
GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

September 6, 2020 - Time after Pentecost

"I am there among them."

[Mathew 18:20]



WELCOME

We're glad you chose to worship with us this morning.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

Paul Manz

BELL

Stand as you are able

GATHERING PRAYER

Weaver of life, framer of the ages, we marvel at your artistry and the trust you place in us.

From our first cries to our final breaths, we are your own.

Bind us now to each other in ways beyond our choosing, that your purpose might find fulfillment in our common life and service.

For we pray in the name of Christ, the first born of all creation. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WHOLENESS

Holy God, you have saved us for a purpose: You have overcome the darkness that we might embrace the light; you have defeated evil powers to make us glad and free. Yet we are broken. We succumb to temptation and idolatry and miss opportunities you set before us. We neglect your presence, which is as near to us as our neighbor. Forgive our debts, O God, and teach us forgiveness. Teach us to love with determination and joy, that as children of light, we may resemble you. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the sound of love poured out: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old is passed away; see, everything has become new. Sisters and brothers, in the name of the Christ I declare that your story is known, you are forgiven, your life is made anew. Amen.

Stand as you are able

GATHERING SONG

Jesus, Our Divine Companion

(Tune: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing")

Jesus, our divine companion,
By your lowly human birth
You have come to join the workers,
Burden-bearers of the earth.
You, the carpenter of Nazareth,
Toiling for your daily food,
By your patience and your courage
You have taught us work is good.

They who tread the path of labor
Follow where your feet have trod;
They who work without complaining
Do the holy will of God.
You, the peace that passes knowledge,
Dwelling in the daily strife;
You, the bread of heav'n, are broken
In the sacrament of life.

Every task, however simple,
Sets the soul that does it free;
Every deed of human kindness
Done on earth is done to thee.
Jesus, our divine companion,
Help us all to work our best;
Bless us in our daily labor,
Lead us to our Sabbath rest.

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:

Refrain



Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sit

READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

The prophet's responsibility

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

READING

Romans 13: 8-14

Live honorably as in the day

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

Reconciliation in the community of faith

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

A The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of God endures forever.

C Thanks be to God.

Sit

TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

SERMON

Stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

Day of Arising

(tune: Morning Has Broken)

**Day of arising, Christ on the roadway,
Unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him, as fades the first day,
And bread is broken, Christ is made known.**

**When we are walking, doubtful and dreading,
Blinded by sadness, slowness of heart,
Yet Christ walks with us, ever awaiting
Our invitation: "Stay, do not part."**

**Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken.
This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign:
When the church gathers, when bread is broken,
There Christ is with us in bread and wine.**

**Christ, our companion, hope for the journey,
Bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning
That all creation with you may rise.**

Susan Palo Cherwien, Used by permission

APOSTLES' 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.**

Stand as you are able

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness.

Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast.
Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit
(*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who
need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who
labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work.
Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith.
As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and
power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your
mercy,

hear our prayer.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we
entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

Stand as you are able

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God 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.

O God before time, O God at the end,
we delight in the splendor of your universe.

Daily we praise your continuing creation,
and we give thanks for your people.

We glorify you, now and forever.

O God of the covenant, O God of the church,
we come as your children to this table,
and we give thanks for your presence
in congregations around the world.

We praise you, now and forever.

You came as Jesus, our wisdom, our guide,
embodying forgiveness, granting us grace,
setting us free, dying for sin,
and alive for the life of the world.

We worship you, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Stand as you are able

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be both humble and courageous. **May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and redeemer. Amen.**

BLESSING

SENDING PRAYERS

O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. **Protect and guide us who travel this summer. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful.**

Lastly, let us pray for school families dealing with the uncertainty of starting a school year in the middle of this pandemic; **we also pray for those in nursing homes or prisons who are affected by COVID-19 at a higher rate**

than the outside population; for those who are evacuated from their homes in the middle of this pandemic; and for the safety of men and women battling wildfires everywhere. Amen.

SENDING SONG

All Our Work and All Our Being *(Sung to "Hymn to Joy")*

All our work and all our being
Come from you, most gracious Lord.
Ev'ry task which lies before us
Is our Father's will outpoured.
Help us as we build your kingdom
Know we labor not in vain;
Give us sure and deep conviction
For the tasks that you ordain.

Some may nurture those who hunger,
Tend and heal the broken heart;
Set our flagging spirits dancing,
Spark our vision through their art.

Others teach and offer counsel,
Bear life's burdens, ease its care;
Strive for justice, peace, and freedom
For all people ev'rywhere.

Let us labor in the knowledge
That no task can be too small;
That the God who stretched the heavens
No less shaped the least of all.
Give us strength, Lord, to accomplish
What you set our hands to do,
That by serving those around us,
We return the gift to you.

DISMISSAL

Be the light of Christ. Proclaim the good news.
Heal the sick. Share your bread with the hungry.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Hymn to Joy

Michael Burkhardt