

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, September 6, 2020  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
Pastor Pat Schutz

*Welcome to worship from wherever you are! It is good to be with one another as the Holy Spirit unites us in praise and worship of our God.*

*Thank you to Todd, Deniale, and Matthew Steffen for leading us in the Apostle's Creed, to Bea Lebal for the music, and special thanks to Bishop Jerry Mansholt for providing a sermon for the entire synod to use this weekend.*

## **GATHERING**

We begin in the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

### **Call to worship**

Wherever there is love, there is the presence of God.

**Love is intimate and personal but also collective.**

Love is communal resistance to practices of evil.

**Under systems that destroy, holy is the uprising of the faithful.**

The love of God is not passive; neither is it neutral.

**Love despises abuse of power. Love practices solidarity with the suffering.**

The healing of the world depends on love.

**Courageous love. Fierce love. Tender love.**

Let us worship together that we may learn the ways of love.

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,  
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Song

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

### **Prayer of the Day\***

O Lord God, embrace and transform your church with your constant mercy. You call us to a life free from all that deadens and destroys, yet without your help, we will fail. Lead us away from impulses to seek change through control and guide us in practices of transformation rooted in love and imagination, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **A reading from Ezekial, the 33<sup>rd</sup> chapter**

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 119:33-40**

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

<sup>34</sup>**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

<sup>36</sup>**Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.**

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
give me life in your way.

<sup>38</sup>**Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which is for those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
because your judgments are good.

<sup>40</sup>**Behold, I long for your commandments;  
by your righteousness enliven me.**

### **A reading from Romans, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter**

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became

believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

### **The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

### **Sermon**

### **Song**

### **Apostle's Creed**

#### **Apostle's Creed**

Let us profess our faith together using the words of the Apostle's 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**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Unite your church, O God. Grant us the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Bless the cooperative work of churches in this community. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships; guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, wildfires, or pollution. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Turn nations and leaders from ways that lead to death. Shape new paths toward peace and cooperation, teaching us to recognize one another as neighbors. Guide our nation's legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward laws that protect the well-being of all. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Tend to all in need of your compassion. Hear the cries of those awaiting justice and those yearning for forgiveness. Give community to the lonely and neighbors to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit. We pray especially for the family and friends of Ward Nelson, for Gabriella, Marilyn, Elvera, Marion.,

Laurie, Karleen, Joy, Carol, Chad, Tom, Steve, Carol, Kristin, Bruce, Dawn, Dan, Debbie, Jeff, Jerry, Liam, and for those we name in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Uphold your people in their daily callings and labors, and use their work in blessing to others. Sustain the unemployed and underemployed as they seek meaningful jobs. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who work. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith and give you thanks for the life of Ward Nelson. As you equipped him and all of your saints, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation. 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.**

### **Offering\***

Love has called us together to support each other in growing, healing, and being made new. With gratitude for all that God provides, including this gift of community, let us bring our offerings together.

We pray: **Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have shown us how to prioritize what is true, what is just, what is compassionate. Bless our offerings and our intentions 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.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Let us prayer the prayer that Jesus taught, the prayer that unites Christ's church in it's many expressions:

**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**

### **Benediction**

May Christ your compassion and hope, the One in whom you live and move and have your being, hold you close in the heart of mystery. Almighty God, Father +Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. Amen.

*Some information about September worship; we will be outdoors at Aimee P's home next weekend, weather permitting. If it rains worship will be online only and we will try to be outside the following weekend. The third and fourth weekends will be online services. The first weekend of October is our target date to be back in the sanctuary. Thank you for your patience and perseverance!*

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace; remember the poor.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Song**