

AUGUSTANA
where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

Pentecost 2 June 6, 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 **Great Is Thy Faithfulness, #733, V. 1 & 2**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

[Refrain]

Great is thy faithfulness!
Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
 sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,
 join with all nature in manifold witness
 to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **[Refrain]**

CHILDREN'S TIME

The ever expanding family of God still connected to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Dear God, thank you for making us family. 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

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading:

1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20 (NRSV)

⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah,
⁵and said to him, "You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint
 for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." ⁶But the thing displeased

Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the LORD,⁷ and the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.⁸ Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you.⁹ Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

¹⁰ So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king.¹¹ He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots;

¹⁶ He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work.¹⁷ He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves.¹⁸ And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us,²⁰ so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

Reader: Word of God, Word of life **ALL: Thanks be to God**

Second Reading:

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 (NRSV)

¹³ But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak,¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence.¹⁵ Yes, everything is for your

sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸ because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Reader: Word of God, Word of life **ALL: 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 Mark 3:20-35 **Glory to you, O Lord**

Mark 3:20-35 (The Message)

²⁰ Jesus came home and, as usual, a crowd gathered—so many making demands on him that there wasn't even time to eat. ²¹ His friends heard what was going on and went to rescue him, by force if necessary. They suspected he was getting carried away with himself.

²² The religion scholars from Jerusalem came down spreading rumors that he was working black magic, using devil tricks to impress them with spiritual power.

²³ Jesus confronted their slander with a story: "Does it make sense to send a devil to catch a devil, to use Satan to get rid of Satan?" ²⁴ A constantly squabbling family disintegrates. If Satan were fighting Satan, there soon wouldn't be any Satan left.

²⁵⁻²⁶⁻²⁷ Do you think it's possible in broad daylight to enter the house of an awake, able-bodied man, and walk off with his possessions unless you tie him up first? Tie him up, though, and you can clean him out.

²⁸ "Listen to this carefully. I'm warning you. There's nothing done or said that can't be forgiven. ²⁹ But if you persist in your slanders against God's Holy Spirit, you are repudiating the very One who forgives, sawing off the branch on which you're sitting, severing by your own perversity all connection with the One who forgives." ³⁰ He gave this warning because they were accusing him of being in league with Evil.

³¹ Just then his mother and brothers showed up. Standing outside, they relayed a message that they wanted a word with him. ³² He was surrounded by the crowd when he was given the message, "Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside looking for you."

³³ Jesus responded, "Who do you think are my mother and brothers?"

³⁴ Looking around, taking in everyone seated around him, he said, "Right here, right in front of you—my mother and my brothers. ³⁵ Obedience is thicker than blood. The person who obeys God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Scripture quotations from THE MESSAGE. Copyright © by Eugene H. Peterson 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002.

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

MEDITATION

Last week we explored the questioning of Nicodemus. His nighttime visit to Jesus seeking answers was a good thing. His wondering and curiosity opened doors.

This week's questioning is different. The questions that come up here aren't really ones that are seeking an answer. They are questions that are trying to discredit Jesus: "Who do you think you are" there is no wondering or curiosity in that ... it is more of a cynical statement and, rather than opening doors, it is trying to slam doors shut.

“We know who you are” “You can’t fool us, we know who your family are.” But even that cynical disbelief can be used to teach us something.

Thankfully it is not Mother’s Day or Father’s day this week. Because it almost seems that Jesus is undermining family ties. This is NOT SO.

- Jesus is drawing a circle wider

This is a time when conflict is used for good: Conflict helps to clarify the wider circle.

The situation of Samuel was a bit different

- Sad ... his sons didn’t follow his beliefs & the Israelites want to be like the people around them.
- “We want to be like everyone else” Is that not also drawing the circle wider? No, it is the wish to contract or close the circle ... let everyone be the same.

There is a history of that which God tried to change throughout the Bible:

Ruth – the forengiener

The prophets – preached against exclusion

Jews and Gentiles in the early church

And on throughout the ages cutting off people who are different

And closer to home: the residential school system whose purpose “was to take the indian (sic) out of the child”

All attempts to make the circle smaller Closed off.

Our little sisters and brothers The pain of mothers and fathers whose children came home wounded whose children never came home ... the children who were buried nameless and without care.

That has been done ... it can not be undone. But we are still called to

- Listen
- honour the stories and experiences
- and listen more

Prayer for the Students of Kamloops Residential School
by Moderator Richard Bott, The United Church of Canada

O God, we are grieving.

O God, we are shocked.

