

## Synod Worship: Sunday, September 6, 2020

### Welcome

### Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

We are invited to consider how we live as followers of Christ – to look at our decisions straight on, to hold them up to the example of Christ, and to make amends. In this time of silence, and in our prayer together, let us look at our lives. We pray, first in silence.

#### *Silent prayer*

**Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life:  
Hear our prayer.**

**There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us  
from one another and from You.**

**We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,  
for fear of admitting our part in the separation,  
for fear of being rejected when we reach out.**

**You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships,  
To a wholeness with each other and with You.**

**Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations  
through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray.  
Amen.**

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out  
into the world and

be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!

**Amen! Thanks be to God!**

### Gathering Song ELW #247

### “Come, Now O Prince of Peace”

Music provided by Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau  
Pastor Kemp Jones, Kartika Putri, Angie Huckbody



1. Come now, O Prince of Peace, make us one bod - y,
2. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y,
3. Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior,
4. Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y,

Korean: O - so - so o - so - so, pyong-hwa eui im - gum



Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec-on-cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec-on-cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec-on-cile all na - tions.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec-on-cile all na - tions.  
U - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - so.

Text: O-so-s6, Geonyong Lee, b.1947, © 1990, Geonyong Lee; para. by Marion Pope, alt., © 1990, Marion Pope  
Tune: OSOSO, 11 11; Geonyong Lee, b.1947, © 1990, Geonyong Lee

### 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 Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual  
mercy. Without

your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that  
is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### Reading

#### Romans 13:8-14

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one  
who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments,  
“You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall  
not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are  
summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love

does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### The Holy Gospel

**Matthew 18:15-20**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

“If another member of the church<sup>[a]</sup> sins against you,<sup>[b]</sup> go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

**Bishop Gerald Mansholt**

### Song “Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace” ELW 716

**Verses 1-4**

*Zion Lutheran Church, Appleton*

*Matt Walsh*



1. Lord of all na - tions, grant me grace To love all
2. Break down the walls that would di - vide Your chil - dren,
3. For - give me, Lord, where I have erred By love - less
4. Give me your cour - age, Lord, to speak When - ev - er
5. With your own love may I be filled, And by your



peo - ple, ev - 'ry race, To see each per - son as I  
Lord, on ev - 'ry side. My neigh - bor's good let me pur -  
act and thought-less word. Make me to see the wrong I  
strong op - press the weak. Should I my - self as vic - tim  
Ho - ly Spir - it willed, That all whose lives are touched by



ought, My kin - dred, whom your love has bought.  
sue; Let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.  
do Will cru - ci - fy my Lord a - new.  
live, Re - mem - b'ring you, may I for - give.  
mine May know your heal - ing touch di - vine.

Text: Philippians 2:1-18; Olive W. Spannaus, b.1916, © 1969, 1997, Concordia Publishing House  
Tune: BEATUS VIR, LM; Slovak melody, 16th C.; harm. by Richard Hillert, 1923-2010

## The Apostles' Creed

Together let us profess our faith in the Triune God, with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus, 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.**

## Offering Moment

## Prayers

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

Sending God, make us agents of your transforming power and heralds of your reign of justice and peace, that all may share in the healing Christ brings. Empowered by your Spirit, grant us the courage we need to journey, trust, listen, speak, and accept your commission to be your faithful servant people. Hear us O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

Give our political leaders wisdom, knowledge and the desire to work for the common good of all people. Guide the people of our state and country as we elect leaders who will lead with vision and compassion. Hear us O God,  
**your mercy is great.**

There are so many who are suffering in this world, suffering from illness and disease, oppression and violence, especially those we lift before you now (*Keep silence*). Make us agents of mercy and justice finding ways to make Christ known to those who are desperate for a word of hope. Give us courage to stand with those who are treated unfairly and work for equality and fair treatment for all people. Hear us O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord Jesus, we give thanks for work, and for the many works you have given us to do. Hear our prayers on this day of rest, and strengthen us for the week ahead. We pray that you would be present with those who work by day, and those who work by night; those who work near, and those whose work carries them far away; and we pray for those who in this uncertain time have no job. We pray all of this knowing that your labors on our behalf never cease, and that your yoke is easy, and your burden is light.

Hear us O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks, Almighty God, for the faithfulness of those who have gone before us and now rest with you. May we pass on the torch of faith to future generations just as the faith was passed on to us. Keep us in communion with all the saints until we join them at the feast which has no ending. Hear us O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and give to us all that we need to live out our days as faithful and sent disciples. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray.

**Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word, for calling creation into being, declaring forgiveness from the cross, and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

We praise you, O God, for your Word:

**we praise you, O God, for your Word.**

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,  
a mirror reflecting our selves,

*Gen. 1:3  
Luke 23:34  
John 3:5*

*Ps. 119:105  
James 1:23*

a shield providing us refuge,  
 a fire burning for justice and truth.  
 Your word is sweeter than honey:  
 it nourishes our bodies like milk,  
 it sustains your people like bread.  
 We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.  
 We bless you, O God, for your Word:  
**we bless you, O God, for your Word.**

Prov. 30:5  
 Jer. 23:29  
 Ps. 119:103  
 1 Pet. 2:2  
 Matt. 14:20  
 Ps. 19:10

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,  
 and to all the cries of the needy.  
 Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,  
 that heeding your voice of beauty and power  
 we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.  
 16:25-26

Eph. 2:19-20  
 James 5:4  
 John 20:22  
 Ps. 29:7  
 Rom.

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath --  
 we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word:  
**we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.**  
**Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

### Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
**Amen.**

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Song** *"Light Dawns on a Weary World"*  
**ELW 797**

*Music from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wausau*

### Pastor Kemp Jones, Kartika Putri, Angie Huckbody

Mary Louise Bringle

TEMPLE OF PEACE  
 William P. Rowan

1. Light dawns on a wea - ry world when  
 2. Love grows in a wea - ry world when  
 3. Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when

eyes be - gin to see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty.  
 hun - gry hearts find bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed.  
 crea - tures, once for - lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born.

Light dawns on a wea - ry world: the  
 Love grows in a wea - ry world: the  
 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world: the

prom - ised day of jus - tice comes. The trees shall  
 prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
 prom - ised green of E - den comes.

clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and  
 moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing! We shall go  
 out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the  
 world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2020  
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking+ faith home

*Christians seek reconciliation with other Christians.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 18:15-20	Seeking reconciliation
Monday	Ezekiel 33:7-11	God's judgment seeks repentance
Tuesday	Romans 13:8-14	Love for one another
Wednesday	Exodus 12:1-14	The first Passover
Thursday	Psalms 149	A new song of praise
Friday	Galatians 5:13-15	Love fulfills the law
Saturday	Psalms 119:33-40	A prayer for understanding
Sunday	Matthew 18:21-35	A parable about forgiveness

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." **Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, teach us your ways that we may live together in peace and see Jesus in the face of others. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, in the midst of violent storms and droughts we encounter in the world, we thank you for this gift of food and for those who have brought it to us. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus strengthen you to love your neighbor and be at peace with all.



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SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Forgive Our Sins  
As We Forgive*



## WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Think or tell about a time you felt badly treated by another individual or a group.
- What makes it hard to openly face conflict with someone?
- For Jesus and the church, we are to pursue others with love and grace. Does knowing this help you to resolve differences with others? Why or why not?

## DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 18:15-20.

All relationships experience conflict, even in the church. Jesus is aware of this and lays out a plan of action: out of love, be direct. It is the way of life of the people of God announced by Paul in Romans 13:10: "Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law." Being right is not good enough. Having your own way is not good enough. Be loving, be merciful, and pursue what is right; face conflict through a personal conversation to resolve the issue. But if the person who has hurt you does not repent, this is not an excuse to treat them badly. Treat them as Jesus would treat a Gentile or tax collector. He pursued them with his love. Jesus is present in all our relationships, even the stressful ones (v. 20). We are to seek them out with love and mercy. When have you been wronged by the harsh treatment of another? Did you face it directly with the other person to resolve it? Did you treat them as Jesus would? Explain.

Pray: **Lord Jesus, when I am with others, remind me that you are present strengthening us to love one another anew each day. Amen.**

## SERVICE



"Love your neighbor as yourself" (Romans 13:9b) sums up the commandments. Who is your neighbor? It may be the person next door or someone in the community. Loving others, even when they are different from you, fulfills the law and motivates us to action. How does knowing this motivate you to show love to a neighbor?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Next Sunday is the beginning of a new Christian education year for many congregations. Psalm 119 is a lovely text that promotes learning God's will and word. Pray for all teachers and students involved in Christian education and mention those you can by name. Conclude with: **Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)