

# First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, August 16, 2020: 11th Sunday after Pentecost

## Gathering

*“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” —Matthew 18:20*

### Welcoming and Announcements

#### Hymn: “Come, All You People” #819

1. Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;  
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;  
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;  
come now and worship the Lord.
2. Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;  
Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;  
Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;  
come now and worship the Lord.
3. Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;  
Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;  
Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;  
come now and worship the Lord.

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### 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.***

*You are the treasured people of the Lord, **a people holy to the Lord our God.***

*Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children. **Talk to them when you are at home  
and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.***

*One does not live by bread alone, **but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.***

*Let us pray.*

### Prayer of the Day

*God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of  
your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the  
earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.***

# Word

**Reading:** Psalm 117

Praise the LORD, all you nations! **Extol him, all you peoples!**

For great is his steadfast love toward us, **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!**

**Gospel Acclamation**

*(Blue Hymnal pg. 48)*

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

**Gospel:** Matthew 10:5-15, 23 and 28:16-20 *(response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord**)*

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. <sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. <sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' <sup>8</sup> Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. <sup>9</sup> Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup> no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. <sup>11</sup> Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup> If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. <sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

*(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)*

**Message**

**Hymn:** "We Are Marching in the Light" #866

1. We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God.

*(repeat)*

We are marching, marching,

We are marching, marching,

We are marching in the light of God.

*(repeat)*

2. We are dancing in the light of God,  
We are dancing in the light of God.

*(repeat)*

We are dancing , dancing ,

We are dancing , dancing ,

We are dancing in the light of God.

*(repeat)*

3. We are praying in the light of God,  
We are praying in the light of God.  
*(repeat)*  
We are praying, praying,  
We are praying, praying,  
We are praying in the light of God.  
*(repeat)*

4. We are singing in the light of God,  
We are singing in the light of God.  
*(repeat)*  
We are singing, singing,  
We are singing, singing,  
We are singing in the light of God.  
*(repeat)*

*Text & Music: South African traditional. © 1984 Utryck, admin, Walton Music Corp. Used with permission under One License #A-710041*

### Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty  
creator of heaven and earth.**  
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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.**

Build yourselves up on your most holy faith; **pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Keep yourselves in the love of God; **look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. **Everything old has passed away; behold everything has become new!**

God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, know and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### Sharing the Peace

Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*(please share a sign of peace with one another)*

## Offering/Offertory

*"Amen, We Praise Your Name" #846*

Sing praises!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

Amen, amen. Amen, amen.

Amen, we praise your name, O God!

Sing praises!

*Music: S.C. Molefe. Text: South African traditional. © Gobingca Mxadana. Used with permission under OneLicense #A-710041*

## The Prayers

Let us pray. God, our Creator, **you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature. With these gifts we bless you for your tender nurture and care. Help us to delight in your will and walk in your ways, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## 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.**

## Blessing

# Sending

Hymn: *"O Zion Haste" #668*

1. O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling,  
to tell to all the world that God is light;  
that he who made all nations is not willing  
one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

**Refrain:**

**Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace;  
tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.**

2. Behold how many thousands still are lying,  
bound in the darksome prison-house of sin,  
with none to tell them of the Savior's dying,  
or of the life he died for them to win. **[Refrain]**
4. Give of your own to bear the message glorious;  
give of your wealth to speed them on their way;  
pour out your soul for them in prayer victorious;  
and all your spending Jesus will repay. **[Refrain]**

*Text: Mary A. Thompson. Music: James Welch. Public Domain.*

3. Proclaim to every people, tongue, and nation  
that God, in whom they live and move, is love:  
tell how he stooped to save his lost creation,  
and died on earth that we might live above. **[Refrain]**

**Refrain:**  
**Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace;**  
**tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.**

### **Benediction**

*Go in peace, serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!*

*Special thank you to Pastor Harvey and Marie Nelson for leading us in worship today.*

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## **Remember in your prayers**

Skip Maanum's sister Ginny, Mick Rose, those affected by COVID-19, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, terrorism and violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support. Pastor Alex LaChappelle serving as a pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran in Kenya, Africa. Note: you may honor a loved one and support Pastor LaChappelle in Kenya. Contact the church office for information.

## Sermon for Sunday, August 9, 2020 | Kings 19: 9-18; Matthew 14 :22-33

Pastor Dan Belgum

Peter is in the limelight in today's Gospel. However, God has been hearing the cries of people for liberation and salvation for long before Peter was sinking! When the Israelites cried out to God, as recorded in Exodus, God heard their cries. These were the cries of slaves and babies, a powerful reminder that God hears the cries of the least considered and the most vulnerable. Isaiah reminds us that God not only hears those cries, but asks: Whom shall I send?

Elijah was at his wit's end. He was ready to throw in the towel and die. Then God provided food and drink, and sleep, and more sleep, and more food and drink and then he was restored. A wild wind, an earth rattling earthquake, and a fire came and went, and God was not in any of these, as God had been when Moses met God on Sinai. Instead, God whispered a word out of the silence to Elijah, and sent him to anoint kings and to ordain a new prophet to follow him. This may serve as an important reminder that God comes to us in silence, not just in a spoken Word. We might learn to cultivate silence in our worship and private prayers. Impetuous Peter, the bull in a China shop, cried out to Jesus when he began to sink in the waters, and was saved. And they worshiped him in the boat, and proclaimed: Truly you are the Son of God.

