

Worship in the Home

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2020



In this time of world-wide crisis, congregations throughout this church are not able to gather for worship as the body of Christ.

While we cannot be together in person, we can hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer.

Prelude

Announcements

Invocation

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW # 631



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Semi-Continuous Old Testament Reading: Genesis 29:15-28

Psalms: 119:129-136

¹²⁹Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

¹³¹I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.**

¹³³Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

¹³⁵Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹Jesus put before the crowd another parable: "The dominion of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in a field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³Jesus told them another parable: "The dominion of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.

⁴⁴"The dominion of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the dominion of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the dominion of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵²And Jesus said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the dominion of heaven is like a householder who brings out of the household treasure what is new and what is old.”

Homily

Reflection

It is not only that we do not know how to pray as we ought in this hard time. And it is not only that we do not have enough wisdom for the challenges we are facing. It is also, if we speak of the actual situation of our current world, that we are genuinely “being killed all day long” by “hardship or distress or peril” and certainly by disease. But there is light and wisdom and life in the word we read today. Jesus Christ himself is the finder of the treasure and the pearl, and he gives these away to us. His despised cross, his death with us, is the “bush” which becomes a tree in which we may shelter. The risen presence of this crucified one is like the bread of the woman, enough for a multitude and life-giving, though usual religion, worried about both leaven and the cross, would call it unclean. Such is the surprising dominion of God. Nothing can separate us from this love, even if we do not understand it. And the Spirit helps us in our weakness to pray for our needy world in this time and to pray that our leaders might have something like Solomon’s wisdom.

Refrain/Estribillo

To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,

da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
 to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
 let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.

1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
 1 Take my hands and let them move
 2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
 3 Take my voice and let me sing
 4 Take my will and make it thine;

con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
 at the im - pulse of thy love;
 not a mite would I with - hold;
 al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 it shall be no lon - ger mine;

que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
 take my feet and let them be swift and
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
 take my lips and let them be filled with
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall

pul - so de tu a - mor.
 beau - ti - ful for thee.
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 mes - sag - es from thee.
 be thy roy - al throne.

Prayers of Intercession

From our many locations, yet held in one body by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the church, O God of mercy, we pray. Open your word to Christians around the world. Reveal yourself to us in ways both traditional and surprising, in places old and new. Bless our bishops, pastors, deacons, and other church leaders, as they face their challenging tasks. Turn to us, O God: **be gracious to us.**

For education and nurture in the church, O God of wisdom, we pray. Give us the will to seek your wisdom. Guide the many churches in their uses of technology, and show us during this time ways to study your word. As this week we commemorate J. S. Bach and other musicians, accompany all church musicians as they seek to help the church offer its praise. Turn to us, O God: **be gracious to us.**

For the earth, O creative God, we pray. Give to plants and animals the water and land they require. Form us into grateful and healing caretakers of your earth. Bless the efforts of scientists and researchers, especially those seeking a vaccine. Lead all people to honor the scientific discoveries that you grant to humankind. Turn to us, O God: **be gracious to us.**

For the nations, O God of justice, we pray. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and to resist the ways of violence. Stifle the lust for conquest. Bring peace to the Middle East. Visit the people of Hong Kong. Move us away from racist attitudes and policies. Form our president, governor, and legislators to speak with honesty, to strive for justice, and to work to alleviate the nation's needs. Turn to us, O God: **be gracious to us.**

For all in need, O God of compassion, we pray. Heal the sick. Feed the hungry. House the refugee. Comfort the countless thousands who are dealing with the coronavirus. Accompany those living with anxiety and despair. Form us to be your arms of mercy. Turn to us, O God: **be gracious to us.**

For the youth, O God of grace, we pray. Give to the youth of afflicted nations an inspiring dream of what their future might be. Give them patience to await a time of safety. Direct all schools from daycare through graduate school to find an acceptable way forward. Turn to us, O God: **be gracious to us.**

You, O God, are our pearl beyond price. You are the tree giving us eternal refuge. Hear now, we pray, the petitions of our hearts. Turn to us, O God: **be gracious to us.**

In gratitude for the lives of our beloved dead, we pray that nothing, neither death nor life, will separate us from your love. At the end, gather us with all your saints in light everlasting. Turn to us, O God: **be gracious to us.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray:

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.

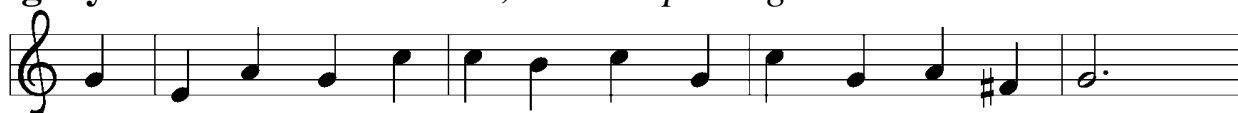
Benediction

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn:

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

ELW # 632



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Join us on Zoom for Fellowship: ID 596-621-1441 Passcode 8675309

Staff Support Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, July 28th at 9:30 a.m.
via Zoom.

