

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

May we all experience the peace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Before our worship: listen to and speak quietly with God.....  
during worship, hear God speak to you...  
following worship, speak to one another in love.



## **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020 9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

## GATHERING

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

### GATHERING MUSIC

*Piano Selections by Marilee Anderson*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALL TO WORSHIP

*(inspired by scripture passages  
like Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63:1-8, etc.)*

Only the hungry search for bread.

Only the thirsty look for water.

**This is a place for those who are hungry and thirsty in spirit.**

Only those who ache for meaning will pursue it.

Only those who yearn for a deeper life will seek it.

**This is a place for those who ache and yearn for something more.**

So let us come here today with our hunger and thirst,  
our unsatisfied longings, our heart-felt yearnings,  
and let the God of life satisfy our souls. **Amen**

SONG (712) *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

- 1 **Lord, whose love in humble service  
bore the weight of human need,  
who upon the cross, forsaken,  
worked your mercy's perfect deed:  
we, your servants, bring the worship  
not of voice alone, but heart;  
consecrating to your purpose  
ev'ry gift which you impart.**
  
- 2 **Still your children wander homeless;  
still the hungry cry for bread;  
still the captives long for freedom;  
still in grief we mourn our dead.  
As you, Lord, in deep compassion  
healed the sick and freed the soul,  
by your Spirit send your power  
to our world to make it whole.**

**3 As we worship, grant us vision,  
till your love's revealing light  
in its height and depth and greatness  
dawns upon our quickened sight,  
making known the needs and burdens  
your compassion bids us bear,  
stirring us to ardent service,  
your abundant life to share.**

**4 Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, good will and comfort,  
counsel, aid and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.**

**\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Glorious God, **your generosity waters the world with goodness, and  
you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for  
the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill  
all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior  
and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-5**

*God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.*

**1Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!**

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

2Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

3Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

4See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

5See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

## SECOND READING Romans 9:1-5

*This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.*

1I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—2I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. 4They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; 5to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

## GOSPEL:Matthew 14:13-21

*After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.*

13Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 15When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." 16Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." 17They

replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” 18And he said, “Bring them here to me.” 19Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to You, O Christ.**

MESSAGE: Compassion to Act

*Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself.*

The “this”, that Jesus heard was that his cousin, John the Baptist, had died. He was executed by Herod. John was dead. John his cousin, John who baptized him, John who prepared the world for him. John who proclaimed ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Jesus had come near, and John was dead. Jesus heard this and withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. What was going through his mind?

Jesus had begun his ministry since being baptized by John in the Jordan river. He began as Matthew says in Chapter 4 *proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people*

Even though he had taken the mantle from John since his baptism, now John was gone. What would that mean for him, for his ministry?

Jesus withdrew to a deserted place by himself but people searched and found him. When Jesus got out of the boat there was a crowd. Matthew says, He had compassion for them. He healed them and fed them.

Jesus had compassion on them, felt for them, saw what they needed **and**, **And** his compassion turned into action. He healed and fed them.

This emphasizes a big theological point, two actually, two very important characteristics of Jesus of God. Jesus had and has compassion. Jesus cares. That is huge right? That is of tremendous importance. Jesus cares. God not only loves us but feels for us. I’d say that is very important wouldn’t you?

I hate to say it this way but what good is having a God if that God doesn't care. If Jesus doesn't care, there is probably no mercy, no forgiveness, no patience. If God doesn't care there is no helping people that are sick and lonely and hungry. And we need a lot of those things.

That is of great theological importance. Just to review theology is the study of God. The fact that God cares, is very important.

Equally important is what happens in this reading with the compassion. Jesus has compassion for the people who are ill and hungry and his compassion leads to action.

Compassion that leads to action, is equally important. Again, I hate to say it this way but what good is a God that cares, that feels for us that has compassion but doesn't do anything about it, that doesn't act?

Sandy came up to me the other day with a letter that has been sitting on our counter for a while now that was under some other things. It was from Lutheran World Hunger. There is always people that are hungry especially in the time of Covid. She said we never did send any money for this. And she said we also talked about giving some money to the needs in Minneapolis. We haven't done anything with that yet either.

We had followed what has been happening. We felt compassion for the people in need but it hadn't led to action, until now. I wouldn't say that our compassion was useless if that was all it was, a feeling. However it might be hard to convince the people in Minneapolis that are in need of help.

There is a common expression: God helps those that help themselves. You won't find it in the Bible though many people think it is.

One interpretation of that expression is the Deist idea that God created this world but now it is up to us. The Deist god is a god that put the world into existence, spun it like a top if you will, the world is spinning but now that god just watches from a distance and doesn't get involved.

As apposed to the christian God that is present and active in the world. Our God has compassion and that compassion turns to action. God is not just sitting in heaven watching us and leaving everything up to us. God was active when Jesus walked this earth and healed the sick and fed the hungry and God is active through the Holy Spirit moving people from compassion to action.

