



Grace Lutheran Church

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 30, 2020

GATHERING ~ The Holy Spirit calls us
together as the people of God.

Bold type = Assembly

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORDER FOR HEALING

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near, and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing – with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing.

In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, and especially in this time of global pandemic, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

Sisters and brothers, family of God, I invite you at this time to receive, collectively, these words of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

Even as we are physically distanced from one another, we are united as the Children of God, and our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer is always near to us.

As I say these words of healing, I invite you to make the sign of the cross on your own forehead:

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, be strengthened and filled with God's grace, that you may know the healing power of the Spirit. **Amen**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray –

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

MUSICAL OFFERING

‘Oh Jesus, I Have Promised’
(Pause and listen as desired)

Vocal Solo by Leslie Heffner

WORD ~ God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING**JEREMIAH 15:15-21**

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 26:1-8 (Read in unison)

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;

I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

SECOND READING

ROMANS 12:9-21

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.”

²³But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON ~

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”
(see back of booklet)

(ELW 817)

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 & THE PEACE

*Each petition ends: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

The Pastor and the Assembly greet each other in the peace of Christ.

OFFERING

This is normally the place in the service where we would collect the offering. We understand that this pandemic is making many people uneasy, and that finances are a concern for some among us. We ask that you please remember that our expenses continue, as well, even while we are practicing social distancing; that we still have bills to pay and the day to day costs of running a church to cover. We humbly and prayerfully ask that – if at all possible – you continue to be faithful to your financial commitment to Grace.

MUSICAL OFFERING ~ Choir Anthem, ‘What Wondrous Love Is This’

arr. R. Scholz

(Pause and listen as desired)

MEAL ~ God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

A CELEBRATION OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

During this time of fasting from in-person worship, we have also been fasting from the Sacrament of the Meal – Holy Communion. Many among us, including our worship leaders, miss both the gift of the Meal, and the sharing of Communion in our community of faith.

For those unable, for whatever reason, to receive holy communion during a worship service in Western Christianity there has long been a tradition known as “Spiritual Communion,” an act of belief in the Real Presence in the Eucharist and an expressed desire for Christ’s presence in the believer’s soul.

Spiritual Communion is not the Meal in the way we are used to receiving it. However, it does allow us to see the Bread and the Cup, and to hear the Words of Institution and the Great Thanksgiving. It also allows us to experience the truth, that even when we cannot receive Christ physically, in the bread and wine, we can receive him into our hearts, our minds, and our being.

At this time, Pastor Jenn will lead us in the liturgy of Communion, lifting up the elements and blessing them. We will then say the Lord’s Prayer together and, after that, you may pause the service to pray your own prayer of reception of Spiritual Communion, or you may use the prayer printed in your booklet. We offer all of this in the hope that you will feel a connection to one another – and to Jesus – through this act.

Please know that this is optional. If you do not feel moved to participate in Spiritual Communion, you may skip ahead to the Sending portion of the service.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

PRAYER FOR THE RECEPTION OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

(You may pray this prayer, written by Dr. Teresa Burger, Yale Divinity School, or a prayer of your own)

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the one true vine. I believe that you are truly present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. I seek you. I worship and adore you. Since I cannot receive you in the Eucharistic bread and wine, I pray that you will come into my heart and soul, that I may be united to you, by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit. Let me receive you, and be nourished by you. Become for me the manna in my wilderness, the bread of angels for my very human journey through time, a foretaste of the heavenly banquet, and solace in the hour of my death. I pray all this, trusting that you yourself are our Life, our Peace, and our everlasting Joy. Amen

SENDING ~ God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN

“Will You Come and Follow Me”
(see back of booklet)

(ELW 798)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace! Christ is with you! We will! Thanks be to God!

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OPENING HYMN

Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text © 1989 William Whitla.

HYMN OF THE DAY

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

Tú has venido a la orilla



| | | | | | |
|---|-----|------|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Tú | has | ve - ni - do | a la o - ri - lla, | no has bus - |
| 1 | You | have | come down to the lake - shore | seek - ing | |
| 2 | You | know | full well what I have, Lord: | nei - ther | |
| 3 | You | need | my hands, my ex - haus - tion, | work - ing | |
| 4 | You | who | have fished oth - er wa - ters; | you, the | |



| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| ca - do | ni a sa - bios | ni a ri - cos; | tan só - lo |
| nei - ther | the wise nor the | wealth - y, | but on - ly |
| trea - sure | nor wea - pons for | con - quest, | just these my |
| love for | the rest of the | wea - ry— | a love that's |
| long - ing | of souls that are | yearn - ing: | O lov - ing |



| | | |
|-------------|-----------|-----------------|
| quie - res | que yo | te si - ga. |
| ask - ing | for me | to fol - low. |
| fish nets | and will | for work - ing. |
| will - ing | to go | on lov - ing. |
| Friend, you | have come | to call me. |

Refrain / Estribillo



| | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Se - ñor, | me has mi - ra - do | a los o - jos; | son - ri - en - do, |
| Sweet Lord, | you have looked in - to my eyes; | kind - ly | smil - ing, |



| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| has di - cho mi nom - bre. | En la a - re - na | he de - ja - do mi |
| you've called out my name. . . . | On the sand I | have a - ban - doned my |



| | | |
|-------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| bar - ca; | jun - to a ti | bus - ca - ré o - tro mar. |
| small boat; | now with you, | I will seek oth - er seas. |

CLOSING HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me *The Summons*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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