

**St Paul's and St. Matthias Lutheran Churches**  
**Service of the Word**  
**October 18, 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: Judy Ormsby*)

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. *Judy Ormsby* 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 #685

**GATHERING SONG** "Take My Life, That I May Be"

(*Sung by Miguel Acta, Janice Fernow, Linda Johnson, Gretchen Bush, Bill Horne and Dave Meeks*)

1. Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.
3. Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shall choose.
5. Take my will and make it thine,  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own,  
it shall be thy royal throne.
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

### **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. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**READING:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10      *(Read by Carol Dunn)*

WA: A reading from the book of Thessalonians the first chapter.

WA: <sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,

constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. <sup>9</sup>For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

WA: Word of God, word of life.

**V: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “Alleluia, Song Of Gladness” ELW #318 vs. 1  
(*Sung by Jane Cuccia*)

1. Alleluia, song of gladness,  
voice of joy that cannot die;  
alleluia is the anthem  
ever dear to choirs on high;  
in the house of God abiding  
thus they sing eternally.

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 22:15-22 (*Read by LaDelle Daly*)

WA: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-second chapter.

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

WA: <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup>They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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 Judy Wylde)*

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, Barb Christ, Diane Harrop, 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 Matthew Brockmeier) (VC: Read by Deb Horn)*

**Invitation to Prayer**

WA: As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the whole Church, the nation, and all the world.

WA: Almighty God, giver of all things, with gladness we give thanks for all Your goodness. We bless you for the love which sustains us from day to day.

**VC: Hear us, good Lord.**

WA: Almighty God, you who are love and who sees all the suffering, injustice and misery which reign in this world; look mercifully on the poor, the oppressed and all who are heavy laden with labor and sorrow. Fill our hearts with deep compassion for those who suffer.

**VC: Hear us, good Lord.**

WA: Almighty God, let your blessing rest on the seedtime and harvest, the commerce and industry, the leisure and rest, the arts and culture of Your people. Take under Your special protection those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and be with all who lay their hands to any useful task.

**VC: Hear us, good Lord.**

WA: Almighty God, You created all people in Your image. We thank you for the variety of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us.

**VC: Hear us, good Lord.**

WA: Almighty God, you inspired your servant Luke to reveal in his gospel the love and healing power of your Son. Give your church the same love and power to heal, and to proclaim your salvation among nations to the glory of your name.

**VC: Hear us, good Lord.**

WA: Almighty God, for this assembly of believers, comfort us with Your presence as we meet the challenges of each day.

**VC: Hear us, good Lord.**

WA: Almighty God, for all nations that are overwhelmed by this pandemic, may they receive the necessary medications, testing and support to care for all the ill. Comfort with Your grace all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity; especially: Herb and Teresa Schaepering, Mary Cramer, Marcie Moore, Carl and Linda Johnson, Dennis Kelly, Eve Brein, William Fino, Anthony Fino, Eric Johnson, Shawn Whitehead, Lou Saugstad, Charles and Audry Klien, Michael Perron and sons, Jay Croft, the Bosse Family, Woody Woodward, Bill Risner, Linda Fino, Rick Spaulding, Barbara Christ, Dawn Miller, Barbara Ann Shepherd, Steve Wren, Clifford Whitmoyer, Jane Cuccia, Peter Brein, Christina, 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: Drive away their suffering, give them firm hope, and strengthen their trust in You.

**VC: Hear us, good Lord.**

WA: Almighty God, sanctify our homes with Your presence and joy. By the spirit of affection unite the members of all families.

**VC: Hear us, good Lord.**

WA: Almighty God, mercifully assist us in our supplications and prayers. Direct us toward the goal of everlasting salvation, that surrounded by all the changes and uncertainties of life, we may be defended by your gracious and ready help.

**VC: Hear us, good Lord.**

WA: Almighty God, may those elected to public office be guided by Your wisdom and strengthened through your Holy Spirit, so that they will lead us with the same compassion, understanding, and love with which You lead us.

**VC: Hear us, good Lord.**

WA: Into Your hands, Almighty God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**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.*

### **STEWARDSHIP 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** "Give Me Jesus" (Sung by Diane Harrop, Fremont Ogle, Deb Horn, Carlee Layton, Rob Toth, Barb Christ)

### **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 Diane Harrop)

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: Let us pray,

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

*(VC: Jodee Hub 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 #689

**SENDING SONG** “Praise And Thanksgiving”

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

1. Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer  
for all things living, you have made good:  
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
2. God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,  
that with our neighbor we may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,  
harvesting, milling for daily bread.
3. Father, providing food for your children,  
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share  
one with another, so that, rejoicing  
with us, all others may know your care.
4. Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,  
freely confessing your gracious hand.  
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;  
your love sustaining showers the land.

**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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