

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

CELEBRATION OF SERVICE, OWE NOTHING BUT LOVE

September 6, 2020

9:00 a.m.

The Rev. Kurt Christenson, pastor

Bill Engel, organ

Paul Engel & Jan Neuhaus, singers

Lynne Falcon, Lector

Kathryn Kanaan, Person of Prayer

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITANY OF LABOR

Let us pray to the Lord of all creation, from whom comes life and work and purpose. Almighty God, when you formed us lovingly out of the dust of the earth, you breathed into us the breath of life and gave us work and purpose for living.

You placed Adam in the garden of Eden to till and keep it.

Through our work, you made us co-creators with you, shaping the world in which we live.

You gave dignity to our labor by sending your Son to labor with us.

By our labor, you enrich the world.

By our labor, we enjoy the fruits of creation.

By our labor, we find direction and purpose.

By our labor, our families are made secure.

For providing varieties of work and for blessing us by our labor:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who plow the field and those who make the plow; for farmers and farm workers, for steelworkers and machinists; for those who work with their hands and those who move the earth:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who tend the sick and those who seek new cures; for doctors and nurses, for scientists and technicians; for those who keep notes and those who transcribe:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who think and those who create; for inventors and explorers, for artists and musicians; for those who write books and those who entertain:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who work in offices and those who work in warehouses; for secretaries and receptionists, for stockers and bookkeepers; for those who market products and for those who move them:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who inspire our minds and those who motivate us; for teachers and preachers, for public servants and religious servants; those who help the poor and those who work with our children:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those whose labor is tidiness and cleanliness; for janitors and sanitary workers, for drycleaners and maids; for those who produce cleaning products and those who use them:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

For those who sail the waves and those who fly the skies; for captains and attendants, for astronauts and deep sea divers; for those who chart and those who navigate:

We give you thanks, O Lord.

You bless us all with skills and gifts for labor.

You provide us opportunities to use them, for the benefit of others as well as ourselves.

Guard and protect those who labor in the world.

Bless the work of our hands, O Lord.

Look kindly upon the unemployed and the disabled.

Give health to the sick, hope to the bereaved.

Keep us from laboring only for greed.

Make us loving and responsible in all that we do.

Creator Lord, you are the source of all wisdom and purpose, you are the blessing of those who labor. Be with us in our labor to guide and govern our world. Give all men and women work that enhances human dignity and bonds us to one another. Give us pride in our work, a fair return for our labor, and joy in knowing that our work finds its source in you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*by The Rev. Thomas L. Weitzel
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

OPENING HYMN

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven



1 Praise, my soul, the God of heav - en; joy - ful - ly your trib-ute bring.
2 God be praised for grace and fa - vor to our fore-bears in dis-tress.
4 An - gels sing in ad - o - ra - tion, in God's pres-ence, face to face.



Ran-somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more God's prais-es sing.
God be praised, the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
Sun and moon and all cre - a - tion, all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Prais - es ev - er - last - ing ring!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious is God's faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace!



Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

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.

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 33:7-11

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. 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. 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.

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?” 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?

PSALM READING: Psalm 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 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.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

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; 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; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. In Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ***Alleluia.*** (2 Cor. 5:19)

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “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. 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. 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. 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. 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. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

SERMON

Pastor Kurt

HYMN OF THE DAY

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,

you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!

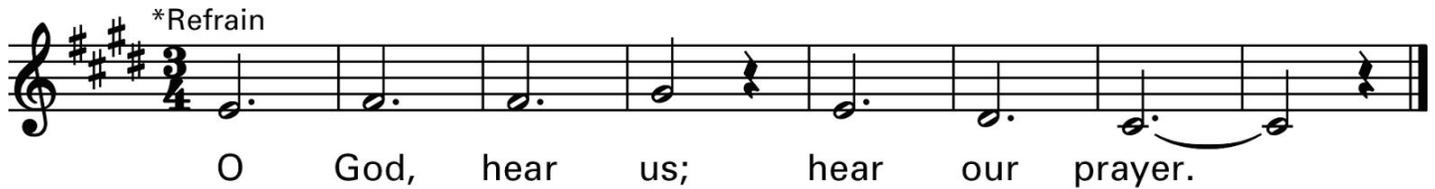
Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a treble and bass clef staff for each system. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, with three verses of text for each system. The first system includes three numbered verses. The second and third systems each contain three lines of text. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.
Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958
Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition, © Oxford University Press 1931.
Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**sung after the prayers:*



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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.

OFFERING

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OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, 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.

