



Lake Nokomis
Lutheran Church

Sunday, September 13, 2020

Join us for worship at
LakeNokomisChurch.org

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Largo

G.F. Handel

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

SONG *Come, All You People*

Cantors will sing an introduction in Shona

- 1 **Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come, all you people, come and praise the Most High;
come now and worship the Lord.**
- 2 **Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come, all you people, come and praise the Savior;
come now and worship the Lord.**
- 3 **Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit;
come now and worship the Lord.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

READING: Psalm 103:8-13

GOD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.
You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

As far as the east is from the west,
 so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
 As a parent has compassion for their children,
 so you have compassion for those who fear you, O GOD.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter.

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?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

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

MESSAGE *Unafraid*

Pastor Sara Spohr

OFFERING

At this time, you are invited to prayerfully offer your gifts, tithes, and commitments to God. We continue to give thanks for the ways that this faith community has responded with financial gifts for the work of the gospel in our city and world. You can give these gifts through the mail or by contacting the office to set up an automatic payment with the program *Simply Giving*.

SONG *When I Rise Up**Wendell Berry/J. David Moore*

*When I rise up, let me rise up joyful like a bird
When I fall, let me fall without regret like a leaf*

Let us pray together.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.
You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.
Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,
nourish us with this rich food and drink,
and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Drawn together in the compassion and grace 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 and growth. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Bless all who teach, all who learn, and all who are keep our learners safe. Nurture the new ways in which we are connecting as a faith community. 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 congregations of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA, Living Table United Church of Christ, Spirit of St Stephen's Catholic Community, Minnehaha United Methodist Church, and the churches of the Kubi District of the Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Bring liberation to those who suffer injustice, deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, comfort those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, including those we name out loud or silently. Guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war.

Turn us from our fear and make us bold to respond with acts of mercy, justice, and sacrifice. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We continue to pray for the Hope Lutheran Church community, guide them to meaningful ways to keep living their faith and growing in their love for you and for neighbor. Make this church a place of true welcome, a place of partnership, a place of shared mission and ministry. Take away the fears of what may change and fill us with a faith that sees your vision of life together. 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, friends, visitors and strangers. Make us mindful of the hospitality and grace you have called us to live. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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 in prayer, and for the faithful voices that taught us to praise you. 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in 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 in remembrance of me."

Let us pray together 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

The Risen Christ has invited us to this table. Whoever you are, however you feel, for whatever reasons you are here, come to the feast. Whatever your condition, whatever questions you have, wherever you are on your spiritual journey: know that our host is the one who has given his life for the world, the one who was raised to new life, and the one who invites us to come to the table! Amen

Take the bread, and as you eat it remember that Jesus promises,

“This is my body, given for you.”

Sip the cup and remember that Jesus promises,

“This is my blood, shed for you.”

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

SONG *I Come with Joy*

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved, and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.**
- 2 I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.**
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.**
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.**
- 5 Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.**

BLESSING

As you have been forgiven,
now go into a world that needs your forgiving, love and healing.
Bring peace and hope to your neighbor,
lift up the hurting and hopeless,
share God's love. Amen.

DISMISSAL**POSTLUDE**

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Peter Lutkin

Worship team is Pastor Sara Spohr, Jodi Gustafson, and Erica Larson

Recording production by William Awe and John Walsh

Preacher and President: Pastor Sara Spohr

Pianist: Tonya Anderson

Cantors: Rochelle Milbrath, Nissa Rolf, and Laurie Zaepfel

Reader: Allan Hetland

Thank you for contributing: Emma, Ethan, & Justin Awe; Dane, Duke, Grace & Paige Borgerding; Eva Carlson; Sasha Elavsky; Neil Grube; Bennett Heichert; Allie Horstman; Cece, Harper, & Miles Kormann; Matthew Mueller; Carter Myers; Adrian Patzloff; Freyja Rohde, Eric Grube and Neil Grube

Our website is LakeNokomisChurch.org

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