

St Paul's and St. Matthias Lutheran Churches
Service of the Word
August 2, 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 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: Hymn #768 can be found in your ELW. You are invited sing along while muted at home.

GATHERING SONG "Lead Me, Guide Me" (*led by Fremont Ogle, Carlee Layton, Diane Harrop, Barbara Christ, Rob Toth, Debbie Horn*)

Refrain

Lead me, guide me along the way,
For if you lead me I cannot stray.
Lord let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, oh Lord lead me.

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour
Lead me through the darkness thy face to see
Lead me oh Lord lead me *Refrain*

2. Help me tread in the paths of righteousness.
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee:
Lead me, oh Lord lead me. *Refrain*

3. I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without Thy light to see.
Lord just always to me thy servant be,
Lead me, oh Lord lead me. *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. Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

READING: Isaiah 55:1-5 (*Read by Doris Hanson*)

WA: A reading from the book of Isaiah the fifty-fifth chapter.

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

WA: Word of God, word of life.

V: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Read by La Delle Daly*)

WA: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening.

You have the words of eternal life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21 (*Read by Dave Meeks*)

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the fourteenth chapter.

V: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish."

¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.

²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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: Diane Harrop, Robert Toth, Deb Horn, Carlee Layton) 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 Carol Dunn) (VC: Read by Debbie Horn)

WA: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: Loving God, your psalmist reminds us that your compassion is over all you have made. Jesus showed his compassion again and again. Compassion, more than feeling sorry, also tells us to help reduce the suffering others. God of love, give us strength and purpose to do so. Teach us how to show compassion for all our brothers and sisters. *(I will now show the ASL signs for compassion/mercy. Mercy and compassion for others has the middle finger down, other 4 up. Use both hands. Make at least 2 circles in the air with palms facing out.)* This is the sign for mercy and compassion. We reach toward others when we sign this way. Let us make the sign now together. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: Healing God, direct us to stay safe by practicing social distancing, wearing masks, and using good hygiene. Remind us to reject the advice of anyone who speaks from ignorance or shallow motives. As our numbers of Coronavirus now **approach 4 and a half million** infections, give us the personal and communal strength to do all we can to stop the spread. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: God of Wisdom, we ask you to lead us as we make choices about school when there is no good choice. We especially ask that you comfort all teachers, parents, grandparents, school children, and college students. And we pray that those in positions of power be moved by your love and guided by your wisdom as they make what could be a life or death decisions for children and adults in our schools. Even the pre-school which meets at St. Paul's campus must deal with this problem. They have closed more than once; parents have kept their children home;

teachers and parents are frightened for their own safety and that of their families. You welcomed the little children to come to you; please grant us your presence with all young people and the adults who care for them. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: God of justice, In this nation, we speak what we believe and pray we do so without fear. May we continue to see that practiced. Lead those mobilized against peaceful protestors to show patience, mercy and respect for their fellow citizens. We ask you to stand with those police and troopers who seek to bring peace to our communities. Help us value their efforts to deal fairly and compassionately with the men and women who make their needs known on the streets. Direct us to care for each other, treat no one with scorn or fear, and remember that we are all your children. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: God of mercy, hear us, your children, as we pray. Grant us strength in the midst all that threatens our community, our state and our nation. May we have compassion for all who are ill. We ask especially for Herb Schaepering, Mary Cramer, Marcie Moore, Carl and Linda Johnson, Emmy and Mike Volenberg, Dennis Kelly, Torya James, Steve Wren, the Latson family, Mark Brickman, Eve Brein, Miguel Acta, William Fino, Jacob Jones, Peter Brein, the family and friends of Dianne Glymph, Anthony Fino, Eric Johnson, Pastor Dale Erickson, Kathlyn, Richard, and Charlie Hurt, James Hoefler, Shawn Whitehead, Lou Saugstad, Charles and Audry Klien, Curt Cole, Michael Perron and sons, Phyllis Perron and Leslie and those whom we now name aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **(Prayer leaders will pause and you are invited to unmute your mic and offer prayers .)**

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: God of grace, we thank you for the opportunity to worship you this morning. Keep us in your hands as we go through the week. Be with us in all that we do. Hear us, O God.

VC: Your mercy is great.

WA: Into your hands, Gracious 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.*

STEWADING 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 *(played by Fremont Ogle)*

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*

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (VC: Read by Judy Ormsby)

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: Hallowed be your name; what is this or what does this mean? It is true that God's name is holy in itself, but we ask in this prayer that it may also become holy in and among us.

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: Bill Horne 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.

P: You are invited sing along while muted at home. ELW #785

SENDING SONG "When Peace Like A River" (*Sung by Jane Cuccia*)

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well (it is well)
with my soul, (with my soul,)
it is well, it is well with my soul.

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. *Refrain*
3. He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain*
4. Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

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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