

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, July 26, 2020—8th 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: “God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” #771

1. God who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place;
flung the sun in burning radiance through the silent field of space;
we, your children in your likeness; share inventive powers with you;
great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.
2. We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
know the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
facing us with life’s destruction or our most triumphant hour.
3. As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew;
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise; each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

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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

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Word

Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

Reading: Psalm 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful; **therefore I obey them with all my heart.**

When your word is opened it gives light; **it gives understanding to the simple.**

I open my mouth and pant **because I long for your commandments.**

Turn to me and be gracious to me, **as you always do to those who love your name.**

Order my footsteps in your word; **let no iniquity have dominion over me.**

Rescue me from those who oppress me, **and I will keep your commandments.**

Let your face shine upon your servant **and teach me your statutes.**

My eyes shed streams of tears, **because people do not keep your teaching.**

Reading: Romans 8:26-39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of

us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord**)

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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

Message

Hymn: "Our Father, We Have Wandered" #606

1. Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face;
in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace,
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,
as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.
2. And now at length discerning, the evil that we do,
behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,
in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
3. O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,
compassionate, forgiving, and ever caring Lord,
grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

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.

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

Blessing

Sending

Hymn: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" #547

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching;
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.
2. With praise and thanksgiving in God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face;
our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us, with your life now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

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Benediction

Go in peace, serve the Lord!

*Special thank you to Mr. Furman Woodbury,
our ELCA Southwest Minnesota Synod Vice President, for being with us today.*

Remember in your prayers

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.