

# AUGUSTANA

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

Pentecost 5 July 5, 2020

*Thank you to worship assistants Jayce, Jayvn, and Sheena. Thank you also to our musicians: guest pianist Kim Salkeld, Deborah Buck and the Augustana St. Timothy Choir.*

We begin our time together as we began our life of faith: in the name of God who is Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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 “Oh, Sing to God Above” # 555

Oh, sing to God above a hymn of joyful greeting,  
A song of grateful love in the new day’s light repeating:  
you made the sea and sky, the sun and stars in splendour;  
delight shone in your eye – all your works were filled with wonder.

Refrain/  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Oh, sing to God above:  
Alleluia!

Oh, sing to God above a hymn of praise and blessing,  
A song of grateful love, hope and faith our hearts expressing:  
Creation lifts its voice to tell your might and glory,  
And we, too, will rejoice to proclaim the saving story.

Refrain/  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Oh, sing to God above:  
Alleluia~  
Oh, sing to God above:  
Alleluia!

GATHERING DIALOGUE (same response to each statement)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe,

**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.

**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You set free those who are bound.

**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You raise up those whose courage falters

**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You provide for our every need.

**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You have called us from all peoples,

**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

You bless your people with peace.

**We bless you and praise your name forever.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe,

**We bless you and praise your name forever. AMEN**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Lord of heaven and earth, whose Son came eating and drinking, exposing the rivalry that tears the world apart: may we share his feast and friendship and lay our burdens in his liberating arms; through Jesus Christ, Wisdom's child. Amen.

#### HYMN OF PRAISE "You Are Holy" # 525 (sing twice)

You are holy, you are whole,  
 you are always ever more  
 than we ever understand.  
 You are always at hand.  
 Blessed are you coming near.  
 Blessed are you coming here  
 To your church in wine and bread,  
 Raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness,  
 You are present  
 Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!  
 Sing hosanna in the highest!  
 Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

a reading from Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

Laban, Rebekah's brother, received a visitor who said, 'I am Abraham's servant. The LORD has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son

to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

'I came today to the spring, and said, "O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,' and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the LORD has appointed for my master's son." 'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink." She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, "Drink, and I will also water your camels." So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, "Whose daughter are you?" She said, "The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him." So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.' And they called Rebekah, and said to her, 'Will you go with this man?' She said, 'I will.' So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, 'May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.'

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, 'Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?' The servant said, 'It is my master.' So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Word of God, Word of life **thanks be to God**

A reading from Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

Word of God, Word of life **thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – (from *Hosanna Jazz* service)

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

GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 **Glory to you, O Lord**

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying, 'To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn."

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.'

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am

gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

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

## MEDITATION

What does it mean to be a disciple? The root word of disciple is discipline. We often think of discipline in terms of punishment, but really it means to learn. ... learning by doing.

[the root of discipleship is "discipline" not punishment [training](#), [practice](#), [exercise](#), [method](#), [regulation](#), [drill](#), [regimen](#) *inner disciplines such as meditation* to learn

**disciple**, [discipline](#) - Disciple comes from a Latin word meaning "learner" and discipline comes from one meaning "instruction, knowledge."

See also related terms for [instruction](#).

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As Christians – followers of Jesus Christ -- you could say that our discipline is learn how to follow the teachings of Jesus. Jesus pointed out being a disciple (especially in any kind of leadership) is a challenge. You're too strict .... You're too lenient.

Sometimes it is like being stuck in the religious equivalent of Goldilocks and the Three Bears: this chair's too big ... this one too small ... this porridge is too hot .... This too cold .... This bed is too hard .... This one too soft. How to find the sweet spot where you are able to sit on the right size of chair to eat a good bowl of porridge before having a nap on a comfortable bed.

It seems as if discipleship, being a follower of Christ is a difficult thing .. an almost impossible task. Not only is there the criticism from others there is the criticism from ourselves. Sometimes the harshest critic of all is the voice we carry around inside ourselves– not good enough!. Paul's letter to the Romans reflects this: "the good I would I don't and the evil I don't want to do I end up doing. Wretched soul that I am!"

Try as we might we still fall short of what we expect of ourselves and what we expect of others.

It is hard to continue to do what we're called on to do when we are faced with criticism: from others and from ourselves. Even when the criticism is true and warranted. Jesus' words offer some relief ... they are a centre of calm: 'Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.' Jesus offers breathing space.

I am curious about this yoke Jesus speaks of – a yoke is not something worn alone. A yoke links two animals together in order to pull a load with their combined strength ... when we take on Jesus' yoke it means that we aren't working in isolation. We aren't alone.

There is be some consolation in knowing that we live and operate in a community. But there is another perspective on being yoked together. Living in what seems to be an increasingly polarized world where we seem to always be looking for someone to blame ... someone else to blame. How keen are we to be yoked with someone who has a different worldview ... a different way of thinking and expressing their Christian faith.

