



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**Christ's United ✕ Friedens ✕ St. James Lutheran Churches
Service of the Word – The Second Sunday after Pentecost– June 14, 2020**

Announcements

Gathering

HYMN ELW#576 “We All Are One in Mission”

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| 1 We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. A single great commission compels us from above to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love. | 3 Now let us be united, and let our song be heard. Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word. We all are one in mission; we all are one in call, our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all. |
| 2 We all are called to service, to witness in God's name. Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same: to touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace, | |

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

The Pastor invites the Assembly to join in the confession of sin.

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.**

The Pastor announces the forgiveness given in the name of Christ.

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✚
Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sin is forgiven.

**⁵Good indeed is the LORD, whose steadfast love is | everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from | age to age.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:1-8

We are no longer God's enemies but have peace with God because we were brought into a right relationship with God through Christ's death.

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. The kingdom of God | has come near;* repent, and believe in | the good news.

Alleluia. (Mark 1:15)

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 9:35--10: 23

The mission of Jesus' followers is to continue the mission of Jesus himself. Here, he instructs his first disciples as to how they might proclaim the gospel through their words and deeds.

³⁵Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

^{10:1}Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. [⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶"See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and

innocent as doves. ¹⁷Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.”]

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

SERMON

The Rev. Mark E. Swanson

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW#588 *“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”*

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|---|---|
| 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty. There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n. | 3 For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind. But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own; and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own. |
| 2 There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good; there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood. There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this; there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss. | 4 'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all: greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word, and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord. |

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt.

APOSTLES' 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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

Holy One, you bring us together and call us your own. Bless our bishops, theologians, teachers, and preachers who help us grow in faith (*following the examples of Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus, and the teacher Macrina, whom we commemorate today*). Guide your church, that we might be a holy people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, the whole earth is yours. Where there is fire, bring cool air and new growth. Where there is flooding, bring relief. Where there is drought, bring rain. Inspire us to care for what you have provided. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, we have created divisions you will not own. In places of conflict (*especially*), raise up leaders who work to develop lasting peace and reconciliation. Open our eyes to the depths of our sin, the pain of the racism from which we have benefited, divisions we have created, and the hurt we have inflicted on others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, you care for those who are harassed and helpless. Protect and defend those who are abused. Heal those who are sick, especially Connor, Kathleen, Bob, Renee, Bill, Ron, Jack, Donny, Jean, Anna, Linda, and Garth. Feed all who hunger. Empower all whose voices go unheard, and help us respond to the pressing needs of our neighbors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, you provide a plentiful harvest of gifts and resources. Prepare us to labor and gather the fruits of our congregations, that we might discover new ways of living. Minister to us in our work, that we do not lose heart, and in turn may minister to others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy One, you bring all people to yourself. We give thanks for the holy people who have gone before us (*especially*). Sustain us in your mission until the day you bear us up to join the saints in light. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE *The people share a sign of peace by bowing.*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

THE 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

BLESSING

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG ELW#669 “Rise Up, O Saints of God”

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|---|---|--|
| 1 | Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn; Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn. | give justice larger place. |
| 2 | Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame; as heirs of God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim. | 4 Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain; stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain. |
| 3 | Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace; redress sin's cruel consequence; | 5 Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod; and, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God! |

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
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Worship in the Home resources are available each Sunday at blogs.ELCA.org/Worship for families and individuals to read, pray, and reflect in home.

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Worship Leaders: Pastors Laura Csellak and Mark Swanson
Videographer: Gary Klinger



This week in the Church, we remember...

SUNDAY, JUNE 14: BASIL THE GREAT, BISHOP OF CAESAREA, DIED 379; GREGORY, BISHOP OF NYSSA, DIED AROUND 385; GREGORY OF NAZIANZUS, BISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE, DIED AROUND 389; MACRINA, THEOLOGIAN, DIED AROUND 379

The Cappadocian fathers, as the three men in this group are known, explored the mystery of the Holy Trinity. Basil's monastic rule forms the basis for Eastern monastic life. Gregory of Nazianzus defended orthodox Christianity in Constantinople. Gregory of Nyssa, Basil's younger brother, wrote on the spiritual life. Macrina, older sister of Basil and Gregory of Nyssa, was the leader of a community dedicated to asceticism, meditation, and prayer.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17: EMANUEL NINE, MARTYRS, DIED 2015

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings in the name of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Second Sunday after the Pentecost.

As always, we thank Gary Klinger and Steve Wolfgang for their technical skills in recording, editing and posting this and all of our on-line services.

If you have any pastoral care needs, please call the pastors at the Lutheran parsonage at **570-652-1951**. Also, visit our church websites for more information, especially as we move closer to the time when our congregations re-open for worship services.

It is important to know that changes should be expected. Guidelines will be in effect to keep us safe. This pandemic has brought on a new reality that the old normal, in many respects, cannot be fully realized.

- *Finally, please remember your offering. Your financial support is very much needed. Mail in your offering or give on-line as you are able.*

Our Lord has brought us into his great harvest and now sends us out as laborers, to bring in the great harvest of his mercy, righteousness, his justice...which is for all people.
