

Augustana
where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together
The Reign of Christ November 22, 2020

Welcome to worship. ...

Thanks just like on a Sunday morning when we worship together there are many who make it possible for us to worship together. Look at the end of the video for all those names.

GATHERING SONG Day by Day # 790

Day by day, your mercies, Lord attend me,
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord you send me
Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior lead me to the home I treasure,
Where at last I'll find eternal rest.

Day by day, I know you will provide me
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
O'er the paths I struggle day by day
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior help me bear life's pain and sorrow
Till in glory I behold your face.

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
When my burdens grow too great to bear
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me.
You will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.

GREETING

As we begin our time of worship we ask that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You raised up your Son, O God, and seated him at your right hand as the shepherd and king who seeks what is lost, binds up what is wounded, and strengthens what is weak. Empowered by the Spirit, grant that we may share with others that which we have received from your hand, to the honour of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children's message – opposites (give me your opposites)

David child of God: awake or asleep, crying or happy, ... you are mine and that's that ... good times bad times Well behaved or not ... In life and in death ...

That is a gift ... what are you going to do with that gift?

READINGS

A reading from Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with

your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

Word of God, Word of life

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 25:31-46 **Glory to you O Lord**

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” Then they also will answer,

“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

The Gospel of our Lord; **Praise to you, O Christ**

MEDITATION

One of the most difficult things to live with during this pandemic has been the lack of human contact ... human contact in a way that we are used to.

A baptism usually meant that I got to hold a baby – which is one of my favorite things in life – but today I cannot hold David. And that seems so very different because the sacrament of baptism is all about what you touch or feel physically. A sacrament – like baptism – has three things

- Jesus told us to do it “Go and baptize ...”
- It is a means of grace: it is a way for God to say “I love you, you are mine”
- AND it has a physical sign Holy communion has bread and wine And baptism has water

I can’t touch the water But David will feel the water We will see the water We will hear the water. It will remind us of the other two things: Jesus’ command and God’s message “I love you, you are mine.”

And that is a great thing to remember today for all of us. God has come into our lives.

How did God come into our lives: Did God come as a powerful and mighty king ... nope ... God came as a baby ... and God came to us as a Shepherd caring for their sheep, practical and concrete: lost – found; hungry – fed; thirsty – watered; in need – cared for.

I think many people think about God as far away ... up in the sky Beyond us. And in a way that is true that there has been a barrier between humanity and God. A wall between us. And we can really understand that these days as we are separated by walls of plexiglas everywhere.

But God in God's wisdom decided that this was not good enough. God had to find a way to be right there ... And that is what Jesus is: God right there with us. In the water and the word here today. But in the time when Jesus walked this earth teaching and preaching and healing. And in that time walking with us he told a story about being cared for: clothed and visited, fed and watered, taken care of. And the people in the story said: when did we do that for you? "When you did it to others who were the most vulnerable you did it to me."

How to interpret Jesus words in a time of covid ... When did you see Jesus in need?

- When you wore a mask so others did not get sick
- When you washed your hands so that the healthcare system did not get overwhelmed and could continue to do its healing work
- When you phoned someone who was imprisoned in their own home
- When you wrote a letter to someone who was lonely and depressed
- When you put that something extra in the foodbank box at the grocery store so the many under and un-employed could feed their families
- When you held your temper when faced with the ones who have lost their cool.
- In short, when you lived the faith that came to you as a gift from God.

The plexiglas and the physical distancing and the masks are not a barrier to caring. They are not meant to get in the way of caring. In fact they are one way to care for one another. But they are not the only way ... there are many ways to care for one another that cannot be hindered by physical barriers and distance. And when we find a way to care for each other despite current challenges that is when Jesus says, "when you did it for the least of these, you did it for me."

BAPTISM of David Lindenbach

Parents: Josh and Gabi Lindenbach

Sponsors: Lucas and Ami Lindenbach

HYMN "You belong to God" # 212

You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia X 2.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words "Hear us, O God" and you can make the prayer your own by responding "**Your mercy is great.**"

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Sovereign of all, train our ears to hear your cry in the needs of those around us. Bless all social ministries of the church through which we seek to serve others as we ourselves have been served. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You cause rain to fall on the just and unjust alike. Direct our use of creation to provide for the needs of all people in ways that are sustainable for the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bring peace to every place where conflict rages. Grant opportunities for ending divisions among us and usher in your reign of unity and reconciliation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal the sinful divisions we erect between us and release us from systems of oppression and prejudice. Restore our capacity to see your image in those whose dignity we have stripped away. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. We remember especially: Hannah, Marguerite, Bruce, Gloria, Logan, William, Marcus, Bishop Gomez, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Anne Jane, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Martha, for those who feel alone, and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts

(a pause to offer time to name others).

May they know your healing care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Pour out the gifts of your Spirit on children and youth throughout the church. Sustain those who work in children's ministry, youth ministry, and campus ministry as they nurture the gifts of young people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Bless David Gabriel Lindenbach on this the day of his baptism and in all the days ahead. Bless his family and godparents as they nurture his faith in the years to come. Bless all

parents and godparents as they nurture the faith of the children in their care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Thank you for saints now departed who fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and tended to the sick. Inspire us by their example, that we may see your presence in those in need around us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and a Father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

May the blessing of God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. AMEN.

DISMISSAL

SENDING SONG "Light Dawns On a Weary World" # 726

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world; the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain:

The trees shall clap their hands;
the drylands, gush with springs,
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!

We shall go out in joy,
And be led forth in peace,
As all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed,
Love grows in a weary world; the promised feast of plenty comes. **/refrain**

Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once forlorn find wilderness reborn,
Hope blooms in a weary world; the promised green of Eden comes. **/refrain**

THANKS:

Worship Assistant: Noreen Donald

Musicians: Mik Bickis, Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy choir

Technician: Bryan Tastad

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