

July 26, 2020

Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

Joint Worship to be the church together.

Voices from all congregations – Hope, Augustana, First Lutheran
Worship broadcast via radio and YouTube. YouTube links found on:

www.hopeff.org

www.augustanalutheran.org

www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

O come, let us sing to our God and make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

We lift our hearts and voices in joy and thanksgiving for being in the presence of our beloved God.

Come, let us worship this amazing God, for we belong to God.

We will listen for God’s word and live in the hope it inspires.

GATHERING HYMN

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

ELW #742 vs. 1

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886
 Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In Jesus Christ, God came among us to save us from sin and death. In walking to the cross, Christ freed us from bondage of guilt and judgment. We come before God now, seeking grace freely given. **Grant us your grace, O God, and free us.**

When we hear and obey the voice of the world rather than turning to you for guidance, **Grant us your grace, O God, and free us.**

When we critically judge others without wanting to look at ourselves, **Grant us your grace, O God, and free us.**

When we fail to love any of your people out of prejudice and fear, **Grant us your grace, O God, and free us.**

In the cross, we see God's amazing love for us. We are God's children living in a confused world. So in abundant grace, God answers our doubt, heals our pain, and forgives our failures in grace. I announce therefore in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made new. **In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free in grace. Thanks be to God forever more! Amen.**

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.**

KYRIE (spoken)

Seeking peace in a broken world, but also knowing God's peace through God's presence, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Seeking peace in suffering, illness, and pain, but also feeling God's peace through healing, prayer, and those who help, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Seeking peace through our distress, depression, isolation, and fear, but also feeling God's peace through the words of loved ones and the hope we see in the world, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Seeking peace through the pain of worshipping separately, longing for our holy community to be gathering, but also feeling peace through God's presence with each of us as we worship together distantly, we pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, loving Lord. We need you now, as we have needed you every day. We cannot live without you. **Amen.** *(written by Pastor Nissa Peterson)*

SONG OF PRAISE

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray together.

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HYMN

“Jesus Loves Me”

(vs. 1) ELW # 595

Vs. 1

Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PASTOR ALI HAUGERUD

SCRIPTURE READING: ROMANS 8:26-39

²⁶The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*“Sanctuary” (sing twice)*

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
 Pure and holy, tried and true
 With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
 Sanctuary for you.

GOSPEL READING**MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

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

SERMON**PASTOR ALI HAUGERUD****HYMN OF THE DAY***“Here I Am, Lord”**ELW #574 vs. 1&3*

1 “I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
 3 “I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night. Fin-est bread I will pro-vide. I will make their dark-ness bright. till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you
call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you
lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946
 Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte
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THE 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

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

Special Music by Luther Aadland

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Come Lord Jesus, be our guest and let these gifts to us be blessed. Blessed be God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.

COMMUNION

This is the Lord's Table, all are welcome here. In your home is an ordinary table now set apart and holy, Christ is present there. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper, wherever you may be.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.** Holy God, throughout the generations you have come to be present with us at our tables, turning ordinary meals into holy moments for us to experience your grace in tangible ways.

In an upper room of a guest house in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. The body of Christ given for you. *(all share in eating the bread)*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. The blood of Christ shed for you. *(all share in drinking of the cup)*

Together as the body of Christ, trusting that the distance that separates us is bridged by the Holy Spirit who makes us one, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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.

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing, to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
 the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
 our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
 em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
 With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
 lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

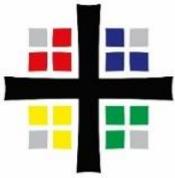
Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
 Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
 give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
 Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



FIRST LUTHERAN ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY JULY 26, 2020

Church phone number 739-3348 and email office@flcff.org

The flowers on the altar are given by Judy & Dick Werner in thankfulness of all of our family and friends.

The radio broadcast is sponsored by Augustana Lutheran Church.

Please keep the family of Joan Fick in prayer. Joan passed away on July 20, 2020. A private family memorial service will be held. A public graveside service will be held at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, July 29 at First Lutheran North Cemetery.

First Lutheran, Hope & Augustana will continue to provide worship opportunities with Holy Communion on Sunday mornings. All worship services are closed to the public, but will be live streamed on YouTube and on-air on KJK AM 1020 or Channel 977 FM97.7 at 9:30 am. Services are also being aired on PEG Access Channel 8, check the schedule for times.

We will continue to hold online worship through September 6, 2020. The Smart Team is working on a plan regarding return to worship and other church activities. We will provide updates as they are available.

The church building is open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and the office will be staffed during these times, as we are able. Church and public meetings can be held, with the following guidelines: groups of 10 or less, being aware of physical distancing, masks encouraged, sanitization of the room after the meeting.

If you have a pastoral care emergency, you can contact Pastor Gretchen at 218-321-0995. Please continue to call (leave a message) and email with questions or concerns. Phone: 218-739-3348, Email: office@flcff.org, or check our website firstlutheranchurchff.org for updates.

We appreciate your on-going support of the ministry of First Lutheran Church. Your gifts may be mailed to the church at 402 South Court Street, or you can visit the website firstlutheranchurchff.org and click donate on the upper right corner and set up your donation plan. Any questions, please call the office 739-3348.

Riverside Lions Club of Fergus Falls is having a shoe drive. They are looking for new or gently used shoes. There is a collection box in the Narthex, and the doors to church are open M-Th 8 am to 1 pm. Thanks!!

COMING UP THIS WEEK:

- Wednesday, July 29, FLY 7-9 Game Day via Zoom – hope you can join us for some FUN!!!
 - Last year's 7th graders from 12-1 pm
 - Last year's 8th graders from 1-2 pm
 - Last year's 9th graders from 2-3 pm
- Wednesday, July 29 at 6:00 p.m. First Communion Class via Zoom (last year's 5th graders)

SAVE THE DATE:

- Sunday, August 9 at 11:00 a.m. Outdoor Confirmation Service for 8th grade confirmands and their families.
- Sunday, August 16 at 11:00 a.m. Outdoor First Communion service for students and their families.
- Sunday, August 23 at 11:00 a.m. Outdoor Confirmation Service for 9th grade confirmands and their families.

Financial Update: As of July 20, 2020, year-to-date revenue: \$280,367, year-to-date budget \$292,170.