

Sunday, September 6, 2020 (Labor Day Weekend)

QUOTE: "As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death—we give over our lives to death. Thus it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise God-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a [person], he bids [them] 'come and die.'" -- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Gathering

Dear siblings in Christ of our Northwestern Minnesota Synod, grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord our Savior, Jesus Christ. Though we are still in a time of transition and challenge, autumn brings a return to a rhythm of activities for our churches, schools and families. The season of Pentecost continues with the promise of new life and growth. In this season, we are committed to a life of faith together dedicated to loving God and loving our neighbor. The gospel parables of autumn find mercy meeting justice. We discover that God's ways are not our ways. God surprises those who are on the outside by inviting them in. And God surprises those who are on the inside by confronting them with their privilege.

Teach us your ways, O Lord, and we will walk in your truth.

First Reading: Genesis 1:26-28

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Opening Hymn: Let All Things Now Living "ELW 881"

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to
2 God rules all the forc - es: the stars in their cours - es and
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,
sun in its or - bit o - be - dient - ly shine;
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who
the hills and the moun - tains, the riv - ers and foun - tains, the
still guides us on to the end of our days.
deeps of the o - cean pro - claim God di - vine.
God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -
We too should be voic - ing our love and re -
fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,
joic - ing; with glad ad - o - ra - tion a song let us raise
till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as
till all things now liv - ing u - nite in thanks - giv - ing: "To
for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.
God in the high - est, ho - san - na and praise!"

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity ✝ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Using the words of our appointed Psalm, (Psalm 119:33-40) let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, we are bound by sin. **Have mercy on us.**

Lord God, teach us lessons for living so we can stay the course. Give us insight so we can do what you tell us all the days of our life. Guide us down the road of your commandments for it is a path that we love to travel! Turn our hearts from selfish ambitions. Lead us by your gracious words of wisdom. Divert our eyes from toys and trinkets. Invigorate us on the pilgrim way. Affirm your promises to us – promises made to all who fear you. Deflect the harsh words of our critics. Help us hold fast to your good word. See how hungry we are for your counsel. Preserve our life through your righteous ways!

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

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 (ELW p. 184) Red River Worship

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we know that we will fail. Remove far from us all that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Message

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:28-30

Sermon: Bishop Bill Tesch

Hymn of the Day: "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" – ELW 808



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an-non-cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
 Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community
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The Apostles' Creed (ELW p. 189)

Prayers of Intercession

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 in this synod. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships. Guide the work of the church universal.

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.

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

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths forward with 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 prayers.**

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.

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

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

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you quipped them, equip us and surround us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation.

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

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

Amen

Lord's Prayer (ELW p. 191)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

Please share a sign of peace with someone in your household. Give someone a call on the phone or share a text or send someone a message on social media, sharing God's peace.

Offering / and Announcements

And now let us worship God with our offerings.

This is the time in worship where we undertake the practice of faith – of sacrificial giving. We give what God has first given to us, our possessions and our treasure for the sake of the Gospel. I want to thank you for your faithfulness in ministry, for your generosity that continues throughout this time of COVID-19. I want to affirm also, that our churches have never been closed. We're open and indeed we've been finding creative ways to proclaim the Gospel to perhaps more people than we ever have before. So, thank you for your generosity, thank you for your faithfulness in ministry, and thank you for the ways in which you continue to love and serve your neighbor.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray together.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us through Word and Sacrament, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sending

Blessed by God's love and mercy, we go forth in mission and ministry to the world.

Blessing

May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of truth and life. Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song – All the People Said Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace as the Spirit sends us forth to serve. **Thanks be to God!**

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