

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 19, 2020

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Eternal God, Author of our life and End of our pilgrimage: guide us by your Word and Spirit amid all perils and temptations, that we may not wander from your way, nor stumble in the darkness; but may finish our course in safety, and come to our eternal rest in you; through the grace and merit of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.¹

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 139)

One: O Lord, where can we go from your spirit?

All: Or where can we flee from your presence?

One: If we ascend to heaven, you are there;

All: if we make our bed in Sheol, you are there.

One: If we settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

All: even there your hand shall lead us, and your right hand shall hold us fast. Let us worship God.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” #551

Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest home:

All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin; God, our Maker, doth provide For our wants to be supplied: Come to God’s own temple, come, Raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God’s own field, Fruit unto God’s praise to yield;

Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown; First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear: Lord of harvest, grant that we Whole-some grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take the harvest home;

From each field shall in that day All offenses purge away; Give the angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast, But the fruitful ears to store In God’s garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come To Thy final harvest home; Gather

Thou Thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin; There

forever purified, In Thy presence to abide: Come, with all Thine angels, come, Raise the glorious harvest home.

*CALL TO CONFESSION (FROM ROMANS 8)

Paul writes that we are debtors to God as God, in Jesus, has come to earth to witness to us the ways of righteousness and has offered us life in the Spirit, which brings true life and peace. Let us examine ourselves to request God’s forgiveness for all the acts of our fleshy nature, which brings death.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (IN UNISON)

Merciful God, too often we fall back into old patterns — into enslavement to sin, to our fleshy nature, and to fear. Forgive our sins. Grant us your Holy Spirit and grow its influence within us. Abba, Father, adopt as your children — Children of God — and have your Holy Spirit witness to this within our spirits. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear this good news! If we live by the Spirit, God offers us adoption into his family to become even children of God. He frees us from enslavement to sin for fellowship with God. Live in the Spirit, and know that you are forgiven. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM: “The Crayon Song” Jan Carter

. . . *to Proclaim God’s Word*

FIRST READING Genesis 28:10-19a p. 25

EPISTLE READING Romans 8:12-25 p. 158

*GOSPEL READING Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 p. 14

SERMON “Future Glory” Rev. Andy Smothers

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism* (Questions 12-15)

One: According to God’s righteous judgment we deserve punishment both now and in eternity: how then can we escape this punishment and return to God’s favor?

Many: God requires that his justice be satisfied. Therefore the claims of this justice must be paid in full, either by ourselves or by another.

One: Can we make this payment ourselves?

Many: Certainly not. Actually, we increase our debt every day.

One: Can another creature — any at all — pay this debt for us?

Many: No. To begin with, God will not punish any other creature for what a human is guilty of. Furthermore, no mere creature can bear the weight of God’s eternal wrath against sin and deliver others from it.

One: What kind of mediator and deliverer should we look for then?

Many: One who is a true and righteous human, yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is also true God.

INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O God our creator and redeemer. Millennia ago, you chose a people — the descendants of Israel — to be your people and to witness and be a blessing to the entire world. They broke your covenant; however, you accepted them back time and again. Later, you came in human form through Jesus Christ to fulfill that covenant — to witness to his people, the Israelites, and to the world. In your magnificent wisdom and grace, you invited the nations, the Gentiles, people such as us into that faith and into a New Covenant. Despite this, we, like the Israelites, break your covenant. For those who live in the Spirit, you have chosen us for adoption and to be Children of God destined for abundant and eternal life. Therefore, we praise you, joining

our voices with the heavenly choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt. He shared our life in every way, and though tempted, was sinless to the end. Baptized as your own, he went willingly to his death and by your power was raised to new life. In his dying and rising, you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy, the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. May we proclaim the One crucified and risen.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ, and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world. Help us, O God, to be obedient to your call to love all your children, to do justice and show mercy, and to live in peace with your whole creation. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. AMEN.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

... to Give Thanks to God ...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

Righteous God, the Gospel of Matthew testifies to your

faithfulness to all the righteous in this world. You teach your workers not to pull the weeds, the children of the evil one, from the field until the harvest is ready for pulling these weeds might destroy some of the harvest of the good seed, the children of God by mistake. In response to your righteousness and faithfulness, we offer these gifts for your work in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

... and to Be Sent in God's Name.

CLOSING HYMN: "O God of Bethel, by Whose Hand" #269

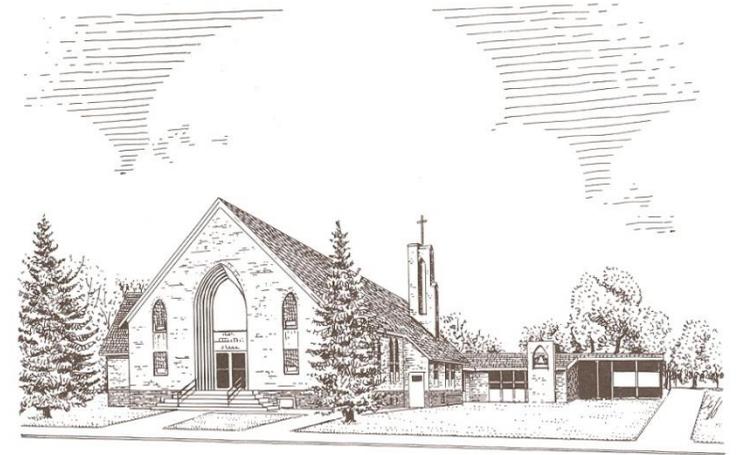
O God of Bethel, by whose hand Thy people still are fed, Who through this weary pilgrimage Hast all Thy servants led, Our vows, our prayers, we no present Before Thy throne of grace; God of past ages, be the God Of each succeeding race. Through each perplexing path of life Our wandering footsteps guide; Give us each day our daily bread, And raiment fit provide. O spread Thy covering wings around Till all our wanderings cease, And at our God's beloved abode Our souls arrive in peace.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

ⁱ *Book of Common Worship*, 363.

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