

Sunday, August 30, 2020

Reconciliation



*“Church is not a place;
it is who we are.
Once we realize this,
we can be the church
anywhere.”*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Lord I Lift Your Name on High” CCLI# 117947

Lord, I lift Your name on high. Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life. I'm so glad You came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way.
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift Your name on high. [Repeat]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: “Carrier”

The spirit of the Lord is upon me. To preach good news to the poor.
To bind up the broken-hearted. To make you known even more.
So that people living in darkness will see the great light

(Chorus) I'll be the carrier of love and compassion
I'll be the carrier of light to the world
I'll be the carrier of hope and salvation
I will go shine your light to the world
I will go shine your light to the world

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. Freedom and truth to proclaim.
Trade your ashes for the oil of gladness, and your sorrows for garments of praise.

(Chorus)
Here am I, send me, send me. Here am I, send me, send me.
Here am I, send me, send me. Here am I, send me, send me.

(Chorus)
I will go shine your light to the world. (X2)

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

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.

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 whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

PRAYER of the DAY

Forgiving God,

as you encouraged your people to forgive, you modeled forgiveness by releasing us from our bondage to sin. Help us to forgive others, so that we might live in harmony with all your children. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAISE TEAM ANTHEM: "Confidence"

SCRIPTURES

FIRST READING: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an

opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

Gospel: Luke 15:25-32

²⁵Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Jesus Loves Me/Amazing Grace”

Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found, once was blind but now I see.

Chorus Alleluia Al-le-lu Allelu-ia Alleluia
 Allelu-ia Al-le-lu Alleluia Al-le-lu Alleluia

Jesus loves me this I know for the bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong. (*Chorus*)

Jesus loves me still today walking with me on my way
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live. (*Chorus*)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of faithfulness, you bid your people to follow Jesus. Set the mind of your church on divine things. Grant us trust in you, that we lose our lives for the sake of Christ and thereby discover joy in life through him. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of wonder, the earth is yours and all that is in it. Heal your creation and give us eyes to see the world as you do. As the seasons change, pattern the rhythm of our lives in harmony with all creation. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all nations, you call us to live peaceably with all. Give us ears to hear one another, even those we name as enemies. Fill all leaders with mercy and understanding, that they advocate and genuinely care for those who are poor and most vulnerable in their communities. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of salvation, you promise to deliver us. Give those who suffer a strong sense of your presence and love. Accompany those who are uncertain, raise the spirits of those who are despairing, and heal the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of community, you call us to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer. Make our congregation a workshop of your love. When we quarrel, bring reconciliation. Help us overcome evil with good. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of all grace, you give us everlasting life. In love we recall your holy ones who now live in your undying light (*especially*). In our remembering, give us a foretaste of the feast to come. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth,

all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER - LED BY THE PRAISE TEAM

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Friends of Jesus, come to the table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

Pastor James will deliver the communion to your car. Please wait until everyone been served, and Pastor gives the signal to share the sacrament together.

When you depart from today's service there will be a drop off location for your offering and a trash receptacle for the communion cups and bulletins.

PRAYER after COMMUNION

God of the welcome table,

in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life. Amen.

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.**

HYMN- "I Shall Walk in the Presence of God"

1. I shall walk in the presence of God, I shall walk
With the sun and the rain upon me, I shall walk
In the land of the living, living land, I shall walk
With my sisters and brother around me, I shall walk
2. I shall sing in the presence of God, I shall sing
With the sun and the rain upon me, I shall sing
In the land of the living, living land, I shall sing
With my sisters and brother around me, I shall sing
3. I shall breathe in the presence of God, I shall breathe
With the sun and the rain upon me, I shall breathe
In the land of the living, living land, I shall breathe
With my sisters and brother around me, I shall breathe
4. I shall dance in the presence of God, I shall dance
With the sun and the rain upon me, I shall dance
In the land of the living, living land, I shall dance
With my sisters and brother around me, I shall dance [Repeat #1]

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Response to God's Word Last Week

August 23rd, 2020 – Virtual Attendance *: 86

**Virtual attendance is based on a matrix from the NEMN Synod. We determine the number of unique views per week and multiply by 2 – assuming there are two people per household watching the youtube video service.*

THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Praise Team

Greeters: Mary Braun & Jenny Schuett

THIS WEEK AT Bethesda

Aug. 31 through Sept. 6, 2020

Saturday 9/5 10 am – 2 pm Outdoor Quilt Sale

QUILT SALE

Saturday, September 5, 2020 - 10:00am – 2:00pm
Outside by the Veggie Stand



Great Gift Ideas for:

Anniversary-Wedding-Babies-Birthday-Christmas-Mother's & Father's Day-Graduation
Cash - Check - Credit Cards accepted

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER & CARE LIST Sherry Whipple's mother died this week. Julie Swaggert's mother is in the hospital.

CANCELLED ACTIVITIES

- **Saturday Morning Veggie Stand** – only on a free will daily basis-no set days & hours (as long as produce is available).
- **Jamboree** – there's talk of doing a video of skits & music. Anyone interested in being part of the video, contact Pastor James.
- **WELCA Fall Gathering** – contact Jeannine Bruesewitz for further details.
- **October Bazaar** – stay tuned for other fund-raising ideas to fund WELCA's many worthy missions.

FACEMASKS we have homemade cloth facemasks available in the church entry way if you need them. They are machine washable and dryable.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

SURVEY for REOPENING Included in today's bulletin is a survey for reopening. Please complete the survey and turn in at the end of service today. It will be in the September Newsletter also if you don't complete it today.

FACEMASKS With the new mask requirements, the citizens of Aitkin County will be in need of masks. Not everyone has the skill to make their own. Aitkin county has asked our congregation's sewers to make some for their neighbors. Also, Isle School has requested children size masks. We have elastic cord available in the church office if you need it. If you don't have a pattern, it will be available [HERE](#) on our website:

blcmalmo.org. You can drop off completed masks at the church office and we will deliver them to Aitkin County.



LAWN MOWERS NEEDED If you would like to help in the mowing, please contact Mary at the church office (320-684-2123) to get on the signup sheet. We can use your help. The tractors and equipment will be ready each week (serviced, sanitized, and gassed) for your enjoyment. If you have any questions call Lee Forrester at 651-271-2186.



BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO

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Pastor James Muske

320-583-5796

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

MISSION STATEMENT

*We will **LIVE** and **SERVE** through **FAITH**
we will **ACT** with **LOVE** and **KINDNESS**
we will **GIVE** hope and **SUPPORT** to all.*