

Worship in the Home

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

July 5, 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

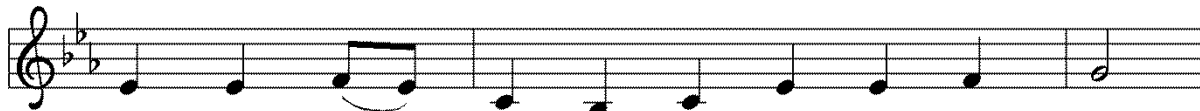
We worship in the name of the Father, and of the Son +, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW # 765



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Prayer of the Day

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Semi-Continuous Old Testament Reading: Genesis 24:34-67

Psalm: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.**

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,**

¹²that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures through-out all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.**

¹⁴The LORD upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

[Jesus said:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ⁷‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son-of-Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by wise deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal the Father.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Homily

Reflection

There are images for our times and an image for ourselves in the first two readings today. “War horses,” “battle bows,” and “waterless pits for prisoners” may be archaic, but they can stand for the very real violent conflict in our world today and for our own sense of current imprisonment. And with Paul, we too are not able to do the good we wish we could do. Who will deliver us? Thanks be to God, indeed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For us, Jesus is the humble one who by the cross brings hope, release, and peace. Jesus welcomes us sinners. Even if we are not wise, Jesus shows us who God is. And Jesus gives us rest. By the power of the Spirit, baptism into Christ draws us into learning from him and carrying his yoke: we, too, will seek to live out of peace and give rest to our neighbors.

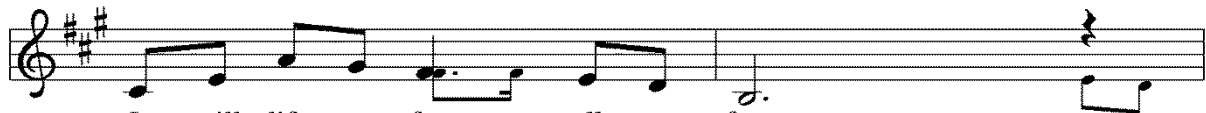
Hymn of the Day

You Are Mine

ELW # 581



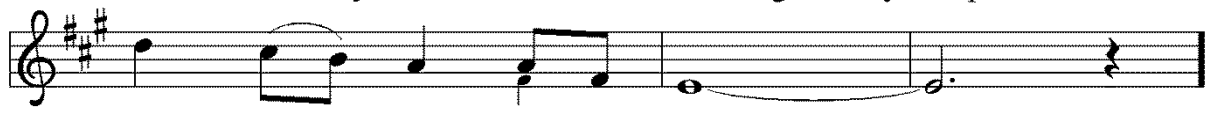
1 “I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 “I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 “I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Refrain
 Do not be a - afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine.” *To stanzas 3 and 4*

Prayers of Intercession

Let us join together to pray to God, our stronghold, for all the needs of the world...

We pray for the church around the globe. Where Christians are assembling for worship, protect them from viral infection. Where Christians are worshiping with print and screen, grant them steadfastness in your word. Strengthen those believers who doubt your goodness. Bless pastors, deacons, and committee members as they serve our congregations in this difficult time. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion: **in mercy, receive our prayer.**

We pray for the well-being of creation. Grant renewal to the air, the waters, and the lands. Save the animals whose natural habitat is threatened by climate change or human carelessness, and direct us toward sustainable living. Preserve the fields of Kenya from locusts. Nourish our country's green spaces. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion: **in mercy, receive our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. Keep the world from war. Pave the way for just elections. Protect citizens from the designs of autocratic rulers. Uphold our courts. Guide our national and state governments in finding ways to redress the wrongs of racism and to ensure equality for all. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion: **in mercy, receive our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick and suffering. Console the fearful, feed the hungry, house the homeless, shelter the run-aways. Heal the many who are newly afflicted with the coronavirus, and guide researchers in discovering a vaccine. Visit the sick whom we name here: O God, you are gracious and full of compassion: **in mercy, receive our prayer.**

We pray for infants and young children, that they be carefully tended. We pray for teens, that they keep patience throughout the contagion. We pray for school boards, that they find solutions for the fall semester. We pray for the unemployed, that they find jobs. We pray for medical workers, that they remain healthy. We pray for the aged, especially those in care facilities, that they find companionship in your presence. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion: **in mercy, receive our prayer.**

We pray finally for ourselves. Show us that the yoke of faith is easy; may we find our rest in you. Hear now our private petitions. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion: **in mercy, receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who have died in faith, especially the martyr Jan Hus and the monk Benedict of Nursia. Comfort all who mourn their dead, and at the end, bring us and all your people into your eternal rest. O God, you are gracious and full of compassion: **in mercy, receive our prayer.**

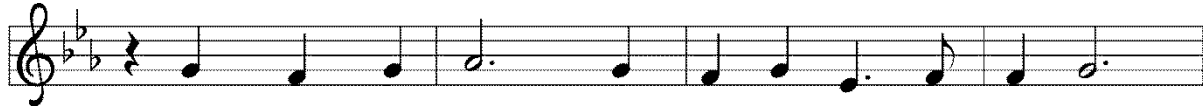
Receive these prayers, O God, for the sake of him who bore the heavy yoke for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord who taught us to pray: **Amen.**

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.

