

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST**

**For everything there
is a season, and a
time for every
matter under
heaven:**

**June 13, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

**The Rev. Kurt Christenson, pastor
Bill Engel, piano
Paul Engel, Cantor
Lynne Falcon, Lector
Eric Sloniker, Assisting Minister
Elizabeth Connolly, Paul Engel, Jan Neuhaus, & Billie Thompson, singers
Omari Abdul-Alim, violin
Brian Jensen, sound, video, & computer**

WELCOME

+SOLA GRATIA+

A LITANY OF LAMENT FOR THOSE WHO SHARE A COMMON LOSS

Oh Christ who Mediates the Spaces Between Us.

Be present in our midst.

For in this year, we have lost persons, opportunities, innocence and time which we loved, and we do not wish the outworkings of this pain to further isolate and divide us, adding to our suffering any loss of relationship with one another.

Therefore, O God, give us grace and guidance to love each other well in this heartbroken season.

If we are to foster holy community even in our grief, we must begin by first confessing this truth: Though our lives are closely twined, and our grief is shared,
the patterns of our grieving will surely be as different as our personalities.

One of us might need space and silence to slowly process this loss,
while another might need to talk about it often.

One might need frequent distractions from their sadness, so as not to be overwhelmed,
while another might be unable to focus on anything, but their grief.

One might feel all emotions magnified, while another is too numb to feel anything. One might work long hours, or exercise till they're exhausted,
while another may hardly find motivation to get out of bed.

One might process the worst of their grief In a few, short months, or even weeks and seem to be moving on again with life,
while another might return to a sense of normalcy very slowly, And over a course of years.

Since there is no right way to grieve, there will be much room for confusion, misunderstanding and hurt feelings between us.

God, give us sympathy and compassion for one another.

Indeed, if we are to love one another well in this wounded season, we must not burden others with expectations for how they should navigate their own share of sorrow. Rather it is a season in which we must study each other's hearts. Learning to observe, to listen, to consider what the other is thinking and feeling, and what they might need—but never expecting it will be the same as our own need, and not accusing or condemning them when it isn't.

Give us sensitivity and insight O Lord. Fill us afresh and repeatedly with love and compassion for one another.

Sharing our losses with others who grieve differently will not be easy. We will not do it perfectly. Grace must be our rule, For we will need to forgive one another often. But if we would grow nearer even in this season of deep sorrows, we must strive to be mindful of and vulnerable with one another, and also to always be patient, and forgiving, and kind. **Even as you have borne our sorrows, O Christ, Let us now learn to carry one another's griefs.**

Indeed, O Spirit of God, hear our prayer, And knit our hearts closer, that we might serve each other well, sharing our burdens, growing in increasing love rather than increasing frustration, and so becoming to each other sources of strength and consolation even in the midst of our diverse ways of grieving.

Let us learn, O Lord, to offer comfort, and to receive comfort from one another.

Amen.

By Douglas McKelvey, Every Moment Holy vol. 2

GATHERING HYMN

How Long, O God

1 "How long, O God?" the psalm-ist cries, a cry we make our own,
2 The e - vil lurks with - in, with - out, it threat - ens to de - stroy
3 Your grace, O God, seems far a - way; will heal - ing ev - er come?

for we are lost, a - lone, a - fraid, and far a - way from home.
the frag - ile cords that make us one, that bind our hearts in joy.
Our bro - ken lives lie bro - ken still; will night give way to dawn?

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A TIME FOR GRIEF

Pat Lindquist

+SOLA SCRIPTURA+

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES: Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover, he has put a sense of past and future into their minds, yet they cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I know that there is nothing better for them than to be happy and enjoy themselves as long as they live; moreover, it is God's gift that all should eat and drink and take pleasure in all their toil. I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him. That which is, already has been; that which is to be, already is; and God seeks out what has gone by.

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

PSALM: Psalm 13 *(read responsively)*

Prayer for Deliverance from Enemies

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

**How long must I bear pain[a] in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?**

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
**and my enemy will say, “I have prevailed”;
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.**

But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

**I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.**

EPISTLE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God’s new creation.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And 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.

