

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, September 6, 2020—14th 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

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn: “Built on a Rock” #434

1. Built on a rock, the church shall stand
even when steeples are falling;
crumbled spires in every land,
bells still are chiming and calling,
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.
2. Surely, in temples made with hands
God the Most High is not dwelling;
high in the heavens his temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.
Yet God who dwells in heaven above
deigns to abide with us in love,
making our bodies his temple.
3. Christ builds a house of living stones,
we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face;
he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.
4. Yet in this house, an earthly frame,
Jesus the children is blessing;
hither we come to praise his name,
faith in our Savior confessing.
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,
making with us his covenant,
granting his children the kingdom.

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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.*

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 us life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Word Ezekiel 33:7-11

So 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. If 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. But 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. Now 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?" Say 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?

Reading: Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, **and I will observe it to the end.**

Give me understanding, that I may keep your law **and observe it with my whole heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments, **for I delight in it.**

Turn my heart to your decrees, **and not to selfish gain.**

Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; **give me life in your ways.**

Confirm to your servant your promise, **which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the disgrace that I dread, **for your ordinances are good.**

See, I have longed for your precepts; **in your righteousness give me life.**

Reading: Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The 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." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides 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; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

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

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20 (response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord**)

Jesus said to the disciples, "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. But 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. If 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. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, 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. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

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

Message

Hymn: "Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace" #716

1. Lord of all nations, grant me grace
to love all people, every race,
And in each person may I see
my kindred loved, redeemed by Thee.
2. Break down the wall that would divide
thy children, Lord, on every side.
My neighbor's good let me pursue;
let Christian love bind warm and true.
3. Forgive me, Lord, where I have erred
by loveless act and thoughtless word.
Make me to see the wrong I do
will crucify my Lord anew.
4. Give me thy courage, Lord, to speak
whenever strong oppress the weak.
Should I myself the victim be,
help me forgive, remembering thee.
5. With thine own love may I be filled
and by thy Holy Spirit willed,
that all I touch, wherever I be,
may be divinely touched by thee.

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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 “As the Grains of Wheat” #465

**Refrain: As the grain of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.**

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. **Refrain**

Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come,
when all creation shares this feast this you. **Refrain**

Prayers

The 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.***

Proper Preface

*“Holy, Holy, Holy” **pg 144** (red hymnal)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

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.**

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Blessing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending

Hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #858

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

4. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander. Public Domain

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

Remember in your prayers

Family and friends of Dennis Johnson, Rita Bye and family on the death of her brother Dan Luthi, 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.