

AUGUSTANA
where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

Pentecost 13 September 6, 2020
ELW Service of Word & Prayer

Welcome to worship.

Thanks to worship assistant Chris Martin, musician Deb Buck and choir members, tech people Bryan and Greg.

Season of creation: *From now until the commemoration of Francis of Assisi on October 4 we are in the Season of Creation. This season of creation is a time we share with Christians of many differing backgrounds and worship traditions from around the world. In this season we acknowledge the wonder of God's gift of creation. But, today, we begin the season in repentance for the lack of care and damage that our lifestyle has wrought on creation.*

GATHERING SONG "Praise, my soul, the God of heaven" # 864 v. 1 & 4

Praise my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!

Angels sing in adoration, in God's presence, face to face.
Sun and moon and all creation, all who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

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 all.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, have mercy, O Lord. (sing twice)

GLORY TO GOD

Refrain: Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest; glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.

1. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father. We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. .../refrain
2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated on the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. .../refrain
3. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. .../refrain

CHILDREN'S TIME

- Good advice today
- 10 commandments
- Easy way to remember: Love God Love your neighbour

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Lord of the church, you call a broken people around your table: in times of disagreement teach us to listen, show us our prejudice, and misuse of creation. Bind us to your way of forgiving grace; through Jesus Christ, who stands at the heart of our gathering. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS

A reading from Romans Chapter 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

ALLELUIA

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL:

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew chapter 18:15-20 **Glory to you, O Lord**

'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'

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

MEDITATION

There are many voices that offer us **advice** – some are less serious: like the letter to Miss Manners “my brother-in-law picks his teeth at the table. How do I get him to stop?” ... But right now we need good **advice** – on living with covid 19 On how to keep ourselves and others safe. And that advice is also a way of loving one another. A way for us to love our neighbour.

In our reading from the gospel of Matthew we have **advice** on how to make things right when things are not going well – when there is trouble brewing: first ... go alone and have a conversation with the offender. And, if that doesn’t work, then go with 2 or 3 others. If that still doesn’t make things right: treat the wrong doer as an outsider. This seems like good, sensible advice.

I have always read this passage from the standpoint of the one who was wronged: this is what you do if someone has wronged you.

WHAT IF we are not the one who has been wronged. What if we are the one who did the “wrong”? What if we are the ones who are not loving our neighbour? How do we understand this advice if we are the offender? If first one came to us and then a group came telling us that we have done wrong:

- Tristen Desrocher in Regina spending 44 days fasting and praying that our provincial leaders would act on a dire need. One person telling us that things are not right ... that there are too many youth and especially indigenous youth who live in despair.
- There are the voices of many that speak to us through the testimonies of the Truth and reconciliation commission. That we have been part of generations of racism.
- There is the testimony of all of creation: of how we live within creation ... taking more than is good for the world ... creating mountains of trash Ensuring that some live in poverty so that we may live in excess.
- I could go on, but I don’t want to make this seem insurmountable.

What we really need is **advice** on repentance. How to change direction ... how to learn a new way to live in this world. How to truly love our neighbour ...

Let’s return to the advice from Matthew: first alone, second take others, and then treat them as an outsider -- like a Gentile and tax collector. If we have not listened to the one voice and have not listened to the collected voices of others ... are we now to be treated as tax collectors and outsiders? And if that is the case ... then what does that mean?

How did Jesus treat those outsiders?

- Matthew, the tax collector, was invited to become one of Jesus’ closest followers.
- Gentiles who approached Jesus received healing and affirmation.

There was a change of direction involved and different thinking and different expectations. There was a new beginning involved. And this involved forgiveness acceptance ... grace. And in that grace change **was** possible. Living in that grace change **is** possible

We live in that grace. Can we switch direction and make the changes that need to be made in our lives?

Living in that grace we **can** make the

- Changes that acknowledge our part in the destruction of creation,
- Changes that acknowledge our part – even our unwilling part -- in the destructive power of racism and all the others “isms” of our time.
- Changes that affirm the gifts of God that come to us through creation and that affirm how precious all of humanity is.

Prayer: Gracious God, you embodied the law of love in Jesus. Teach us how to live out that law with neighbours, co-workers, family, strangers, and with all of creation. This we ask in Jesus' name. AMEN.

SONG “Draw us in the Spirit’s tether” # 470 all three verses

Draw us in the Spirit’s tether, for when humbly in your name
two or three are met together, you are in the midst of them.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now your garment’s hem.

As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup
Then with thanks to God the giver break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make its sacraments of you,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We will serve with faith anew.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

- *In our prayer of confession I will pause so that we have time to reflect on how we have not loved our neighbour: whether our neighbours are people or creation. If you wish to have a longer time to reflect you can pause the video and take as much time as you need.*

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 love you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. [pause]

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.

And since God treats us as Jesus did tax collectors and outsiders we hear these words of assurance and forgiveness: 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.”**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community especially our work with the 7 ELCIC churches in Saskatoon and our partnership with the Mennonites working with soap and other items for relief work. Strengthen our ecumenical partnership with the Anglican church of Canada; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect all who live in precarious situations: those in the path of hurricane and storm and refugees who live in uncertainty especially the Iqbal and Alhamad/Wahid families . Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the prayers of Tristan DeRocher as he cries out for a plan to address the pain of indigenous youth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Be with Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbours. Guide those in leadership as they look for alternate and cooperative ways of providing safety and well-being for all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbours to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit *especially* Bruce, Gloria, Clayton, Logan, William, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Anne Jane, Deanna, Mary, Marlene, those who feel a sense of isolation during this pandemic and for all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts

(a pause to offer time to name others)

..... Hold them all in your care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labour. Help us to love our neighbours in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us how to live and work and learn in community. Be with teachers, professors, school administrators and students as they prepare for the school year. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through 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

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

SENDING SONG "Joyful, Joyful" # 836 verse 1 & 2

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
 God of glory, Lord of love!
 Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
 Praising thee, their sun above.
 Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
 Drive the gloom of doubt away;
 Giver of immortal gladness,
 Fill us with the light of day!

All thy works with joy surround thee,
 Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
 Stars and angels sing around thee,
 Center of unbroken praise;
 Field and forest, vale and mountain,
 Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

DISMISSAL

Go now and revel in God's world
Go now to be creative and work for justice
Go now to love your neighbour
Go now to love and serve the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD. AMEN.

+ + +

Zoom coffee time at 11:30 am Sunday

To join Zoom Meeting

Click on this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88521101268>

YOU CAN ALSO JOIN IN BY PHONE:

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