

Augustana

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

July 18, 2021

WOV Service of Word & Prayer

Welcome to Augustana – where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together. I would like to acknowledge we gather on Treaty six territory and the homeland of many people of the Metis Nation. You are welcome to worship with us. We aim to share the unconditional love of God with people of all abilities, ages, colours, ethnicities, sexual orientation or gender identities. This is a work in progress and you are welcome to join us on our way.

We begin our time of worship as we began our life of faith: in the name of God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

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.

GATHERING HYMN O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come, #610, V. 1-4

O Christ, the healer, we have come
to pray for health, to plead for friends.
How can we fail to be restored,
when reached by love that never ends?

From ev'ry ailment flesh endures
our bodies clamor to be freed;
yet in our hearts we would confess
that wholeness is our deepest need.

In conflicts that destroy our health
we diagnose the world's disease;
our common life declares our ills.
Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?

Grant that we all, made one in faith,
 in your community may find
 the wholeness that, enriching us,
 shall reach the whole of humankind.

CHILDREN'S TIME

- I have building blocks to make a wall. Each block will show a difference between people: you look different You sound different ... you do things differently you believe differently ... your church is shaped differently You sing different songs And so on
- Famous walls:
 - Wall of china –
 - Berlin wall
 - Between Israelis and palestinians
 - Wall between USA and Mexico
 - Invisible walls that make other people “them” and the people we like to hang out with “us”
- These walls are destructive
- How does God ... Jesus Break down walls?
 - Wrecking ball?
 - sledge hammer?
 - Or like my granddaughter who loves to smash down towers and walls of blocks? NO
- Jesus Dismantles walls with
 - Compassion
 - Love
 - caring for both the “them” and the “us”
- And that is a healing way to dismantle walls

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God of Israel, draw us near to you, so that, in place of hostility, there may be peace; in place of loneliness, compassion; in place of aimlessness, direction; and in

place of sickness, healing; through Christ Jesus, in whom you draw near to us. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE SONG

Refrain: Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe
 Just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.
 Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name? /refrain

For you alone are the Holy One.
 All nations will draw near and worship before you,
 For your just and holy works have been revealed. /refrain

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a

¹ Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³ Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸ Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰ And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹ from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your

enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.
¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings.

Reader: **Word of God, Word of life**

Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING: **Ephesians 2:11-22**

¹¹ So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called “the uncircumcision” by those who are called “the circumcision”—a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. ¹⁵ He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. ¹⁷ So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; ¹⁸ for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, ²⁰ built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; ²² in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Reader: **Word of God, Word of life**

Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

Please join in singing our Gospel Alleluia

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

The Holy Gospel according to the Gospel of **Mark 6:30-34. 53-56. Glory to you, O Lord**

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.
³¹ He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while."
 For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³ When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat.
⁵⁴ When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵ and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was.
⁵⁶ And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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

MEDITATION

Like David I long to worship within the walls of a house of God – a place that has been set apart dedicated for worship.

To build a home for a loved one is the most natural ... sensible thing to do:

- Settler's first task was shelter – sod house, log cabin
- First nations people carefully crafted homes that were movable
- When one takes a job in a new location the first task is to find a home for family:
- When needs change we look for a home that matches those needs.
- a safe place, shelter. It is a way to care for family

- It makes sense that David wanted to build a home for God – isn't that a good idea? David wanted to build a "church."
- And God disagreed with David – why is that? Isn't it good for all the reasons David stated?
- This church and other places of worship were built for good reasons: as a place to worship, a place to explore and learn about our faith ... it can't be bad to build a place in which to worship. But there is more to why God did not want David to build a house for God

God said, **"I have been with you wherever you have been" no house required.**

- We know God as 'Emmanuel, God with us.' And in this past year we have counted on "God with us" wherever we have been ... because – mostly -- we have not been in this building.
- I worship in a building, but I know that God is not limited to these four walls. God is present anywhere and everywhere. But this is the place where I usually worship.

David was talking about building walls around God ... Perhaps even to look at keeping God enclosed ... out of the way. We talked about a number of these kind of walls earlier: walls that divide.

David wanted to build walls, but Christ wants to take walls down.

Thinking about that

- There is this longing in me and in many of you as well: to be together in this place for worship.

David's story has a message for us:

[in the Hebrew there is a significant difference in how David refers to building a house for God and in how God refers to building a house for God's name]

- I would like to draw your attention to God's words to David through the prophet Nathan, "You will not build a house for me to dwell in." "Your offspring will build a house not for God, but for God's name."
- That is significant ... the temple ... the place of worship was for God's name But it could not enclose God ... walls that separate are not part of how God operates.
- This has been a significant thing for us to relearn these past 16 months.
- Love of this specific place: this place These walls These specific walls ... *much* as I love them they are not really important, they are completely insignificant – unless they do the job they were built for.