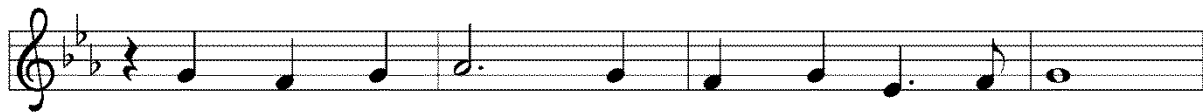
Sending Hymn

This Is My Song

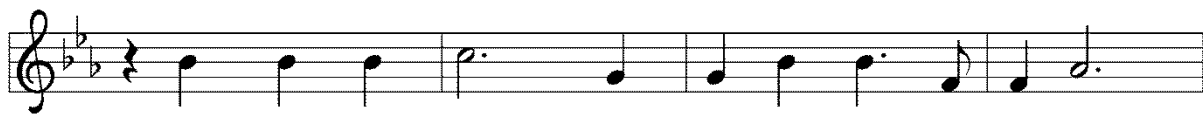
ELW # 887



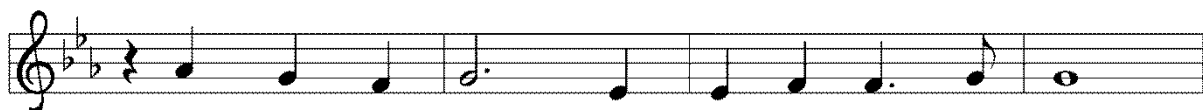
1 This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,
2 My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,
3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's king - doms,



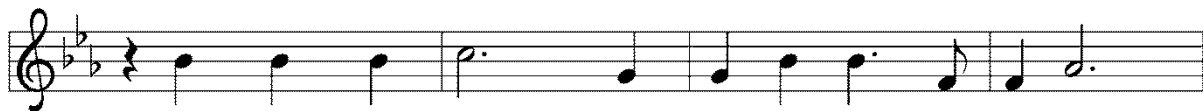
a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.
and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine.
your king - dom come; on earth your will be done.



This is my home, the coun - try where my heart is;
But oth - er lands have sun - light too, and clo - ver,
O God, be lift - ed up till all shall serve you,



here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho - ly shrine;
and skies are ev - 'ry - where as blue as mine.
and hearts u - nit - ed learn to live as one.



but oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are beat - ing
So hear my song, O God of all the na - tions,
So hear my prayer, O God of all the na - tions;



with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
a song of peace for their land and for mine.
my - self I give you; let your will be done.

Benediction

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

Join us for Fellowship on Zoom: 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.

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 Buchar, Jim Calvert, DJ Freedman, Dwight Ciccotelli, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Jim Freyer, Shari Gilbert, Ryan Guyer, Dan Hershberger, 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, Aunt Mica, Lily Newman, 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.**

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

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.

Readings for the Week:

Monday (commemoration of Jan Hus, martyr, died 1415) Psalm 131. **Tuesday** Jeremiah 28:10-17. **Wednesday** Jeremiah 13:1-11. **Thursday** Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13. **Friday** Romans 15:14-21. **Saturday** (commemoration of Benedict of Nursia, Abbot of Monte Cassino, died around 540) Isaiah 52:1-6. **Sixth Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931) Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23.

Reflection material: Gordon Lathrop. Intercessory Prayer: Gail Ramshaw
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Allegheny Synod Stewardship Table

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

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

Matthew 6:28-29

As a child, I attended a small one-room church in the country. Church and Sunday School were important to my parents. At the time I did not recognize the value of this activity—an activity that was way too early on a precious weekend day. In fact, I was often the last person to get in the car. I was typically combing my hair en route and regretting that I missed breakfast. I was usually not in a good mood by the time I got to church.

At the time, attendance at church and Sunday School was just something required by my parents. Now, however, I am amazed by what the experience gave me – the foundation it laid and the values it taught me. It modeled for me how to love others and it set me on the path to be a life-long Lutheran. I hear Matthew 6:28-29 about the lilies of the field and I am reminded that I memorized those verses at Vacation Bible School. I sing “What a Friend We have in Jesus” and I can see my Dad, Sunday School Superintendent, leading the singing.

My early experiences at that little church were more valuable than I ever realized. A seed was planted in me to be as kind and accepting as those parishioners, teachers, and pastors were to me. In addition, I developed my spiritual gift of teaching as a result of those experiences. I have taught Sunday School and Bible Studies and have learned so much in the process. Finally, when I joyfully sing at church today (usually digitally now), I am reminded of how that love of singing got started.

My message to congregations in the Allegheny Synod is: don't underestimate your ministry. Reach out to all – young and old. Better yet, expand your ministry. No matter your size, you can touch people. And don't look askance at that bored little girl with messy hair. Who knows what spiritual gifts you will enable her to foster!

~Lois Lynn, member of the Allegheny Synod Stewardship Table