

WORSHIP BULLETIN
September 6, 2020

OPENING PRAYER

As we gather in your name, O Christ,
you are already among us.
Keep us open to your presence in us and around us
that we may grow closer to you. **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Join me in a prayer of confession:

God of all people,
You call us to care for one another,
to serve one another with compassion,
to love others deeply as we have been loved by You.

We confess the times when we have allowed
our own desires and interests to take precedence
over the needs of others.

Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us.

You call us to deal honorably with one another,
to work through our disagreements with love and integrity,
and so to build up the Body of Christ.

We confess the times when we have found it easier
to talk about a concern rather than address a concern,
to let our resentment fester in silence rather than share our feelings and fears.

Lord, in Your mercy, forgive us.

God who is rich in mercy transforms our failures and our failings into new life. Rejoice!
For God's goodness and forgiveness surrounds you.

Amen!

OPENING HYMN

FIRST READING Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 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, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Ali Ferin

HYMN OF THE DAY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches and strengthen ecumenical partnerships; today we especially pray for our partner congregation in Cimiento Guatemala. Keep them

healthy and safe in the midst of this global pandemic and bless the leaders of the Lutheran Church in Guatemala. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution. We place in your hands the devastation of California and gulf coast, and ask for healing and restoration upon the land. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders away from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit, especially those who are preparing for or recovering from surgery remembering today Bev Sherwood and George Beebe. We also pray for those who serve as caregivers to loved ones, lifting up Ted Brand as he cares for his father in hospice. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give work to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, You have called us into the world,
into its need, its suffering, its injustice, and its pain,
to be agents of change and transformation in the world.

Use our hands, our feet, our voices, and our hearts
to heal the world for which you so love. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

As we worship we gather for communion both in our online worship and at our in-person worship. We know that this will look and feel differently. Yet we trust that you will hear the words of God's gift for you be it in person from a friend or family member, or from a distance as we bless the bread and wine at St. Michael's.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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;

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, the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Go now with your trust in God.

May God lead you to places of rest and renewal;

may Christ give you life in abundance,

and may the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with gladness.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, live in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE & POST SERVICE MUSIC

Parts of today's service are adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*, by Augsburg Fortress/1517 Media.