



Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

- 1. When morning gilds the skies, My heart awaking cries:
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!" When evening shadows fall,
 This rings my curfew call: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"**
- 2. When mirth for music longs, This is my song of songs:
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!" God's holy house of prayer
 Has none that can compare With "Jesus Christ be praised!"**
- 3. No lovelier antiphon In all high heav'n is known
 Than "Jesus Christ be praised!" There to the eternal Word
 The eternal psalm is heard: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"**
- 4. Ye nations of mankind, In this your concord find:
 "May Jesus Christ be praised!" Let all the earth around
 Ring joyous with the sound: "May Jesus Christ be praised!"**
- 5. Sing, sun and stars of space, Sing, ye that see His face,
 Sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!" God's whole creation o'er,
 Today and evermore, Shall Jesus Christ be praised!**

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 Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life,
grant us to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the way, the truth, and the
life
that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ
and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal;
through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

READINGS

Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 51:1 – 6*

- 1 "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
 you who seek the LORD:
 look to the rock from which you were hewn,
 and to the quarry from which you were dug.
- 2 Look to Abraham your father
 and to Sarah who bore you;
 for he was but one when I called him,
 that I might bless him and multiply him.
- 3 For the LORD comforts Zion;
 he comforts all her waste places
 and makes her wilderness like Eden,
 her desert like the garden of the LORD;
 joy and gladness will be found in her,
 thanksgiving and the voice of song.
- 4 "Give attention to me, my people,
 and give ear to me, my nation;
 for a law will go out from me,
 and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.
- 5 My righteousness draws near,
 my salvation has gone out,
 and my arms will judge the peoples;
 the coastlands hope for me,
 and for my arm they wait.

6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever,

After the reading:

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: Romans 11:33 – 12:8

33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

34 "For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?"

35 "Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?"

36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- ³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching;⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

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 sixteen beginning at verse thirteen.

Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven."¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

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 *Christ Be My Leader*

- 1. Christ be my leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care;
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.**
- 2. Christ be my teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him, though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.**
- 3. Christ be my savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.**

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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 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

- 1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

- 2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**His oath, His covenant, and blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my Hope and Stay.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**

**When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before the throne.
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.**