

September 13, 2020

15th Sunday after 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

Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy, **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love**. You will not always accuse us, nor will you keep your anger forever. You have not dealt with us according to our sins, nor repaid us according to our iniquities. **For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**

GATHERING HYMN

"Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise"

ELW # 834 vv. 1, 3, 4

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

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

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In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another; Gracious God, **have mercy on us.**

We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

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This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

HYMN**"Jesus Loves Me"****ELW #595 v. 1****Vs. 1**

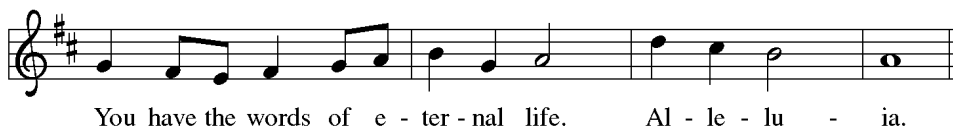
Jesus loves me! this I know,
 for the Bible tells me so;
 little ones to him belong,
 they are weak, but he is strong.

Refrain

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**KRISTY WICKLUND****READING: GENESIS 50:15-21**

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35**

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.

1
3

Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
watch - ing for you and for me.
par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
Music: Will L. Thompson

THOMPSON
117 117 and refrain

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.**

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

Brief Silence

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer!**

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer!**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer!**

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you. 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!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

WORSHIP & PRAISE #41

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

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 sharing 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.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Eat This Bread"

ELW #472

Jesus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hunger. Jesus Christ, risen Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst. Jesus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hunger. Jesus Christ, risen Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“O Christ Our Hope”

ELW #604, vv. 1,2,5

1 O Christ, our hope, our hearts' de - sire, cre - a - tion's
 2 How vast your mer - cy to ac - cept the bur - den
 5 All praise to you, as - cend - ed Lord; all glo - ry

might - y Lord, re - deem - er of the fall - en world, by
 of our sin, and bow your head in cru - el death to
 ev - er be to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest through

ho - ly love out - poured, by ho - ly love out - poured:
 make us clean with - in, to make us clean with - in.
 all e - ter - ni - ty, through all e - ter - ni - ty!

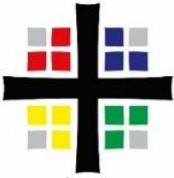
Text: Latin hymn, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, adapt.
 Music: Nikolaus Herman, 1480-1561

LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN
 86 866

DISMISSAL

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

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FIRST LUTHERAN ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

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

The flowers on the altar are given By Scott & Kim Ward in celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary, which is today.

The radio broadcast today is sponsored by Augustana Lutheran Church.

Please keep the family and friends of Patti Norby-Steenbock in your prayers. Patti passed away on September 4, 2020. The obituary can be found at www.josephvertinandsons.com.

Today, September 13, is Rally Sunday! Be the Light! There will be a Donut Hole & Coffee or Lemonade Drive Thru for all of the First Lutheran Community. Drive thru the Canopy in the upper level parking lot for donut holes and beverage. We will also be distributing Worship Kits and Sunday School Lessons. Donations for the Salvation Army program which helps people in Otter Tail County pay for their utilities will also be accepted. We want to be the light and help them to keep their lights on!!

Coming up this week:

- Wednesday, September 16, FLY K-6 meets at Roosevelt Park after school.
- Next Sunday, September 20 at 11:00 a.m. there will be a Bible Class for 2nd Grade students and their families in the Upper Level Parking Lot. Students will also be receiving their Bibles. (Rain date is September 27)

Music at Augustana next Sunday, September 20 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. with Pastor David Strom's band Motu playing.

Stop by the church and take time for prayer and meditation. The sanctuary is open on Tuesday afternoons from 12-2 pm and Thursday afternoons from 4-6 pm. There is live music, self-serve Holy Communion, guided prayers, and Pastor Gretchen will be available for one-on-one social distanced conversation prior to, or following your prayer time.

Mark your calendars:

- October 4, 2020 – Generosity Sunday with drive thru rolls & juice. Holy Communion will also be offered.
- October 18, 2020 – Member Appreciation Sunday – drive thru pick-up of American Legion ribs. Watch for more details!!

Otter Cove Children's Museum is looking for volunteers, weekly or occasionally, to help with cleaning the front entrance, helping at a kid's open-air art camp, and arranging/picking up the art room during open hours. Please contact the museum at 612 819-8033 or email ottercoveff@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

First Lutheran, Hope & Augustana will continue to provide online worship opportunities with Holy Communion on Sunday mornings through September. We will continue online worship with Augustana after September. All worship services are closed to the public, but will be live streamed on YouTube and on-air on KJKK AM 1020 or Channel 977 FM97.7 at 9:30 am, or PEG Access Channel 8 (check for times). The Smart Team is working on a plan regarding return to worship and other church activities. We will provide updates as they are available.

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.

A Women's Bible Study is being planned. We are looking at a socially distanced meeting at the church on either Monday at 6:00 p.m. or Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. The study would be on a book from the New Testament, and led by Pastor Gretchen. If you are interested, please contact the office (739-3348 or office@flcff.org) and indicate your time preference. We will be in touch when plans are finalized.

Men's Bible Study - We are exploring interest in a Men's Bible Study this Fall. The study would be socially distanced, and on Tuesday or Thursday mornings at 7:00 a.m. Please contact Pastor Gretchen if you are interested: pastorg@flcff.org or call 218 321-0995.

A wheelchair has been donated to the church. If you need a wheelchair, please call the office at 739-3348.

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.

Financial Update: As of September 7, 2020, year-to-date revenue: \$330,843, year-to-date budget \$367,910, last year: \$328,085.