

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Digital Worship



September 13, 2020

Rev. Christopher Buresh

*As we enter this time of digital worship, we do so alongside the Body of Christ in a spiritual space while we abstain from doing so in a physical space. Please participate by reading aloud along with the leader the parts of the service which are **bolded** and standing where you find the + symbol.*

We will also be sharing virtually in Holy Communion. We would invite those who desire to partake to prepare by setting up a space with elements suitable for eating and drinking. Suggestions for these elements include bread, crackers, wine, juice or water.

THE GATHERING

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

+ THE 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.

+ THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the fountain of forgiveness that never runs dry. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE FIRST READING FOR THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Lector: Tracy Heilman

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Here ends the Holy Gospel.

THE SERMON: “Unfinished Business”

THE HYMN: “Where Charity and Love Prevail”

Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love we thus are bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear,
God's charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and soul
now love God in return.

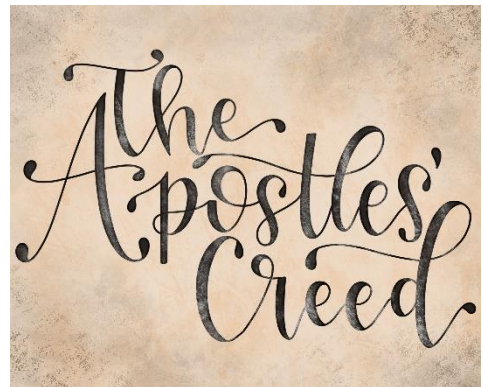
Let us recall that in our midst
dwells Christ, God's holy Son;
as members of each body joined,
in him we are made one.

Let us forgive each other's faults
as we our own confess,
that we may love each other well
in Christian gentleness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th. cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.
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+ 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.**

+ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world, especially in Coronationville; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free all who are captive by debt, hunger, fear, famine, poverty, war, grief or illness (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Teach us to forgive. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and devalue the other. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



THE OFFERING

We invite you to continue in your faithful support of God's work by contributing electronically during our season of meeting in a virtual world. Please see our website homepage for further instructions on how to participate in electronic giving.

+ THE OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen.

+ THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.



+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

+ THE BLESSING AND SENDING

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord's face shine upon us with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon us with favor and ☩ give us peace.

Amen.

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God



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Service Notes:

Today's chancel flowers are given by the Sombraske family in memory of their grandson, Landon Michael Dolce.

The hospitalized: Beth Wetzig (LaGrange)

† The Holy Baptism: Brooke Ann Rekar, daughter of William and Melinda nee Krieher. Born: January 6, 2020. Sponsors: Kristy Rekar and Justin Krieher.



If you are interested in donating flowers to beautify the chancel, please call the church office. The following dates are open: October 25, November 15 and November 22.

6th, 7th and 8th grade Confirmation begins on Monday, September 14 at 7:00 PM. Please join Mrs. Lori, Pastor Joe and Pastor Chris on Zoom to learn more about how Confirmation will be taught virtually through December. Be sure you have picked up your class folders from church before class begins.

There is a *Church Council Meeting on Tuesday*, September 15 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Attention Sunday School Teachers!! There is a teacher's meeting on Wednesday, September 16 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Hope to "see" you there!

Good Shepherd Bowling League begins, with COVID restrictions, on Saturday, September 19 at 3:50 PM.

Good Shepherd responds to the needs presented by COVID

At their recent meeting, members of the Missions Committee expressed great concern about how best to provide for people near and dear to Good Shepherd who have experienced financial hardship due to the challenges of COVID-19. In that spirit, funding was set aside to assist people who are struggling financially due to loss of their expected income. If you are in need, please call the church office and we will make arrangements to discuss the situation and how we can help.

As a community of faith, we strive to stay connected as we together journey through life. Good Shepherd has the following virtual experiences scheduled outside of Sunday Worship Services and Sunday School to help us come together as one Body of Christ. These offerings are based on the feedback received from the survey sent out last week. Thank you to all those who responded and we look forward to these efforts helping us all to "Be the Church."

Tues. at 10:30 am Bible Study

Did you know that the lectionary we use (the three-year cycle of readings that are shared during worship) are not limited to only readings for Sunday? Join us as we begin a journey of sharing in the daily lectionary and reflecting on God' s Word together on the Good Shepherd Facebook Page.

Wed morning Hymn of the Week

Michelle Podewell will be on the page playing a hymn and sharing the gift of music. Check in the late morning to enjoy celebrating the gift of music God has granted us.

Thur. at 7:00 pm Where is God? A time of processing, prayer and conversation

A time to gather and be. The Good Shepherd Facebook Page will again be the platform for people gathering to reflect. This will be a time of conversation where you are invited to participate by typing questions or thoughts as we together explore God' s presence during this unique time.

Also, know that Pastor Chris is happy to set up a zoom meeting or phone call with anyone who wants or needs to chat during this time. You are not alone! May you see God at work in and around you this week ahead.