

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
THE GOOD SHEPHERD
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Pastor Leslie R. Swenson, pastorlrs@comcast.net

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost via Zoom 10:00 AM, September 13, 2020

Welcome to today's worship on Zoom! Although we gather in our own spaces, we at the same time are bound together by the Spirit who makes us one in Christ. We worship together with one voice in thanksgiving to the God speaks to us and abides with us in word, song, prayer and life giving mercy and love. Although we cannot hear one another at most places of response during worship, you are encouraged to participate with full throated response in your own homes.

Today's worship takes us outside our normal course of following the lectionary that provides us our weekly readings for worship. The readings heard this morning are meant to provide the grounding for the dialog sermon offered us by the Rev. Sarah Anderson and Kim Bergstrand who both serve as Associates to the Bishop of our New England Synod of the ELCA. Kim Bergstrand has been working with our two congregations with the recent CAT survey and will continue to support us through the coming months. The sermon was prepared for use by congregations in our synod and is especially appropriate for us as we move forward together into new life.

SERVICE OF THE WORD
THE 15th Sunday after Pentecost September 13, 2020

We prepare for worship in quiet prayer and meditation

WELCOME & PRAYER REQUESTS *The congregation joins in all that is printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
 who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
 and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
 and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
 before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
 and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
 and through his death and resurrection,

Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
 to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. 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 WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song

FIRST READING: EXODUS 13.17-22; 40.36-38

¹⁷When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was nearer; for God thought, "If the people face war, they may change their minds and return to Egypt." ¹⁸So God led the people by the roundabout way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of the land of Egypt prepared for battle. ¹⁹And Moses took with him the bones of Joseph who had required a solemn oath of the Israelites, saying, "God will surely take notice of you, and then you must carry my bones with you from here." ²⁰They set out from Succoth, and camped at Etham, on the edge of the wilderness. ²¹The LORD went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night. ²²Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

³⁶Whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, the Israelites would set out on each stage of their journey; ³⁷but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, before the eyes of all the house of Israel at each stage of their journey.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 107.1-9 (*read responsively by verse*)

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble**

³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

⁴**Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to an inhabited town;**

⁵hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

⁶**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,**

and he delivered them from their distress;

⁷he led them by a straight way, until they reached an inhabited town.

⁸**Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,**

for his wonderful works to humankind.

⁹For he satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry he fills with good things.

GOSPEL: LUKE 24.13-27

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then

beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON- The Rev. Sara Anderson and Kim Bergstrand

Silence for reflection follows the sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY – *Bless Now, O God, The Journey #326*

1 Bless now, O God, the journey
 that all your people make,
 the path through noise and silence,
 the way of give and take.
 The trail is found in desert
 and winds the mountain round,
 then leads beside still waters
 the road where faith is found.

2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
 who share this winding way;
 your hope burns through the terrors,
 your love sustains the day.
 We yearn for holy freedom
 while often we are bound;
 together we are seeking
 the road where faith is found

3 Divine eternal lover,
 you meet us on the road.
 We wait for land of promise
 where milk and honey flow,
 but waiting not for places,
 you meet us all around.
 Our covenant is written
 on roads, as faith is found.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Together with all the baptized people of God, let us confess our faith ...

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through our study of your Word. Nurture and support ministries of education and growth in our life together in our congregations and in your whole church. 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 (especially our President, the Congress, our Governor and state legislators, leaders of our local governments and all called to serve the civic good). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with all those who are ill and who are faced with anguish and pain this day. Embrace them with your healing grace and the promise of your loving presence. Open the eyes of their hearts to see your light in the midst of their darkness. We especially pray today for: [*list.....*] and for all those who name in our hearts (*silence...*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Church, continue to guide our two congregations as we move forward in becoming one. Give us wisdom to make sound decisions, courage to take bold steps into

your future, and understanding hearts and minds that will bind us together in mission.
 Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you (especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
 grant you to live in harmony with one another,
 in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
 so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks to those assisting with worship today:

Assisting Minister: Paul Synder

Zoom Producer: Rob Hansen

Lector: David Brown

Musician: Caroline Henry

Next Sunday, September 20, at 10:00 you are invited to worship outdoors with the people of Christ and Good Shepherd Churches at Christ Church, 600 Shepard Ave., Hamden. The service will take place in the rear of the facility. Bring your own lawn chairs for seating if possible. Wear masks. Social distancing will be practiced but genuine friendship and community experienced.