

St. Paul's and St. Matthias' Lutheran Churches
Sunday Worship Service Bulletin
July 25, 2021

GATHERING

PRELUDE "Pachelbel Canon"

Dave Meeks, Flute and Dr. Will Goetze, Piano

WELCOME

HYMN "Open Now Thy Gates Of Beauty"

ELW #533

1. Open now thy gates of beauty,
Zion, let me enter there,
where my soul in joyful duty
waits for God who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place,
filled with solace, light, and grace!
2. Gracious God, I come before thee;
come thou also unto me;
where we find thee and adore thee,
there a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, oh, enter thou,
let it be thy temple now!
3. Here thy praise is gladly chanted,
here thy seed is duly sown;
let my soul, where it is planted,
bring forth precious sheaves alone,
so that all I hear may be
fruitful unto life in me.
4. Thou my faith increase and quicken,
let me keep thy gift divine;
howsoe'er temptations thicken,
may thy word still o'er me shine
as my guiding star through life,
as my comfort in all strife.
5. Speak, O God, and I will hear thee,
let thy will be done indeed;
may I undisturbed draw near thee
while thou dost thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows;
here is balm for all our woes.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

- 1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.
- 3 In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

(The assembly is seated)

WORD

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4: 42-44 (WA: *Read by Gretchen Bush*)

WA: A reading from the book of Second Kings the fourth chapter.

WA: ⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” ⁴³But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’” ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

WA: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 6:1-21

P/V: The holy gospel according to St. John the sixth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the

sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly is seated.)

SERMON

(The assembly stands.)

HYMN OF THE DAY "How Firm A Foundation"

ELW #796

1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you
to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."
3. "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
4. "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

APOSTLES' CREED

P/V: Together with Christians from all places and times let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed

**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

(WA: Read by Gerry Glavin) (VC: Read by Kristi Hackenmiller)

WA: Creator God, we are grateful for your creation and we ask you to smile upon all your creatures everywhere. Bless those who know you and give grace to those who have yet to learn your ways. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: God of grace, thank you for the way you teach us by word and example to feed all those who are hungry. Our food rescue program and our gifts to R.C.S. are meant to share your love. May we continue to share food for the body and food for the soul. Bless our food ministries and those who help make it work. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: Generous God, you made a few loaves and fishes feed the multitude, with ample left over. Remind us that we you have blessed us with plenty, and that our love can echo yours. Bless those in legislative positions who seek to share our bounty with others, who look for ways to care for the poor and the marginalized. We are a nation of great wealth, both as individuals and as corporate entities. Remind us that, as we sometimes sing, “all that we have is yours alone, a gift, O Lord, from you.” Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: God of all, this nation has become deeply divided over many issues. In a less tense atmosphere some issues would not even be seen as political in nature. Calm our fears and show us truth as you see it. Help us choose words and actions which reflect our concern for our country and our respect for one another. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

We pray, God, for those who are ill and those who grieve. We ask that your love shine especially on Herb and Teresa (*Schaepering*), Mary (*Cramer*), Lou (*Saugstad*), Charles and Audry (*Klien*), Michael (*Perron*) and sons, Charlie and Barbara (*Christ*), Barbara Ann (*Shepherd*), James (*Glass*), Emmy (*Volenberg*), Karen (*Braaksma*), Sharon (*Matusiak*), John (*Gannon*), Pastor Dale (*Erickson*), Leilani (*Gabriele*), John (*Toth*), Arthur Goetze, Linda (*Johnson*), Marcia (*Engler*), Janice (*Fernow*) Tammy, Diane (*Harrop*) and family, LaDelle (*Daly*), Donna (*McClure*) and those we name now, aloud or in our hearts.

(Prayer leaders will pause and you are invited to unmute your mic and offer prayers.)

(Pause) WA: Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: God of mercy, we recognize and share in the grief felt by the families and friends of those who were trapped in the Miami building collapse. We pause now to remember those who died, nearly 100 men women and children. We lift our individual prayers to you in this moment of silence, marked by the tolling of a bell. **Bell.... 30 seconds...Bell** Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: These things and whatever else we need, we ask of you. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great. Let all the people say: Amen

OFFERING

P/V: At this time, we invite you to prayerfully consider your offering taking time to give thanks to God for all that God has given you. Our offerings are an act of our worship.

(There are plates located in the back of the sanctuary and here in the front. Please place your offering in the designated places when you depart from worship today.)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM “Your Love Compels Me” by Holck

A MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (VC: Read by Loretta Brockmeier)

V: Glory to you, O God, for your creative Word:
making and mending all things,
evoking the cosmic hymn of praise,
and singing a love-song for your beloved:
your vineyard, your flock, your people.
With all creation we sing, Glory!

VC: Glory!

V: Blessed are you for your liberating Word:
speaking through Moses and the prophets,
encountered in the Gospels,
and proclaimed in the assembly:
your freedom, forgiveness, and life for the world.
With the whole world we say, Blessing!

VC: Blessing!

V: Holy are you, O God, for your living Word:
among us wherever we gather,
welcoming everyone to your feast,
and, with grace and generosity,
bringing to earth the kingdom of heaven.
With saints and angels, we cry, Holy!

VC: Holy!

V: Clothe us in your loving Spirit,
flowing from the Crucified and Risen One,
and keep us awake to your presence
in the people and places you call us to serve.
Glory, praise, and blessing are yours, Holy God,
now and forever.

VC: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

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

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

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

V: 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.
C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

V: Go in peace. Share the good news.
C: Thanks be to God