

Worship in the Home

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28, 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

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Opening Hymn:

This Is My Father's World

ELW # 824



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

The Prayer of the Day

Let us pray...O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 28:5-9

Semi-continuous Old Testament Reading: Genesis 22:1-14

Psalm: 89:1-4, 15-18

¹Your love, O Lord, forever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

²**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

³“I have made a covenant with my^l chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴**I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.’”**

¹⁵Happy are the people who know the festal shout! They walk, O Lord, in the light of your presence.

¹⁶**They rejoice daily in your name; they are jubilant in your righteousness.**

¹⁷For you are the glory of their strength, and by your favor our might is exalted.

¹⁸**Truly, our shield belongs to the Lord; our king to the Holy One of Israel.**

Second Reading: Romans 6:12-23

Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Homily

Reflection

“War, famine, and pestilence,” prophesied by the ancient prophets, are all around us today. We may wish to listen to people who speak of peace instead. We may long to say “amen” to their promises. But false comfort is worse than no comfort at all. Instead, in a hard time, we who have been baptized into Christ should offer welcome to people who speak the truth and we should offer comfort — “a cup of cold water” — to the least and littlest ones, the ones hurt by these times. The truth-speakers are the very emissaries of God. And the little ones, the vulnerable and unjustly treated ones, are the very presence of Jesus Christ to us. The truth in Christ saves us, turning our bodies from sin to real righteousness, from death to real life, from despair to hope, from lies to love.

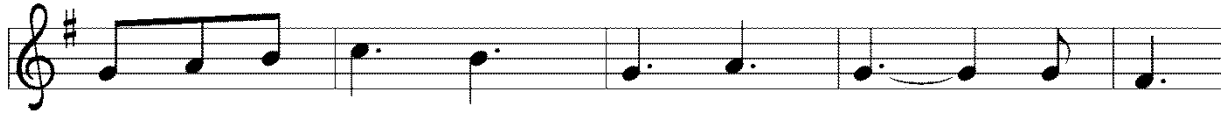
Hymn of the Day:

Lift Every Voice and Sing

ELW # 841



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



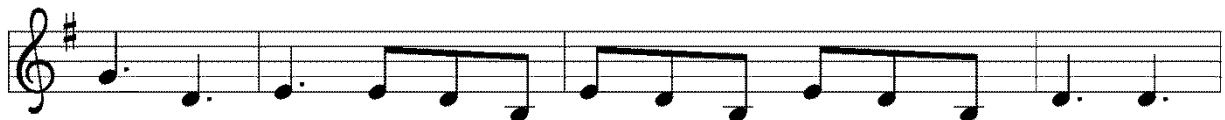
ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the church of Jesus Christ around the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for our own congregation and for its leadership. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for the health of the earth – its lands, its seas, its animals. Hear us, O God, our light and our shield: **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for those who work in our fields and produce our food. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for peace between and within nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for President Trump, the Congress, and the Supreme Court. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for a right observance of the Fourth of July. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for those who are oppressed, or enslaved, or poverty-stricken. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for an end to racism. Hear us, O God. **your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for both protesters and police. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for all who are sick or sorrowing from the coronavirus or any illness or injury. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for medical workers and researchers. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for families facing an unprecedented summertime. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let us thank God for Bishop Irenaeus, the apostles Peter, Paul, and Thomas, and all those who have died in the faith, and let us pray that at our end we will join them in God's presence. Receive our praise, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, the Holy One, you are yourself the cup of cold water we crave, relieving our deep thirst. Receive these prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, 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.

Sending Hymn:

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

ELW # 543



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.
4 "I the Lord will bless and keep you, and give you peace.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
I the Lord will smile up - on you, and give you peace.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you.
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er and Broth - er.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."
Go, my chil - dren, I will keep you, and give you peace."

