

**Narrative Lectionary  
September 13, 2020**

## **Creation & Fall**



**Hello and welcome to First Lutheran Church!**

**We are so glad you have chosen to join us today as we worship the Lord together!**

**Today as we worship, let us remember that from the beginning, God's primary focus was the nurture of humanity. Once fallen, God continued to love and care for people, healing their shame and forgiving their sin.**

**From the beginning of creation, God's primary focus was the nurture of humanity. Once fallen, God continued to love and care for people, healing their shame and forgiving their sin.**

**4And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." Luke 11:4**

**Gathering**  
**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

GATHERING MUSIC    *Shine Jesus Shine*    *Praise Team*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP    *It Began in the Silence*

**It began in the silence**  
**God said “Let the world be born”**  
**Now life I will give you**  
**I will be your God**

**In the garden, God said “You may eat of all but one”**  
**But sin had come into the world. A new life had begun.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The love of God  
And the communion of the Holy Spirit Be with you all.  
We confess our sins before God and one another.  
*Pause for silence and reflection.*

God of all ages,

*Reader 1:* You have chosen us as your own, yet we so often live as if it were not so. We succumb to things which are not good for us. We believe we know better than you. We refuse to put our trust in your promises. Sweep away our foolishness and bring us back into a trusting relationship with the one who has lovingly created us and longs to be our strength and life.

Dear people, hear the joyful words that God has forgiven us! Our misdeeds and folly are forgotten; grace and mercy abound. Let us give thanks that we have a compassionate creator!

SONG    *Lord, I Need You*

**Lord I come I confess**  
**Bowing here I find my rest**  
**Without You I fall apart**  
**You're the one that guides my heart**

**Lord I need You oh I need You**  
**Ev'ry hour I need You**

**My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You**

**Where sin runs deep Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me  
Where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me**

**Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You**

**Teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay**

**Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You**

**Lord I need You oh I need You  
Ev'ry hour I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You  
My one defense my righteousness  
Oh God how I need You**

**My one Defense, my Righteousness,  
O God, how I need You.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Merciful God, You created people not as subjects to rule, but as partners in tending and enjoying this bountiful earth. Help us release our shame and guilt over what we have done wrong, accepting instead your mercy and forgiveness offered through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

READING: GENESIS 2: 4B - 7; 15 - 17; 3: 1-8

4These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, 5when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; 6but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— 7then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. 15The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

3Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” 2The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” 4But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; 5for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. 8They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE God Loves and Sees Us

### *SKIT Video*

*Kids test limits and boundaries—it’s an important part of their development. But when they do push too far and get in trouble, they can feel a great deal of shame, which is why they often try to hide what they’ve done wrong. Kids can understand that God knows the truth, and loves and forgives them.*

MESSAGE

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and Jesus Christ his Son our Lord.  
Amen.

I want to start with this reading from the Gospel of Thomas. We only have the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John in our bible. Yet there are different

Gospels like the gospel Thomas however only our four were accepted by the Church. I just want to read this part to you whether or not it's "gospel" because it is very interesting in relation to our reading this week from Genesis.

*The Gospel of Thomas II. 1 This little child Jesus when he was five years old was playing at the ford of a brook: and he gathered together the waters that flowed there into pools, and made them straightway clean, and commanded them by his word alone. 2 And having made soft clay, he fashioned there of twelve sparrows. And it was the Sabbath when he did these things (or made them). And there were also many other little children playing with him. 3 And a certain Jew when he saw what Jesus did, playing upon the Sabbath day, departed straightway and told his father Joseph: Lo, thy child is at the brook, and he hath taken clay and fashioned twelve little birds, and hath polluted the Sabbath day. 4 And Joseph came to the place and saw: and cried out to him, saying: Wherefore doest thou these things on the Sabbath, which it is not lawful to do? But Jesus clapped his hands together and cried out to the sparrows and said to them: Go! and the sparrows took their flight and went away chirping. 5 And when the Jews saw it they were amazed, and departed and told their chief men that which they had seen Jesus do.*

I wonder what the sparrows thought as they flew away. We would think that they would have no knowledge of their existence as a clay bird or as clay for that matter. They probably just thought they had always been birds. If you told them that they had once been clay or dirt they probably wouldn't believe you. But then again, it is rather difficult to communicate with sparrows. Parrots maybe, but sparrows?

It's hard to remember life before anyway. A short time after I had been married and had three kids, it was hard for me to remember when I wasn't married and didn't have three kids. It felt like I always did. Maybe I was born married with three kids, and a beard.

***Genesis 2:4b In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, 5 when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up -- for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; 6 but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground -- 7 then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.***

***15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.***

Isn't that interesting compared to the story from the gospel of Thomas? In Hebrew it says, God created A-dam from the A-da-ma. It's a play on words. A-da-ma is the ground, the earth, the dirt. Like the sparrows, A-dam was formed and brought to life from the a-da-ma, the dirt. Maybe instead of "A-dam" or Adam his name should be Clay.

