

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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 Praise and Thanksgiving

1. Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer

For all things living, Created good:

Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard,

Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.

2. Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You,

That with our neighbor We may be fed.

Sowing or tilling, We would work with You,

Harvesting, milling For daily bread.

**3. Father, providing Food for Your children,
By your wise guiding Teach us to share
One with another, So that, rejoicing
With us, all others May know Your care.**

**4. Then will your blessing Reach every people,
Freely confessing Your gracious hand.
Where all obey You, No one will hunger;
In your love's sway You Nourish the land.**

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, from whom all good works proceeds,
grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration,
that we may set our minds on the things that are right
and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them;
through the same, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation Amen.

READINGS

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 33:7 – 9

⁷ "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me.⁸ If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

After the reading:

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

Congregation Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading:

Romans 13:1 – 10

- ¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval,⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing.⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.
- ⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.⁹ For 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: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

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 eighteen beginning at verse one.

Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.

- ¹ At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"² And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them³ and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.⁴ Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
- ⁵ "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me,⁶ but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.
- ⁷ "Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!⁸ And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire.⁹ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

- ¹⁰ "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.^{11 12} What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray?¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray.¹⁴ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.
- ¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

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 Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

- 1. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down Your head upon My breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, So weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad.**
- 2. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one; Stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in Him.**
- 3. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
Look unto Me, your morn shall rise, And all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk Till trav'ling days are done.**

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 *Lord of All Hopefulness*

- 1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.**
- 2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.**
- 3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.**
- 4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.**