors. I invite you to lift up your hand in blessing and join me in saying these words: Almighty God, guide, bless and keep you, now and forever. Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN



BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, + be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

Tune: Early American, Setting Franklin D. Ashdown



Let Erin know if you have something to add! Email church@zionofspringcity.org.

Today's bulletins are sponsored by Laura Clark: with love and pride to her son, Craig, on his birthday.

If you would like to sponsor bulletins for a special day or in honor of a family member, reach out to Erin for more details!

Coming up...

- Saturday, July 27th You are invited to Pastor Taylor's ordination!! At this once-in-a-lifetime service of celebration, she will be given: the authority to preside at God's table anywhere in the world, the ability to wear a stole, and a new title, Reverend. :) The service will be at 11:00 am on Saturday, July 27th. Our bishop will be presiding, and the color of the day is red!
- Sunday, July 28th Whitewater rafting after church! Contact Shawn with any questions or concerns. It's going to be a great day!
- Sunday, August 25th Hymn Request Sunday! Reach out to Erin or Lori with your favorite hymns so we can make sure to sing them.

Don't forget!

• Christ in Our Home is on the table in the narthex! Please pick up your envelope and submit your payment if necessary.

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