



# Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 19, 2020

At Home Worship  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Closter, New Jersey

*My burden is light.*

Matthew 11:30

Our service today is taken from *Hymnal Supplement '98*.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PREPARATION

#### INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation**      **Amen.**

#### CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

**Congregation**      **O Lord, who could stand?**

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

**Congregation**      **therefore You are feared.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

**Congregation**        **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

Pastor Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation**        **Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN** *Here I Am, Lord*

1. "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain* Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My Word to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain.*
3. "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied,  
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain.*

**KYRIE** Lord, have mercy on us; Christ have mercy on us;  
Lord, have mercy on us.

***GLORIA IN EXCELSIS***

Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
Of heavenly joy and earthly peace we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heavenly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious victory won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high:  
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And with your spirit.**

Pastor: O God,  
so rule and govern our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit  
that, ever mindful of Your judgement,  
we may be stirred up to holiness of living here  
and dwell with You in perfect joy hereafter;  
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## READINGS

### *Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 44:6 – 8*

- 6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel  
and his Redeemer, the LORD LORD of hosts:  
"I am the first and I am the last;  
besides me there is no god.
- 7 Who is like me? Let him proclaim it.  
Let him declare and set it before me,  
since I appointed an ancient people.  
Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen.
- 8 Fear not, nor be afraid;  
have I not told you from of old and declared it?  
And you are my witnesses!  
Is there a God besides me?  
There is no Rock; I know not any."

*After the reading:*

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading: Romans 8:18 – 27**

- 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.<sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.<sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope<sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.<sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.<sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?<sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.
- 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.<sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

*After the reading:*

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**  
**These things are written that you may believe**  
**That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**  
**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter thirteen beginning at verse twenty-four.  
Congregation **Glory to You, O Lord.**

### The Parable of the Weeds

<sup>24</sup> He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field,<sup>25</sup> but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.<sup>26</sup> So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also.<sup>27</sup> And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?'<sup>28</sup> He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?'<sup>29</sup> But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them.<sup>30</sup> Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'" ...

<sup>36</sup> Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field."<sup>37</sup> He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.<sup>38</sup> The field is the world, and the good seed is the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,<sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels.<sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age.<sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,<sup>42</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.<sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

*After the reading:*

Pastor

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Congregation**

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Christian Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**    *I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus*

- 1. I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee;  
Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.**
- 2. I am trusting Thee for pardon; At Thy feet I bow,  
For Thy grace and tender mercy Trusting now.**
- 3. I am trusting Thee for cleansing In the crimson flood;  
Trusting Thee to make me holy By Thy blood.**
- 4. I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thee alone shall lead,  
Every day and hour supplying All my need.**
- 5. I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shall give me Must prevail.**
- 6. I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever And for all.**

## SERMON

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*after each portion of the prayer:*

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation hear our prayer.**

Pastor Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

## **LITANY** (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**Congregation Alleluia.**

Pastor Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*(Silence for meditation)*

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation To You, O Lord.**

Pastor O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**Congregation Amen.**



Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

### **PRAYER**

Pastor Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**Congregation Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN**     *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

- 1.     Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night  
Lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**
- 2.     When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call;  
Hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**
- 3.     When the darkness appears,  
And the night draws near  
And the day is almost gone,  
At the river I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.**