THE PEACE

Take some time this week to share God's peace in a Trinitarian way. First, with a member or friend of First Lutheran. Second, connect with a friend, colleague, classmate, or neighbor whom you haven't spoken with in a while; and third, when you are out and about in the world, say these words to a stranger: "peace be with you." Don't be shy, you're wearing a mask anyway. You'll know if they are Lutheran/Episcopalian/Catholic by their response.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom as you have taught us to pray:

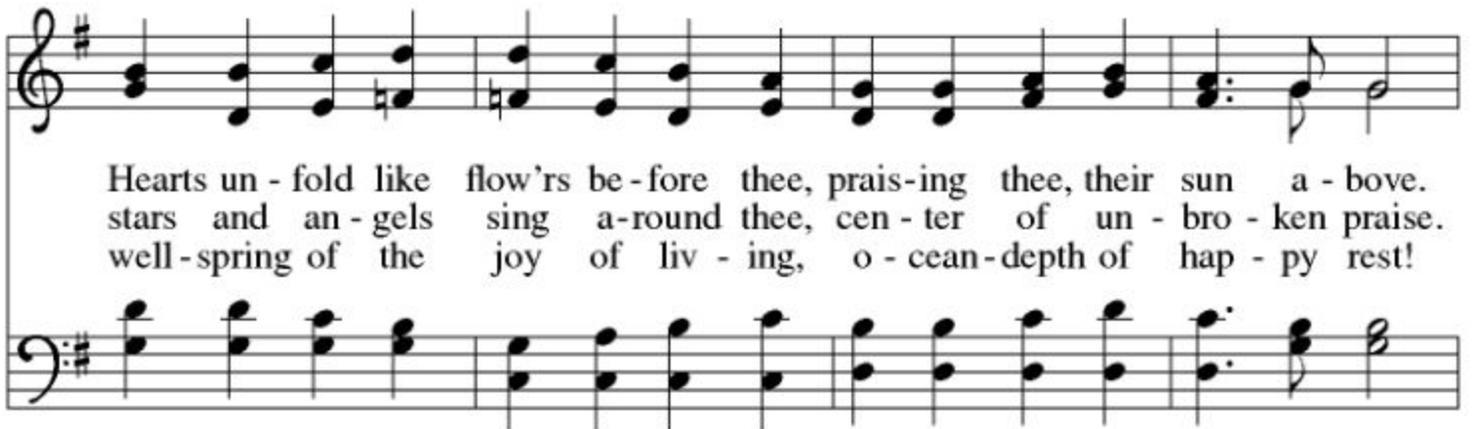
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

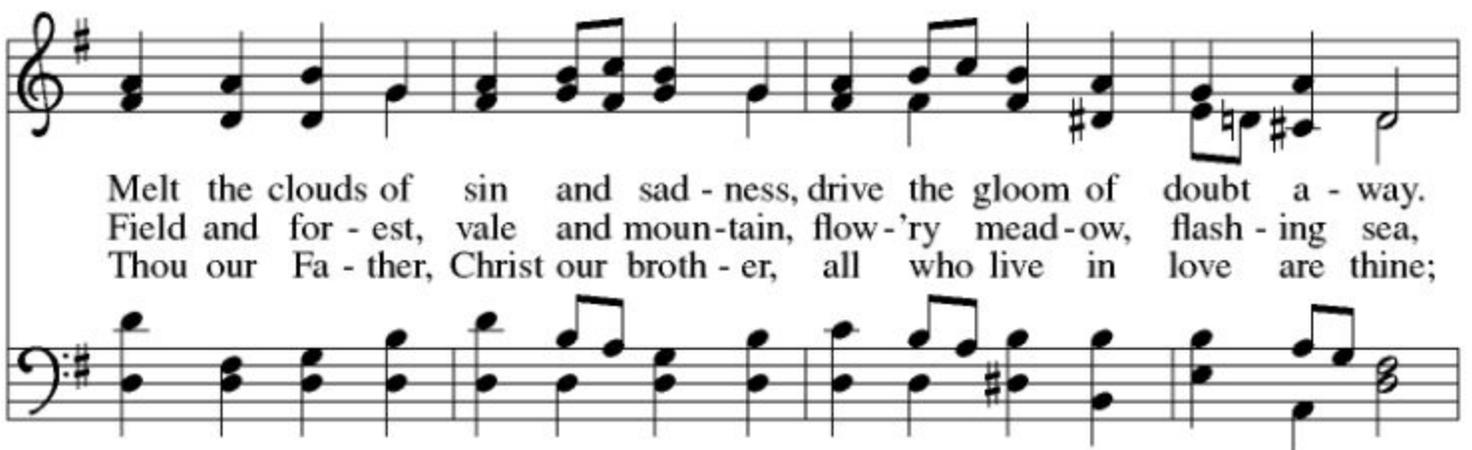
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant-ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joi - ce in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

Go out in love, reconciled to one another in Christ. Lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light. Live honourably, fulfilling the law through love for all.

And may God mark you out for salvation; May Christ Jesus be present among you always,
And may the Holy Spirit reconcile you to one another and fulfil the law of love among you.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

POSTLUDE