Kyle Guyer & Colin Guyer are back in the US. Thank you for all your prayers and concerns as they served in the Middle East.

Committee Chairs: Remember to get meeting dates and times to Lori via email (stmatthewluth@aol.com) so they can be on the weekly schedule.

Weekly Bulletins and Messengers are available on the website (stmatthewlc.com) for viewing or printing.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Shirley Acker, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Jim Calvert, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Doris Henderson, Gene Henry, Jere Hess, Dean Hinish, Gerald Hoover, John Klepser, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

Prayer Concerns: Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Jeff Allen, Pastor Denise Arpino, Randy Barrett, Elaine Buchart, Mark Calvert, DJ Freedman, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Jim Freyer, Shari Gilbert, Ryan Guyer, Dan Hershberger, Stephen Hinish, Marilyn Horton, Amber Itle, Connie Kensinger, Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Darren Kreutzer, Donna Lovell, Kristen Malloy, Matt McCready, Pstr. Jerry McCuller, Ryder McDermitt, Betty McDowell, Scott McFarland, Aunt Mica, Deb Peters, Alana Rhodes, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Dan Sinal, Barbara Smith, Luther Steele, Jim Stoudnour, Cindy Thomas, Trenton, Carol Weyandt, Pete Williams, Robert Winston, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle's Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

July Worship Schedule

Sunday: 9:30 AM Worship on Facebook, 10:15ish Fellowship on Zoom

Monday & Friday: Hymn Devotions at 9AM

Tuesday & Thursday: Morning Prayer 9AM & Night Prayer at 9PM

Wednesday: Holden Evening Prayer at 8PM

Worship & Music Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom

Lori Tremmel is on vacation from Mon., August 3-Fri., August 7. Emails and phone messages will still be checked periodically through out the day by Laura Orczeck.

August Messenger: If you have any announcements or articles that you would like in the August Messenger please send them via email at: stmatthewluth@aol.com no later then Wed., July 29, 2020.

Greetings from ALSM!

These times are unprecedented in our world. Never did any of us think we would be faced with dealing with a virus of unknown origin. Frightening times for all of us. I hope all of you to continue to follow precautions that are indicated by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

As you can imagine, Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries (ALSM) is experiencing challenges we never thought we would face. While the counties in which our three senior communities are located have gone “green,” our communities continue to restrict visitors and screen staff who are tirelessly caring for our residents. Several of our senior daily programs are closed, yet our *ALSM at Home* program continues.

Of course, we are safeguarding our staff team members and our residents by providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) so we can continue to respond to regulating body guidelines. The costs of these are one we did not anticipate. We have set up a COVID-19 Fund to assist with extra expenses such as masks and additional cleaning supplies. We expect to spend at least \$100,000 in PPE. We use approximately 2,000 masks a week and 10,000 gloves a week. If we have an active Covid-19 case, we will need the added PPE of shoe covers, N-95 masks, and shoe covers. We have received a supply of face shields from Saint Francis University, so we have not had to purchase those items yet.

ALSM is fortunate to have the dedicated staff who are committed to our mission “to serve people with love, compassion, and mercy.”

I invite you to please consider a donation of \$10, \$25, \$50, or \$100 so that we can purchase the equipment we need to keep ALSM safe. We are all in this together and together we can help end the spread of this virus. **St. Matthew will match gifts to ALSM** by members of the congregation through August 31st up to a total of \$1000. Make your ALSM **donation through St. Matthew** by designating "**ALSM PPE**" on your **envelope**. If you already received this communication directly from ALSM and you have made a gift directly to ALSM in response to this letter, please let Lori know the amount of that gift so it can be included in St. Matthew's effort toward the \$1000 match. ***Thank you. Stay safe!***

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Savage, President/CEO

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.

- Your \$105 gift purchases 4500 gloves.
- Your \$100 gift purchases 100 masks.
- Your \$25 gift purchases 3 surgical gowns.

PPE PRICING GUIDELINES:

Surgical masks @ \$1.00 each

N-95 masks @ \$4.00 each

A case of shoe covers @ \$25.00 each

Surgical gowns @ \$8.00 each

A case of 1500 gloves @ \$35.00

N95 test kit @ \$90.00 each

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 119:121-128. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians) 1 Kings 4:29-34. **Wednesday** (Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany; Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030) Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33. **Thursday** Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21. **Friday** Isaiah 51:17-23. **Saturday** Isaiah 44:1-5. **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost** Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21.

Daily Prayer Resources are available, including simple forms of Morning, Evening, and Night Prayer; Responsive Prayer; and prayers for mealtimes and other occasions.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw
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