Benediction

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

Join us on Zoom for Fellowship:

Meeting ID 596-621-1441 Passcode 8675309

DVD's and DVD Players are Available Upon Request

We are now filming from the sanctuary. DVD's will be available to those without internet access and DVD players will be made available on loan to those who need them at no cost to the individual. Please contact Lori at 814-793-2413 or 814-696-3802 to receive a DVD by mail and or if you need a DVD Player.

Readings for the Week:

Monday (Peter and Paul, Apostles) John 21:15-19. **Tuesday** 1 John 4:1-6. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators) Matthew 11:20-24. **Thursday** Psalm 145:8-14. **Friday** (Thomas, Apostle) John 14:1-7. **Saturday** Luke 10:21-24. **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost** Zechariah 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw
Portions from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and sundaysandseasons.com, © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress.

Readings from *Readings for the Assembly* © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress.
Citations from the Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations from NRSV Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, adapted and edited with permission by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw.

July Study Schedule

Wednesday morning Zoom bible study will be taking a summer break.

The final two sections of the book study on Awaken Your Senses (hearing and smell) will be discussed together at 3 PM or 7 PM on Thursday, July 2.

July Worship Schedule—Please Note Changes

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

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, Gerald Hoover, John Klepser, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Nancy Uber, Joy Williams.

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

Those Serving Overseas: Kyle Guyer & Colin Guyer – Middle East

“KELC Flood/Hunger Relief.”

These are difficult times for many people, and in the midst of Coronavirus and racial injustice and inequality, some of us feel helpless, not quite knowing what to do.

But there is a situation in which your help could mean saving hundreds of lives. In our companion synod (the Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church), where they have also been facing many challenges due to Covid-19, unprecedented rainfall has caused two rivers to significantly flood, destroying communities.

We invite you to help us care for our neighbor by providing funds for food and basic life necessities. We are challenging the people of our synod to help us meet a goal of providing food for 1 month for the more than 300 people in the parishes affected by this flooding. Those who receive food supplies also will share with neighbors; which means that our gift could reach even more.

If each congregation in our Synod were to share \$100 (this would be \$20 from 5 members, or \$10 from 10 members), we could easily meet this goal. Will you be one of those people? For those who are able to provide more, I invite you to prayerfully do so. An anonymous donor has already pledged to match the first \$1,000 that comes in. Please send in your monetary gifts no later than **June 26th** to **the synod office** (701 Quail Ave., Altoona, PA 16602), and mark the memo line **“KELC Flood/Hunger Relief.”**

Allegheny Synod Stewardship Table

Each week for the next 5 weeks, the Allegheny Synod Stewardship Table members will be sharing a personal Stewardship story!

Hello, Allegheny Synod!

This is Pastor Curt Wingert, and I serve Salem Lutheran in Aaronsburg and St. John's Lutheran in Millheim. I am also part of the Allegheny Synod Stewardship team. As part of the stewardship team, we have been sharing our personal stewardship stories with you. God has called you and I to be caretakers, stewards of this wonderful creation.

This pandemic has opened the eyes of the congregations that I serve and brought us closer together to serve our neighbors and to be good stewards of what God has given us and to be good stewards of what we have.

St. John's has a childhood center and has twelve employees. Back in March, we had to close our childhood center because of COVID-19 and until certain restrictions were lifted. During this time, the congregational council was committed to making sure the childhood center staff was paid. Because they did not want the staff to go without. Without having income coming in from the childhood center for eight weeks and some financial guidance from the congregational council, the staff received their paychecks.

Also, during this time, Salem and St. John's has partnered with the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank to bring food to those in need in our communities. Every two weeks, a food distribution is held at one of the churches. Each family receives a box of dry goods, a box of produce, frozen meals, and frozen meat. These distributions have helped those who are financially struggling during this table and helped put food on the table for their families.

I know with the current situation your incomes might be affected. If and only if you are able, I ask that you mail your weekly offerings to your church. We are living in uncertain times, and even though some of us are not gathered in our sanctuaries at this time, your congregation still has ministries to support and bills to pay.

During this pandemic, we have found new ways to be the church. May you find new and creative ways to be good stewards of God's beautiful creation.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Curt