

**St Paul's and St. Matthias Lutheran Churches**  
**Service of the Word**  
**September 13, 2020**

**P:** Pastor **V:** Vicar **C:** Congregation **VC:** Voice of Congregation **WA:** Worship Asst.

**PRELUDE** (*Played by Will Goetze*)

**GATHERING**

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** (*Voice of the Congregation: Diane Harrop*)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Diane Harrop* will represent the voices of the congregations and you are invited to confess while muted at home.  
(*The confession will be shared on the screen.*)

**VC: Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**  
**Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

V: You are invited sing along while muted at home. ELW #641

**GATHERING SONG** "All Are Welcome"

(*Deb Horn, Carlee Layton, Diane Harrop, Barb Christ, Rob Toth*)

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

### ***Refrain***

All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain*
  
3. Let us build a house where love is found  
in water, wine and wheat:  
a banquet hall on holy ground  
where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus,  
is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain*
  
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach  
beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,  
and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger  
bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: *Refrain*
  
5. Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*

### **GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**V: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

V: Let us pray. 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.**

**READING:** Romans 14:1-12 (*Read by Loretta Brockmeier*)

WA: A reading from the book of Romans the fourteenth chapter.

WA: <sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

WA: Word of God, word of life.

**V: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “Halle, Halle, Halle” (*Sung by Jane Cuccia*)

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah  
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah  
Halle, Halle, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 18:21-35 (*Read by Matthew Brockmeier*)

WA: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the eighteenth chapter.

**V: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of

pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>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.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>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. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

WA: The gospel of the Lord.

**V. Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*The creed will be shared on the screen.*

**APOSTLES' CREED** *(Read by Linda Toth)*

VC: With all Christians around the world you are invited to confess your faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed while muted at home.

VC: Together,

**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**

*(Singers: Carlee Layton, Diane Harrop, Deb Horn, Rob Toth, ) ELW #752*

*Sung: Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

*(WA: Read by Dave Meeks) (VC: Read by Dennis Latson)*

### **Invitation to Prayer**

WA: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, all God's children throughout the earth, and all of creation. Lord, in your mercy,

**VC: Hear our prayer**

WA: We pray, God, for your kindness for all who suffer, whether in mind, body, or spirit. May they find comfort, and may we offer love. Lord, in your mercy,

**VC: Hear our prayer.**

WA: The Psalmist says you, O God, do not punish us according to our sins, but instead you continue in your love for us. May we do the same in our lives, forgiving those who speak or act against us, and instead loving all you have created. Lord, in your mercy,

**VC: Hear our prayer.**

WA: Now only 51 days from Election Day, we ask you, God, to be patient with us. Give us clear eyes and good judgment as we choose who will best guide our nation for the next four years.

May we have in our hearts the values of peace and compassion. Lord, in your mercy,

**VC: Hear our prayer.**

WA: Remind us again, as Paul did, that you are the judge, we are not, and we are not to separate ourselves from or demean others simply because they are not exactly like us. Strengthen in us the resolve to do your will and to give honor to you. Lord, in your mercy,

**VC: Hear our prayer.**

WA: Loving God, we ask you to be with each of us, whatever condition we might be in. Be with those who are isolated or quarantined, that they not be burdened by sadness or loneliness. Be with those who are in frequent contact with others, that they may not be weighed down by fear.

Lord, in your mercy,

**VC: Hear our prayer.**

WA: God, we suffer in this pandemic, everywhere in the world. Florida alone now has more than 650,000 cases and over 12,000 deaths. Guide us to act to protect ourselves and each other. Save us from the false notions that the worst has past, that there is a miracle cure, or that we can resume dangerous behaviors. Strengthen those who work every day in danger: medical personnel, grocery clerks, teachers, and first responders. Lord, in your mercy,

**VC: Hear our prayer.**

WA: We ask for comfort for all who suffer, whether from hunger, homelessness, loss of jobs, covid19 or other illness, and the death of loved ones. We pray especially for Herb and Teresa Schaepering, Mary Cramer, Marcie Moore, Carl and Linda Johnson, Dennis Kelly, Eve Brein, William Fino, Peter Brein, Anthony Fino, Eric Johnson, Shawn Whitehead, Lou Saugstad, Charles and Audry Klien, Michael Perron and sons, Phyllis Perron and Leslie, Jay Croft, the Bosse Family, Woody Woodward, Bill Risner, Linda Fino, Rick Spaulding, Barbara Christ, Dawn Miller and those whom we name now, aloud or in our hearts. **(Prayer leaders will pause and you are invited to unmute your mic and offer prayers.)**

WA: Lord in your mercy,

**VC: Hear our prayer.**

WA: Thank you, God, for bringing us together this morning. We are grateful for the time our congregations spend together in worship.

**VC: Amen**

*Sung: Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.*

## **STEWARDING GOD'S CREATION**

V: Siblings in Christ, as we pause to listen to the offertory we are encouraged to consider our invitation to be stewards of the resources given to us by God. Offerings are an act of worship. Prayerfully consider how God invites us to offer what God has given to us. Offerings that are discerned to be offered to the Lord through the church of St. Matthias may be mailed to the church office. Offerings that are discerned to be offered to the Lord through the church of St. Paul's may be mailed to the church office or given online at the St. Paul's website. Let us prayerfully consider our offerings.

## **OFFERTORY ANTHEM** "I've Got Peace Like The River"

*(played by Fremont Ogle and singers Barb Christ, Deb Horn, Rob Toth, Carlee Layton, Diane Harrop)*

## **OFFERING**

*To give your offering to St. Matthias, mail your offering to 417 Plaza Drive Dunedin, FL 34698.  
To give your offerings to St. Paul's mail your offering to 407 S. Saturn Ave. Clearwater, FL 33755 or give online at [www.stpaulsclearwater.org](http://www.stpaulsclearwater.org)*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD** (VC: Read by Deb Horn)

P: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

**VC: we give you thanks and praise.**

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

**VC: we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

**VC: we give you thanks and praise.**

P: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**VC: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

V: From Luther's Small Catechism: Save us from the time of trial. What is this or what does this mean? It is true that God tempts no one, but we ask in this prayer that God would preserve and keep us, so that the devil, the world, and our flesh may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great and shameful sins, and that although we may be attacked by them, we may finally prevail and gain the victory.

V: Let us pray,

*All will be muted. A bell will be rung to represent the magnitude of and joining together of our voices.*

*(VC: Judy Wylde and Bell Ringer Carol Dunn.)*

**VC: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

*Bell*

**Give us today our daily bread.**

*Bell*

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

*Bell*

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

*Bell*

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen. *Bell***

## **BLESSING**

P: 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.**

V: You are invited to sing along while muted at home. ELW #813

## **SENDING SONG** "Faith Of Our Fathers"

*(Sung by Jane Cuccia, Dave Meeks, Gretchen Bush and Miguel Acta)*

1. Faith of our fathers, living still  
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.  
Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
whene'er we hear that glorious word.  
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.
2. Faith of our mothers, daring faith,  
your work for Christ is love revealed,  
spreading God's word from pole to pole,  
making love known and freedom real.  
Faith of our mothers, holy faith,  
we will be true to you till death.
3. Faith of our sisters, brothers too,  
who still must bear oppression's might,  
raising on high, in prisons dark,  
the cross of Christ still burning bright.  
Faith for today, O living faith,  
we will be true to you till death.
4. Faith born of God, oh, call us yet,  
bind us with all who follow you,  
sharing the struggle of your cross  
until the world is made anew.  
Faith born of God, O living faith,  
we will be true to you till death.

## **DISMISSAL**

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**



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