Remember the old song, they will know we are christians by our love? Love as we know is not just a feeling or as that 80's song from Boston said, It's more than a feeling.

In the movie "Lars and the real girl" there is a scene that always makes me cry. Lars is a guy with serious mental problems. In the movie his family, friends and the whole community work to help him. In one scene Lars is all upset because he is having problems with his girl friend. He tells his sister in law that nobody cares about him. She goes on this rant about how much they care. And she lists all the things they have done for him and his girl friend because they care. It just makes me cry because the whole town did so much for Lars and his girl friend because they loved Lars. Their love and compassion turned into action. Sometimes the action took a lot of time and effort and sometimes it was to just sit with him when there was nothing left to do.

Praise God we have a God that has compassion. We see how that compassion turned into action as Jesus healed the sick and fed the hungry. God also has compassion for you and me and the world. **And, and** that compassion turns into action in and through the Holy Spirit and the people of God.

Let's not leave those letters on the counter. Let's be like our God and let our compassion turn into action. Maybe that action will be money, maybe it will be to speak out, maybe it will be to do some work, maybe it will be to just sit with someone. With your mask on.

God bless you all. **Amen.**

SONG (729) *The Church of Christ in Every Age*

**1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age  
beset by change, but Spirit-led,  
must claim and test its heritage  
and keep on rising from the dead.**

**2 Across the world, across the street,  
the victims of injustice cry  
for shelter and for bread to eat,  
and never live before they die.**

- 3 Then let the servant church arise,  
a caring church that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.**
- 4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,  
can cure the fever in our blood,  
and teach us how to share our bread  
and feed the starving multitude.**
- 5 We have no mission but to serve  
in full obedience to our Lord;  
to care for all, without reserve,  
and spread his liberating word.**

**\*APOSTLES CREED**

**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**

**Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the  
church, the world, and all who are in need.**

You take resources that appear to be meager, bless them, and there is enough. May your church trust that what you bless and ask us to share with the world is abundantly sufficient. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Your bountiful creation offers sustenance and life for all creatures. Protect this abundance for the well-being of all. Reverse the damage we have caused your creation. Replenish ground water supplies, provide needed rains in places of drought, and protect forests from wildfires. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You offer yourself to all the nations and peoples of the earth, inviting everyone to abundant life. Bring the prophetic vision to fullness, that all nations will run to you and that nations who do not know you will find their joy in you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Hear the anguish of tender hearts who cry to you in suffering and satisfy their deepest needs. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body, heart, soul, and mind (especially **Kaitlynn, Marcia, Jenny, Bob, Horst, Janet, Crystal, Carol, DJ, Jim, Dan, Darrell, Cheryl, Michel family, John, Edla, Ray, Jerry, Arthur, Leah, Laura, Glenda, Grosso family, Richard, Nikki, Arlan, Jerry, Louise, Brooklyn, Jason, Jeremy, Joann and Bill**). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You offer freely the fullness of salvation. Give our congregation First Lutheran such a welcoming heart, that our words and actions may extend your free and abundant hospitality to all whom we encounter. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You gather your churches, We ask your blessings on all of your congregations around the world as they strive to serve your people. We especially lift up our Southeast Minnesota Synod sisters and brothers at, First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie Solor Lutheran Church, Webster Redeemer Lutheran Church, Alden Ngimu Lutheran Church, Tanzania Igengu Lutheran Church, Tanzania. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

You gather your saints as one, united in the body of Jesus. Bring us with all your saints to the heavenly banquet. We remember with love and thanksgiving the saints we have known. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

SHARE THE PEACE

SONG (843) *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.**
  
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
  
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

SENDING MUSIC

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### **Outdoor Ecumenical Worship**

Churches around the park will have worship services in the park August 2nd at 9 & 10:30 weather permitting. Please bring something to sit on, spread out at least 6 feet and masks are encouraged. Future services will hopefully be scheduled through August. Stay in touch because as you know everything can change quickly these days. These services will partially be dependent upon how well we keep everyone safe by following the guidelines. There will not be any offering collection at the service. Please continue to mail in, drop off or donate on-line.

### **Thank You!**

Summer is here and even though we aren't worshipping in person yet, your church is still here. That's why 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**

### **Drive up Communion — Wednesday, August 5th at 7:00 PM.**

Due to popular demand we will have another brief service in the parking lot with communion. You will drive in the lot for the service. You will receive Holy Communion on your way out. We will take all the necessary precautions.



## REOPENING

The Council voted to set some TARGET DATES for worship services. These are “TARGET DATES” because as you know things change every day with COVID 19.

**August 30th** we will do a practice run to make sure we will be ready for the official Reopening targeted as **September 13th Rally Day**.

For both dates and going forward we ask that if you enjoy online worship, continue online worship. Don't feel you have to come in the building. If you are “at risk” due to your health, age or family members please stay home. On August 30th we are looking to limit the practice run to 25-30 people. Watch for more details.

**Men's Bible Study** will meet Wednesday August 5th at 8:30am at Baypoint Park. Please bring a chair.