In our Gospel reading Jesus and disciples are tired out -- Jesus and those with him were pursued by crowds seeking his wisdom and his healing ... they were exhausted by the constant need.

- They truly needed a time of retreat --
- But the crowd's need was so great -- they were like sheep without a shepherd
- And Jesus had compassion on them: "Jesus heart was breaking" – it is that kind of compassion that breaks down walls.

These very walls ... this aisle, these pews, the arched ceiling, the story windows, they are important only so much as they allow us to use the love/compassion Jesus showed us to take down walls. To take down walls because our hearts are breaking with compassion ... To bring God's healing to our world. And we know that our world is in great need of healing.

Interlude music – more of hymn 610

RESPONSE TO THE WORD – prayers for healing

Loving God, you gather us together even though we are separated physically. We come seeking your healing, strength and love. You know us God: you understand who we are, you know what troubles and puzzles us, what makes us smile and what makes us sad. You listen to our questions and our prayers.

You know the people we love, God, and the people we struggle with. Sometimes we hurt others; sometimes we hurt ourselves.

So, we bring our own hurt asking for your healing; and we bring the hurt we have caused others asking for forgiveness.

Listen to these words of Jesus, words that we can trust:

“Don’t be afraid.”

“I love you.”

“Your sins are forgiven.”

Words we heard today: “I have been with you wherever you went.”

Write these words in our hearts, loving God, let them take root in our living. **Amen.**

Normally I would place my hands on your head and anoint you with oil as sign of God’s healing love. Neither the touch nor the oil is possible today. If it helps you: close your eyes and imagine the touch and the oil
 Loving God, for Jesus’ sake, send your Holy Spirit upon your child, drive away all sickness of body and spirit;
 make whole that which is broken;
 deliver *them* from the power of evil; and preserve *them* in true faith from day to day.
 Amen.

People came to Jesus when they were in trouble or pain. Friends carried them, strangers told you about them; some invited you into their homes or met you walking on the road. Your heart broke with compassion and you listened to them, you prayed with them and you brought hope and healing into their lives. So today we bring before you those who are in need of your care and especially your healing care.

PRAYERS

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”.

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Tend your church, O God. Encourage bishops, pastors, and deacons in their proclamation of the gospel. Especially the clergy and people of the diocese of Calgary and Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson and Pastor Prema Samuel, assistant to the bishop, and the staff of the Alberta and Territories synod.

Raise up new leaders and encourage those pursuing a call to ministry. Embolden all the baptized to embody your love and justice. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Restore your creation, O God. During this time of heat sustain croplands, pastures, livestock. Preserve forests, grasslands and communities from fire. Show us how to protect and restore all our water sources. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Protect those who are at the highest risk during the heat especially the elderly and ill. Those who are homeless or have no access to a cooling place. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Reconcile nations, O God. Break down the dividing walls that make us strangers to one another and unite us as one human family. Equip leaders to deal wisely with conflict and guide diplomats who seek peaceful solutions. We especially ask for your help in seeking reconciliation with the first nations people of Canada. Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Heal your people, O God. Look with compassion on Immigrants, exiles, and refugees especially the Iqbal and Alhamad-Wahid families. Give rest to those who are weary,

comfort to those who are grieving, and recovery to those who are ill *especially* . . . the family and friends of Louise Goos, Alan, Edith, Earl, Audrey, Orville and Carol, Bruce, Gloria, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Shelby, Alice, Deanna, Minnie, Lyssa, Karen, and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts*(a pause to offer time to name others)*. Encircle them in your care.

Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Nourish this congregation, O God. Prepare a table where we receive food for our hungry spirits. Renew our commitment to provide for one another and revitalize our ministries of feeding and nurturing hungry neighbors.

Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You lead us home, O God. We give thanks for all who have died. As you have received them into your heavenly home, so welcome all of us to dwell in your house forever.

Hear us, O God . . . **Your mercy is great.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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 AND DISMISSAL

The blessing of God,
 Who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

+ be upon you now and forever. **AMEN**

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God

SENDING HYMN: **Let All Things Now Living**, #881, v. 1&2

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

God rules all the forces: the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
"To God in the highest, Hosanna and praise!"

THANK YOU'S

Worship Assistant: Chris Martin

Musicians: Mik Bickis, Augustana St. Timothy Choir

Technicians: Gregory Fowlie-Neufeld, Bryan Tastad

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