



## **Service of the Word**

**September 13, 2020**

*In Home Worship with First Lutheran Church*

*Online resources can be found on our website*

*<https://www.firstlutheransandpoint.org/online-worship.html>*

**Prelude** (*Play music that prepares your heart, mind, soul, and body for worship. Maybe light a candle, hang a cross or set aside another place in your home as holy ground for this time with God.*)

## **GATHERING**

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

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as we begin.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**Amen.**

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others  
as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;**

**through your love, renew us;**

**and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through + Christ Jesus.

Through Christ you have been given grace upon grace.

Your sins are forgiven.

Let us live together, now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love flows in our hearts

through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor - ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and  
 2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
 3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the  
 4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



- sky: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen - dor  
 grain: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
 thron: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
 grieve: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur - dens and your



- bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
 clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:  
 fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



- lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,  
 waiting to hush our final breath:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,  
 fair is the night that leads us home.  
 Alleluia.
- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,  
 and worship God with humble heart:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 All creatures, bless the Father, Son,  
 and Holy Spirit, Three in One:  
 Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite  
 Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
 Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

**GATHERING SONG -**

**(ELW 835, verses 1,4, 6)**

### 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21**

A reading from Genesis.

*After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing 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?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction

before he died, <sup>17</sup>"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. <sup>18</sup>Then

his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God?

<sup>20</sup>Even 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. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13**

<sup>8</sup>LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;

<sup>9</sup>**you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.**

<sup>10</sup>You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.

- <sup>11</sup>**For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**
- <sup>12</sup>As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
- <sup>13</sup>**As a father has compassion for his children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O LORD. R**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12**

A reading from Romans.

*This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“ As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

*When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.*

<sup>21</sup>Peter 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?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, 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. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But 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.’ <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you

all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you? <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

## **SERMON -**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* (ELW 779)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the<br>sound<br>that saved a wretch like me!<br>I once was lost, but now am<br>found;<br>was blind, but now I see.         | 3 Through many dangers, toils,<br>and snares<br>I have already come;<br>'tis grace has brought me safe<br>thus far,<br>and grace will lead me home. |
| 2 'Twas grace that taught my<br>heart to fear,<br>and grace my fears relieved;<br>how precious did that grace<br>appear<br>the hour I first believed! |   |

## **Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

---

*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

### **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 Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth (*especially*). 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*). 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.**

*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.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words, now and in creative ways throughout the week.*

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## **OFFERING**

*Share what you are grateful for.*

*If you would like to offer financial support for the ministries of First Lutheran, you can mail them to the church. 526 S. Olive, Ave. Sandpoint, ID 83864*

## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*If you are with someone or on the phone with friends or family, Holy Communion can be shared now. Choose a leader and follow the liturgy included here. If you would like a pastor to share this meal with you by phone, arrange through the church office.*

## **\*DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation,  
hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,  
saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God, you are Love: bind us together as one.

O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life  
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son,  
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

**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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Share bread with each person at your table saying,  
“The body of Christ given for you.”*

*Then share the wine or grape juice with each person saying,  
“The blood of Christ shed for you.”*

*For those at the table who do not yet receive Communion, you can offer this or a  
similar blessing, “You are a child of God. God’s love is always with you.”*

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence,  
nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table.  
Amid the cares of this life,  
strengthen us to love you with all our heart,  
serve our neighbors with a willing spirit,  
and honor the earth you have made;  
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **SENDING**

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

#### **BLESSING**

The holy Three, the holy One increase your hope,  
strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and + grant you peace.  
**Amen.**

#### **DISMISSAL**

This is the mission we share in Christ’s name:  
**To Praise God! Nurture Faith! And Serve All!**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;  
 hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;  
 strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
 help the afflicted; honor all people;  
 love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SENDING SONG**

**(ELW 860)**

**I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me**

1 I'm so glad I'm so glad  
 2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,  
 3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,

Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad  
 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
 When I was in trou - ble,

sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

**Worship Notes:**

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Portions from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com), © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress.

Songs:

Printed with permission. Reprinted and streamed by permission. All rights reserved.  
 onelicense.net A-705894.