



St. John's Lutheran Church

1000 Bluff St., Beloit, WI 53511
www.stjohnsbeloit.com

**“Sharing the good news of forgiveness and eternal life
through Jesus Christ.”**

August 2, 2020

*Please take the bulletin with you
or dispose of it in our recycling bin.
Thank you.*

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Jeremiah 23:16–29

Romans 8:12–17

Matthew 7:15–23

Beware of False Prophets

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves” (Matt. 7:15). Deceit has its strength in masquerading as the truth. False prophets speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the Lord (Jer. 23:16–29). They deny the judgment of the Lord, speaking peace to the unrepentant, when in truth there is condemnation and wrath. “You will recognize them by their fruits” (Matt. 7:20). The “fruits” of a true prophet are not outward righteousness or success but faithfulness in proclaiming the Word of the Lord. This is the will of the Father in heaven, that pastors take heed to the flock, the Father’s adopted ones (Rom. 8:12–17), warning them against the wolves and their lies, and shepherding the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:27–38). For indeed, the cross is that good tree bearing good fruit—namely, the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Lord, Have Mercy (Kyrie) *LSB 204*

C **Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Grant to us, Lord, the Spirit to think and do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do anything that is good without You, may be enabled by You to live according to Your will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Let us pray.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 23:16-29

¹⁶This is what the LORD of Armies says:

“Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you.

They are deluding you.

They speak visions from their own hearts

and not from the mouth of the LORD.

¹⁷They keep saying to those who despise me,

“The LORD has said that you will have peace.”

And to everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart, they say, ‘No harm will come to you.’

¹⁸Yet who has stood in the council of the LORD, to see and hear his word?

Who has listened to his word and heard it?

¹⁹Look, a storm of the LORD!

His wrath has gone out,

a whirlwind twisting down,

whirling on the heads of the wicked.

²⁰The LORD’s anger will not turn back

until he has completely fulfilled the purposes of his heart.

In later days you will understand it perfectly.

²¹I did not send these prophets,

yet they ran.

I did not speak to them,

yet they prophesied.

²²But if they had stood in my council,

they would have caused my people to hear my words,

and they would have turned them from their evil ways

and from their evil deeds.

²³Am I a God who is only nearby,” declares the LORD,

“and not a God far away?”

²⁴Can anyone hide in secret places

so that I cannot see him?” declares the LORD.

“Do I not fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD.

²⁵“I have heard what the prophets who prophesy lies in my name have said. They say, ‘I’ve had a dream! I’ve had a dream!’ ²⁵How long will this be in the hearts of these lying prophets? These prophets proclaim the deceitfulness of their own minds. ²⁷They think they can make my people forget my name with the dreams each one tells his neighbor, the way their fathers forgot my name because of Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell his dream. But let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has chaff to do with grain?” declares the LORD. ²⁹“Is not my word like a fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that shatters rock?”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 8:12–17

¹²So then, brothers, we do not owe it to the sinful flesh to live in harmony with it. ¹³For if you live in harmony with the sinful flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live.

¹⁴Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are afraid again, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we call out, “Abba, Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God’s children.

¹⁷Now if we are children, we are also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C **These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 7:15–23

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁵“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶By their fruit you will recognize them. You do not gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles, do you? ¹⁷So then, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. ¹⁸A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. ¹⁹Every tree that does not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰So then, by their fruit you will recognize them. ²¹Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²²Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and drive out demons in your name and perform many miracles in your name?’ ²³Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

**Music for Reflection
Message**

**“My Song is Love Unknown”
“Confronted by the Word of God”**

Stand

Prayers of the Church

P. Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

P For all baptized believers, that they would think on the steadfast love of God and praise Him for the salvation they have through Jesus Christ, which they receive through His Holy Word and Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For an increase in faithful church workers, that the Good News of Christ’s perfect life, sacrificial death, victorious resurrection and glorious ascension would be proclaimed in all parts of the world, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the Holy Spirit to turn the hearts of all false prophets and pretend believers, that they would be led to repentance and faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For humility among the faithful, that they would interact with the world as sinners who have been redeemed by Christ the crucified, not out of pride or arrogance, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For those who have been placed in authority over us, that they would steer clear of self-promotion and focus on the common welfare of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the sick and suffering, and for all who desire our prayers, particularly those whom we have named on our prayer list and those we now name in the thoughts of our hearts that they would receive healing, comfort, and be strengthened to endure, according to God’s gracious will, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P. Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C. Amen.

Sit

Offering - offerings will be received in the basket placed in the center aisle as worshipers come to the front for reception of the Lord's Supper.

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface *LSB 208*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus) *LSB 208*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Peace of the Lord (Pax Domini)

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Sit

Receiving the Lord’s Supper - worshipers are asked to come to the front via the center aisle, while maintaining a six-foot distance between family units (please see the lines on the floor). Each communicant will receive first the bread and then the wine from the pastor. After the worshiper has communed, they are invited to return to their seat via the side aisles. Trays for receiving the empty cups will be placed at the front of each side aisle.

Communion Blessing (after everyone has received communion and returned to their seats)

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.
C Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Blessing (Benedicamus) LSB 212

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Blessing (Benediction)

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
C Amen.

Acknowledgments

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For announcements, please see this week’s Communicator.

Things that CANNOT be recycled:

***Masks**

***Tissues**

***Papertowels**

***Anything with bodily fluids or
cleaning solutions on it**

**PLEASE DO NOT PLACE THESE ITEMS IN
THE RECYCLINGS BINS.**

Thank you.

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Communion Practices of this Congregation

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John's every Sunday in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. In addition to the members of this congregation, visitors from our sister LCMS congregations and other Lutheran denominations with whom we enjoy altar fellowship are invited to join us at the Lord's Table. For further study, please see Matthew 5:23; 10:32; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.