O God, we are horrified.

But, God, if we truly listened, we can't be surprised.
The Elders and the Communities had already told
the Truth and Reconciliation Commission,
told the governments and the world,
the stories of the children, dead and buried,
unnoted by the settler systems,
but never ever forgotten by their siblings, their parents,
their communities.

We grieve for the Indigenous children,
taken from their homes and parents by the government,
handed over to the responsibility of the Christian church,
the children who died under its care,
never to be held by their families,
never to be returned to their communities—
not only the 215 children of the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc
and other Indigenous communities along the west coast and interior
whose bodies have now been found
on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds,
but all of those children
whose bodies have not yet been found
who died in any of Indian Residential Schools.

We grieve for the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools,
the children who did come home,
but were changed by their experience,
the children who grew up,
and have the trauma of remembering, again,
what happened to them.

Even as we give thanks for their families and communities,
who hold the stories of the children,
who have kept searching,
who keep searching,
we grieve that that search is even necessary,
that even one child was taken,
that even one child died,
that even one child's death went unnoted by the system.

Help us to stop, to sit in silence,
to remember the names we do not know.
May their spirits have peace,
and their bodies be brought home to their lands.

And God?
Help us to take this grief,
this shock,
this horror,
and turn it into right action—
action that works for right relations—
action that works for healing and justice and hope.

And, please,
don't let those of us who are settlers
and descendants of settlers,
newcomers to this land,
let the horror, the shock, and the grief
just be an outpouring of words,
or tears,
or ineffectual hand-wringing.

Let this be a moment that changes,
a moment that transforms the brokenness,
that we might walk in right relations,
for the good of your children,
for the good of your world.

Please, God.

These things we pray,
 in the name of the one who brought Creation into being,
 in the name of Jesus, our teacher and friend,
 in the name of the Holy Spirit,
 whose wings spread across the sky.

Amen and amen.

INTERLUDE: His Eye is on the sparrow – Evelyn Knoll

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 join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words, “Lord, in your mercy” and you can make the prayer your own by responding “Hear our prayer”.

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

God of wholeness, we pray for believers all over the globe and believers here in Canada *especially* the theological colleges and training programs within the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario: Canterbury College, Huron College, Renison College, the Anglican Studies Program at Saint Paul University, Thorneloe University, Trinity College, Wycliffe College and Luther College at the University of Regina and Luther College – High School. Unify all your people in service of the gospel, that we may work together as beloved siblings to share your love with all.

Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

God of the cosmos, we pray for creation; the gardens, waterways and creatures near to us and diverse forms of life that remain unseen. Teach us to treat the natural world with reverence, seeking restoration when human divisions have caused harm to your beloved creation.

Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

God of all people, we pray for harmony among the nations. Cast out from us unclean spirits of greed and fear, that we may work in solidarity with one another for the common good. Protect and care for the Alhamad-Wahid family and the Iqbal family. Give wisdom to Premier Scott Moe, Mayor Charlie Clark, and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Shahab. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

God of abundance, we pray for those who are oppressed or in any need. Encourage those who have begun to lose heart. Strengthen and renew us with your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

God of healing, restore to wholeness all who are in any need this day especially Katherine, Paul and family, Angie, Edith, Earl, Audrey, Orville and Carol, Bruce, Marie, Gloria, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Shelby, Alice, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Mildred, Minnie, Louise, Lyssa, Karen, for those whose lives and livelihoods are at risk due to fire, drought, and flood; 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. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

God of righteousness, we mourn the death of 215 children at the Kamloops residential school. We mourn the unnumbered and unrecorded deaths of children at other residential schools across the country. Bring justice and healing to these wounds of the past that remain open and raw to this day. Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of the ages, in your goodness you have sent us faithful witnesses for every time and place. We give you thanks for those saints who now rest in your eternal mercy *especially Edna Soule.*

Lord, in your mercy . . . **Hear our Prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

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 & DISMISSAL

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.

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

Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG **On Our Way Rejoicing**, 537, v. 1 & 2

On our way rejoicing
Gladly let us go;
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is our foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
Who, if we be faithful,
Can our hope destroy?

[Refrain]

On our way rejoicing;
As we homeward move,
Hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!

Unto God the Father
Joyful songs we sing;
Unto God the Saviour
Thankful hearts we bring;
Unto God the Spirit
Bow we and adore. **[Refrain]**

THANK YOU'S

Worship Assistant: Mik Bickis

Musicians: Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy Choir

Technicians: Gregory Fowlie-Neufeld, Bryan Tastad

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