How might we handle being tied to someone with whom we have nothing in common except that we both profess to be followers of Jesus. Do we say nothing and just get on with it? Or do we rant and rail against the differences? Or is it an opportunity to practice some curiosity ... in order to learn? Perhaps. But there is a different way to view that yoke.

The yoke Jesus speaks of is a learning device. As understand it – as one who really knows nothing about working with oxen -- an experienced ox would be yoked with a young inexperienced ox. And as they worked together the young inexperienced ox learned from the ox who knew what he was doing.

I am reminded that we are hearing Jesus' words through the words of the gospel of Matthew. Matthew, who tells us that the name of the Christ child was to be Emmanuel "God with us."

"God with us" in the yoke. When Jesus offers his yoke ... offers us the opportunity to learn ... offers us rest for our soul ... it is because Jesus is the experienced partner under the yoke and we are the inexperienced ox that needs to learn how to do our job. What a relief that is.

I am not yoked to that jerk I disagree with .. that person I would like to set straight. I am yoked to Jesus who is gentle and humble of heart. I am yoked to the one who can teach me how to listen ... I am yoked to the one who can teach me how to be a faithful disciple and not a jerk. That is rest for my soul.

I would like to close with some words from John Hus a Christian from long ago whose discipleship we remember on July 6 every year:

*"Therefore faithful Christian, seek the truth, listen to the truth, learn the truth, love the truth, speak the truth, adhere to truth and defend truth to the death.*

And the words of Jesus from even longer ago: learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls

SONG "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" #742

What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
 All our sins and griefs to bear!  
 What a privilege to carry  
 Everything to God in prayer!  
 O what peace we often forfeit,  
 O what needless pain we bear,  
 All because we do not carry  
 Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
 Is there trouble anywhere?  
 We should never be discouraged,  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Can we find a friend so faithful  
 Who will all our sorrows share?  
 Jesus knows our every weakness,  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
 Cumbered with a load of care?  
 Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
 Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
 In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
 Thou wilt find a solace there.

#### OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayer of Confession –God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another. Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### GOD'S RESPONSE TO US

Hear then God's response: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **AMEN.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us turn our hearts to God 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.**"

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation. Let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

Expansive God, you bring diverse voices together to form your church. Open our hearts and unstop our ears to learn from one another, that differences might not overshadow

our baptismal unit. Open our eyes to recognize racism and give us the courage and words to speak out when needed. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great**

Providing God, your creation shows us that life comes from death. Renew the places where our land air, and waterways have been ill for too long. Direct the work of all who care for birds and their habitats. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great**

Protecting God, sustain and keep safe all who work to defend others across the world. Help the members of our police force to serve and protect all citizens with respect and care. Revive and strengthen organizations dedicated to caring for refugees and migrants while their homelands struggle for peace. We pray especially for the Alhamad/Wahid family and the Iqbal family. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great**

Loving God, you promise to be with all who are persecuted for your sake. Guide all who speak your word of justice and console any who are tormented or targeted for being who they are. We pray especially for those who are targeted because of the colour of their skin, their ethnicity, their gender, or sexual orientation and identity. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great**

Compassionate God, you are with us and we are never alone. Bless all fathers and father figures who strive to love and nurture as you do. Comfort all who long to be fathers and all for whom this day is difficult. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great**

Healing God, console, heal, and nourish all in need especially Clayton, Logan, William, Marcus, Brody, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Earl, Janet, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Deanna, Carol, Wilma, Mary, Marlene, those who feel a sense of isolation, and all who we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts .....

*(pause so people listening from home can add names) ....*

May God's loving care bring healing. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great**

God of hope, we thank you for the many who serve to bring care and healing during this time of pandemic. Give us patience as we seek to learn what our "new normal" is. Give us compassion and wisdom so that we might treat each other with respect. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great**

God of companionship, as we keep our distance from one another and cover our faces with masks teach us how to love one another in word and deed. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great**

God of love, you gather in your embrace all who have died especially: Paul Freitag, Jennie Sukut, Herrie Ogilvie, Georgina Krenn, and Caron Parke. Comfort all who mourn. Keep us steadfast in our faith and renew our trust in your promise. Hear us, O God, **Your mercy is great**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor heights, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, + Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal life. AMEN.

#### SENDING SONG “Hallelujah! We sing your praises” # 535

Refrain:

Hallelujah! We sing your praises,  
 All our hearts are filled with gladness.

Hallelujah! We sing your praises  
 all our hearts are filled with gladness.

Now he sends us all out,  
 Strong in faith, free of doubt,  
 Strong in faith, free of doubt  
 Tell to all the joyful gospel (sing twice) .../refrain

#### DISMISSAL

You are the church. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Christ is with you!

**Thanks be to God.**

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