Like the sparrows do you think A-dam remembered that he came from the A-da-ma, from the dirt, from the ground? Then God gave him a job. His job was to till and keep the Garden. He was to take care of all the things that came to life from the ground, from the dirt, from the a-da-ma. He was to take care of all the stuff that came to life from the dirt, just like he did. He came from the dirt. Do you think he put those things together? That he was in a way just like the plants and trees?

If A-dam did connect that in his head that these living things came from the earth, mother earth, if you will, just like he did, don't you think it would have an affect on how he cared for them? Everything that came from the ground from the garden would be, kind of like his brothers and sisters or at least cousins.

It puts a different twist on that joke: All we are asking is give peas a chance.

But A-dam, the dirt man and flesh of his flesh, Eve, didn't seem to be interested in that or that job. They came from the earth from the ground. Yet they didn't want to care for the ground from which he came. They didn't want to care for the other living things that they had kindred with. Their green eyes of envy were on other things. They were not satisfied to be what God had created them to be. Or what God asked them to do.

You and I are baptized children of God. Jesus has blessed us and commissioned us to be his hands and feet in this world. That world by the way, God has created, just as God has created us. Sometimes it's hard for us to remember that. God created the world including each and every one of us.

We are called to be what God created us to be and to do what God wants us to do. When we don't want to be what God has blessed us to be and we are not interested in what God wants us to do, there are disastrous results.

When Adam and Eve didn't want to be what God created them to be or follow what God wanted them to do their were disastrous results, cosmic disastrous results.

When we confirmed and affirmed our Baptism God asked us and we promised to

***continue in the covenant God made with us in holy baptism:  
to live among God's faithful people,***

***to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,  
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,  
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,  
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?***

May we strive to be what we were created to be and follow as Christ leads us.

May the Peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

SONG *For the Beauty of the Earth* led by praise team - Live

1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:

Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,  
sun and moon and stars of light:

Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

3 For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight:

Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

4 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above;  
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

5 For each perfect gift of thine,  
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
for thyself, best gift divine,  
to our world so freely giv'n:

Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.

\*APOSTLES CREED *Spoken by reader and Jennifer sign - put camera on Jen*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION **DAVE OLSON**

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

The things which are forbidden are often the most tempting, and we seem to love pursuing them.

between us and our shame, that we might choose instead a path of joy and freedom, and live in the grace which you have offered. *(Pause for reflection)*

Bless all grandparents—those who care for and love their children’s children, those who serve as surrogate elder mentors, and those who long for grandchildren but do not have any. Strengthen ties between generations that each might be blessed and enriched by the other. *(Pause for reflection)*

Loving creator, you have given us this great garden of earth to till and keep. May we resist the temptation to exploit and misuse is out of greed or possessiveness, choosing instead to cultivate its beauty and share its fruits equitably and justly. *(Pause for reflection)*

So many people are burdened with shame over events long past. Help us all to release what no longer serves us and be open to your renewing love. Send your healing to all who need it, especially Kaitlynn, Marcia, Jenny, Bob, Horst, Crystal, Carol, DJ, Jim, Darrell, Cheryl, Michel family, John, Edla, Leah, Laura, Jerry, Grosso family, Richard, Nikki, Arlan, Phyllis, John, Brooklyn, Gerry, Louise, Lunde family, Joan, Bill, Brooke and Annie. *(Pause for reflection)*

We remember John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, all courageous preachers of your gospel. Make us bold proclaimers of grace and mercy. *(Pause for reflection)*

Receive these prayers and all those which we offer in silence, for the sake of our savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MUSICAL OFFERING *O, How I Love Jesus* Arr. Douglas Wagner  
*Jean Fjelsted, Kathleen Olson - Handbell Duet*

#### \*OFFERING PRAYER

You have freely given everything to us, O Lord. Teach us to be good stewards of all your gifts, and accept these offerings we now present as tokens of our gratitude and reflections of your generosity to all people, for the sake of Christ. Amen.

#### \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

\*LORD'S PRAYER *Camera on Jen - signing*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You give us every good thing for food, O Lord, including yourself in the bread and cup which we share in this meal. Feed us on your goodness and mercy, that we might be living compassion to all whom we encounter.

*As you take communion remember that the body and blood of Jesus Christ was shed for you.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SONG *You Gotta Move When the Spirit Says Move*

**You gotta move when the spirit says move**  
**You gotta move when the spirit says move**  
**Cause when the spirit says move**  
**You gotta move O Lord**  
**Your gotta move when the spirit says move**

**CLAP.....Pray.....Move**

BLESSING

Mothering God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

SENDING MUSIC *Mighty to Save* *Praise Team*

## **Thank You!**

Your continued financial support is so appreciated. Please continue to mail in, drop off or donate on-line as you are able. Together we can get through this!

**The Finance Team**



### **Red Wing CROP Walk**

**This year join us for a virtual Walk to raise money to end hunger. This year you can participate by walking around the park on October 2, 3 and 4th and check out the posters and prayers in the windows of the participating churches.**

**You can also make a donation, of which 25% stays here in Red Wing at the food shelf, by clicking on the image.**