Every now and then, God's care and guidance can be stunning. We who are believers should find great comfort and such stories, which may encourage us in our own pilgrimages. In our own trials and tribulations. When we take risks, like Peter, we'll need to trust God. And, like Peter, we have trust mixed with doubt. One day or hour we may be full of doubts and questions stir within; another day, or hour, we have the faith of Paul.

Many of you have probably by now heard of Sir Ernest Shackleton, the captain of the *Endurance*, a 144 foot square rigged schooner. Few men have had as dramatic an experience of providence as he and the twenty-seven men he took to the bottom of the world for the British Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1914-1916. Shackleton, an Irishman, was raised in England and had vast experience at sea before this voyage. Their purpose was to travel to and to cross Antarctica, something no one had ever done. Here's a brief background: After they had reached the South Pole, eventually their ship became lodged in the ice. It couldn't be budged. Then it started to split and crack from the power of the ice flows and formations. The men were marooned for weeks, then months. They had tried for several weeks to travel through the ice flows in lifeboats, without success; and with grave dangers.

Something had to give. Shackleton announced that he and five chosen men would sail the largest of the lifeboats – the 22-foot, 6-inch boat they named *James Caird* – 800 miles through the South Atlantic to South Georgia, a whaling station manned by a small contingent of Norwegian whalers. The South Atlantic is one of the most dangerous seas in the world. It is difficult to describe the improbability of such a venture succeeding.

They travelled in that tiny craft through 60-foot waves and gale-force winds that were so frigid that New Zealand navigator Frank Worsley could only manage five sightings with a borrowed sextant. Yet, these six men not only stayed afloat, but actually reached South Georgia sixteen horrific days later. They were suffering acute dehydration, extreme exhaustion, and frostbite, when the men found fresh water, wild game, and shelter. They also found a mountain range between them and the whaling station. It was not possible to sail around the island to the station, so a few of them would have to cross the island on foot. Early on May 19, with the light of a full moon, Shackleton, Worsley, and a rugged Irish sailor named Tom Crean began climbing the mountains and crossing the glacial crevasses. Without the benefit of one real meal, a tent, or even an hour of sleep, these three pressed on for thirty-six hours until they walked into the same whaling station from which they had set off nearly two years earlier. It was now May 20, 1916. In his memoir *South: The Endurance Expedition*, Shackleton offers the personal side of providence. Christians, then, have two reasons to consider Shackleton, both as a trophy of God's providence and as a man who gives poignant testimony to providence.

Before reviewing Shackleton's religious reflections on the expedition, two things should be noted. First, it is not clear that he was a Christian. He had a reputation as a drinker and a womanizer. Nothing that follows is intended to imply that Shackleton was regenerate. Their rescue mission is nothing short of miraculous, and here are the words of Shackleton, who was, not one to speak at length or often about spiritual matters:

*When I look back at those days, I have no doubt that Providence guided us, not only across those snowfields, but across the storm-strewn sea that separated Elephant Island from our landing place on South Georgia. I know that during that long and racking march of 36 hours over the unnamed mountains and glaciers of South Georgia, it seemed to me often that we were four, not three. I said nothing to my companions on the point, but afterwards Worsley said to me, "Boss, I had a curious feeling on the march that there was another person with us." Crean confessed to the same idea. One feels the dearth of human words, the roughness of mortal speech, in trying to describe things intangible, but a record of our journeys would be incomplete without a reference to a subject very near to our hearts.* These are the words of Sir Ernest Shackleton.

Frederick Buechner in an essay entitled, "Let Jesus Show," from his book *Secrets in the Dark*, says that: "believing in Jesus is not the same as believing things about him such as that he was born of a virgin and raised Lazarus from the dead. Instead, it is a matter of giving our hearts to him, of come hell or high water putting our money on him, the way a child believes in a mother or a father, the way a mother or a father believes in a child." I think Buechner is absolutely right.

He says, "If you tell me Christian commitment is a kind of thing that has happened to you once and for all like some kind of spiritual plastic surgery, I say you're either pulling the wool over your own eyes or trying to pull it over mine. Every morning you should wake up in your bed and ask yourself: 'Can I believe it all again today?' At least five times out of ten the answer should be No because the No is as important as the Yes, maybe more so. The No is what proves you're human in case you should ever doubt it."

Going through this storm of Covid-19 is one that few of us, save some scientists who study epidemics, could have imagined. We may not see any blessings in this. Though, when I asked one of you the other day: Can you see any positives in this? You replied: I think more people are turning to God. Even the storms of life can bring blessing, sometimes. When things go badly, our hearts are more receptive to Jesus. A broken heart is often one in which God can find entry.

These times we are living in, may be a time when God finds entry. Or we go deeper: as the Psalmist in psalm 42: "Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and billows have gone over me. By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life." When we cry to him, he hears. We can, and we should, call to Jesus. He still comes to us in the midst of our troubles, saying, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

And, not just in the storms. He also comes to us in stillness and silence, as he did to Elijah. This God, the God of Jesus, is a God who comes. He comes to us with nail-pierced hands and feet, as our Savior; and reaches us, and saves us. Thanks be to God! In Jesus' name. Amen.