

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, October 18, 2020: 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Gathering

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

Welcoming

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

Hymn: “Morning Has Broken” #556

1. Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
2. Sweet the rain’s new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew-fall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God’s feet pass.
3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning;
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev’ry morning,
God’s recreation of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, Music: Gaelic tune © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used with permission under One License #A-710041

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.

Prayer of the Day

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Word

Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Reading: Psalm 96:1-13

O sing to the LORD a new song; **sing to the LORD, all the earth.**

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; **tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations, **his marvelous works among all the peoples.**

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; **he is to be revered above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, **but the LORD made the heavens.**

Honor and majesty are before him; **strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, **ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; **bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

Worship the LORD in holy splendor; **tremble before him, all the earth.**

Say among the nations, “The LORD is king! **The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity.**”

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; **let the sea roar, and all that fills it;**

let the field exult, and everything in it. **Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

before the LORD; for he is coming, **for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.**

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22 (response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord**)

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

Message

Hymn: "We Are Called" #720

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| 1. Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God. Refrain | 2. Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more. Refrain |
| 3. Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. Refrain | Refrain: We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God. |

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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.**

Offering/Offertory “Create In Me a Clean Heart” #188

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free spirit.

Music: J.A. Freylinghausen. Public Domain

Prayers

Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Peace *Please share a sign of peace with one another*

Announcements

Sending

Hymn: “On Our Way Rejoicing” #537

1. On our way rejoicing, gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered, vanquished is the foe.
Christ within our safety; Christ with our joy;
who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?
On our way rejoicing, as we forward move,
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!
2. Unto God the Father, joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior, thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit, bow we and adore;
on our way rejoicing, now and evermore.
On our way rejoicing, as we forward move,
hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

Text: John S. Monsell, Music: Frances R. Havergal. Public Domain.

Benediction

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

Remember in your prayers

Bob Heck and family on the death of his brother Mark, Jeanne Richards and family on the death of her brother John Wolff, Randee Hokanson, 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.