



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.”**

July 5, 2020

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or dispose of it in our recycling bin.
Thank you.*

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Genesis 50:15–21

Romans 8:18–23

Luke 6:36–42

Christ's Mercy Is Ours to Show to Others

“Be merciful, even as your Father also is merciful” (Luke 6:36–42). The old Adam in us wants to condemn and seek vengeance. But the Lord says, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay” (Rom. 12:14–21). To condemn, to avenge yourself, is to put yourself in the place of God. It is to fail to trust that He is just. Ultimately, it is to disbelieve that Jesus suffered the full vengeance for all wrongs. Only Christ is merciful as the Father is merciful. He is the one who overcame all evil with the good of His cross, forgiving even His executioners. Jesus is our Joseph, who comforts us with words of pardon and reconciliation (Gen. 50:15–21). He is the One who does not condemn but gives life that runs over. Only through faith in Christ are we sons of the Father—being merciful, forgiving, doing good to our enemies. For in Christ we know that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Rom. 8:8–13).

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 O Lord, grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Your governance that Your Church may joyfully serve You in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ, 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

Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and will pay us back in full for all of the evil that we did to him."

¹⁶They sent the following message to Joseph: "Before he died your father commanded us, ¹⁷You are to tell Joseph, "Please forgive the offense of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." Now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down in front of him, and they said, "See now, we are your servants."

¹⁹Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring this to pass and to keep many people alive, as it is this day. ²¹Now therefore do not be afraid. I will nourish you and your little ones." He comforted them and spoke to them in a kind way.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 8:18–23

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰For creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in the hope ²¹that even creation itself will be set free from slavery to corruption, in order to share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

²²For we know that all of creation is groaning with birth pains right up to the present time. ²³And not only creation, but also we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we eagerly await our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

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

Luke 6:36–42

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter

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

³⁶Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure pressed down, shaken together, and

running over will be poured into your lap. In fact, the measure with which you measure will be measured back to you.”

³⁹He also told them a parable: “A blind man cannot guide a blind man, can he? Won’t they both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher. ⁴¹Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but fail to notice the beam in your own eye? ⁴²Or how can you tell your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck in your eye,’ when you do not see the beam in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the beam from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck in your brother’s eye.

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 of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Music for Reflection
Message

“Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”
“Two Sons were Lost, but Only One Knew It”

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 an increase of mercy among all the baptized, that they would bless and not curse, forgive as they have been forgiven, give as they have been given to, and speak the truth in love, not with anger and pride, let us pray to the Lord:

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For all pastors in Christ, that they would remain bold to preach the Gospel in its purity and administer the Sacraments according to Christ's institution, let us pray to the Lord:

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For favorable weather and a bountiful harvest, that our crops would receive God's nurture and blessing, let us pray to the Lord:

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For industries and the service sectors of this land, that their labors may be just and the work they do may be profitable for all people, let us pray to the Lord:

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For a culture of life in our land and throughout the world, that all life from the womb to the grave would be cherished, and that all who view life as expendable would have their hearts and minds changed, let us pray to the Lord:

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For those who have been placed in authority over us, that they would govern with a mind focused on peace and the general welfare of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For an end to the pandemic and for mercy on all who suffer physical, spiritual and economic hardship because of it, let us pray to the Lord:

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For the sick, for those preparing to undergo surgery, for the elderly and homebound, and for all who desire our prayers, especially those whom we have named on our prayer list and those we now name in the thoughts of our hearts , that, according to God's good and gracious will, they may receive healing, comfort and assurance of His care for them, 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

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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For announcements, please see this week's Communicator.

Roser's Reflection . . .

On the Day of Pentecost (the fiftieth day after Passover) around the year 33 AD, there were 120 Christians. That day, as the Holy Spirit filled the hearts of those believers, the Church grew by 3,000 souls (see Acts 2). Today, there are 2.3 billion Christians living in our world. The good news that Christ Jesus has died in the place of sinners and answered for their sins so that everyone who believes this message will have forgiveness and receive eternal life is what we call the "Gospel." The history of Christianity is the story of how the Gospel has spread throughout the world during the course of the last 2,000+ years.

During her history, the Church's gatherings have taken place in a variety of settings. In the book of Acts, we find the Church meeting in the Temple area and in homes. Later on, during the Roman persecution of Christianity, the Church gathered in secret - including among the tombs of the dead. Following the legalization of Christianity in the Roman Empire during the 300s, the Church cautiously returned to gatherings of a more public nature. Over the course of many centuries in Europe, majestic cathedrals would be built and believers would gather together by the thousands. When Christianity made its way to the US, the wood-framed building that would characterize the Church's gathering places for generations emerged. These were augmented by

Cathedral-style buildings, auditorium-style worship centers, and storefront churches. The forms of the gathering spaces for the Church have been diverse, but the nature of the Church has never changed. The Church has always been, is now, and will be until our Lord Jesus comes again the assembly of believers gathered by the Holy Spirit through the preaching of the Gospel message.

Consequently, St. John's was never closed! We needed to discontinue in-person worship for a time - but we were never closed. The gathering of believers around God's Word never stopped. Additionally, those who are not yet ready to return to in-person worship continue to be gathered with us through Youtube, Facebook, podcasts, telephone conversations, blogs, etc. What's more, when the assembly of believers went online people whom we did not know before became a part of our gatherings. We continue to see the Gospel spread from person to person as the Holy Spirit works among us.

In the late 70s and early 80s, St. John's had an evangelism group called LEO (Lay Evangelism Organization). This layperson-led group went house to house throughout Beloit each week sharing Jesus with their neighbors. The Holy Spirit worked mightily through the people of St. John's in those days, and I believe that the Holy Spirit is starting a new work among us today. My fear is that we are going to miss the Spirit's work among us, because it doesn't seem important to us. What do I mean by this? This new work is the sharing of the Gospel online, but many people will not consider the "clicking of a mouse" important enough to do. And yet, in our current setting, sharing our messages and online content with others digitally is more effective than going over and knocking on their front doors. If we are going to continue in the Spirit's work of spreading the Gospel, we must make the shift in our thinking so that we recognize that our efforts to share Jesus online is a holy work of God that is every bit as important as knocking on people's houses.

I invite you to take up your calling to spread the Gospel. We need you to start sharing our social media posts on your newsfeeds and to forward the emails that I send to you with links to our content on to others. We are working hard to create solid content, but if people don't see our posts not a lot is going to happen. Think people on the internet don't want to see content that speaks about God - think again. Yesterday, Kanye West released his new music video "Wash Us in the Blood" (an explicitly Christian song) and it has already had 4.4 million views on Youtube. That's right - 4.4 million views in one day - I think that some people are open to internet content about God. Do I think that 4.4 million people are going to start to view our content? I suspect that it will take us about a year to work up to it - just kidding. However, our calling may not be to reach 4.4 million people, but I am sure that we are called to reach the hundreds of people that we are connected with online. The Gospel, by its very nature, has always been viral - in the best sense of that word - spreading from person to person.

Looking for content to share, please begin here <https://tinyurl.com/stjohnsbeloit> May God bless your service!

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Your masks and other safety items ARE NOT recyclable. They should NEVER be placed in the "PAPER ONLY" recycling bin.

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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.