From 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. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

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

SERMON

Pastor Kurt

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Long, O God

4 How can we hope? How can we sing? O God, set free our voice
5 "How long, O God?" the psalm-ist cries, a cry we make our own.

to name the sor - rows, name the pain, that we might yet re - joice.
Though we are lost, a - lone, a - fraid, our God will lead us home.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'How Long, O God'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The first system includes two lines of lyrics: '4 How can we hope? How can we sing? O God, set free our voice' and '5 "How long, O God?" the psalm-ist cries, a cry we make our own.' The second system includes two lines of lyrics: 'to name the sor - rows, name the pain, that we might yet re - joice.' and 'Though we are lost, a - lone, a - fraid, our God will lead us home.'

Text: Ralph F. Smith, 1950–1994
Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional; arr. hymnal version
Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

+SOLA FIDE+

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**sung at beginning and end of prayers:*

**O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, when I call answer me
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer, come and listen to me**

**after each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

AN OFFERING OF SELF

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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.

EXCHANGE OF PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ: our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope; the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

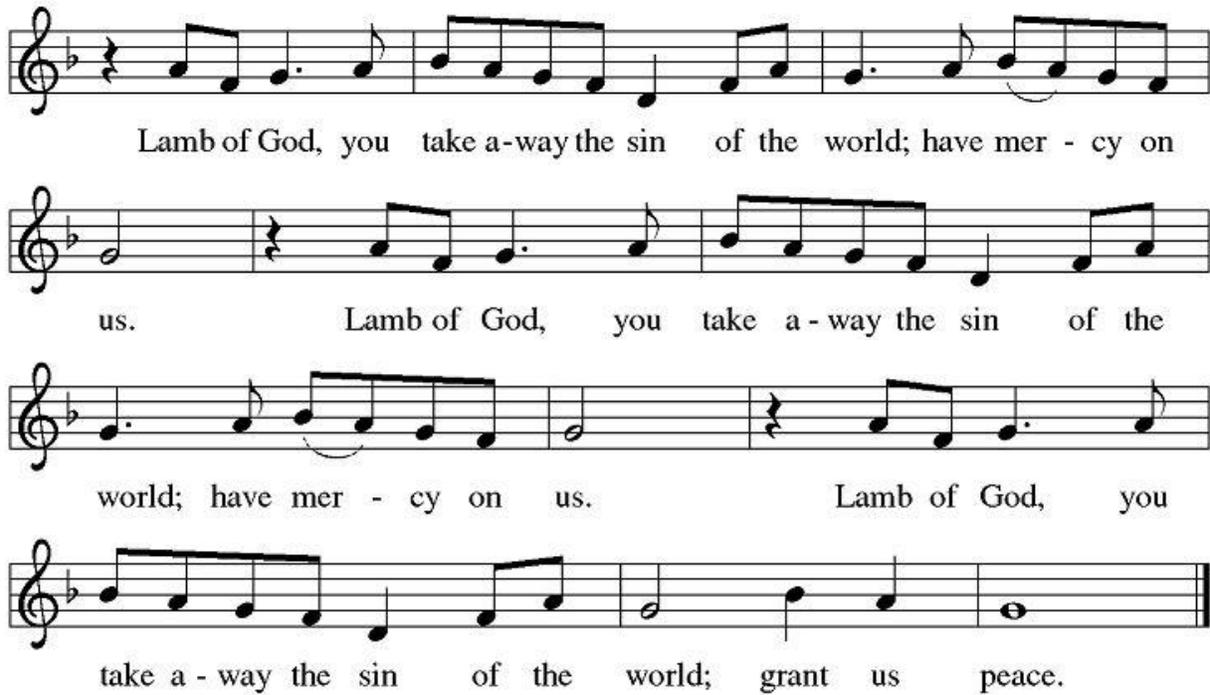
Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

**We continue to practice a conservative and cautious approach to communion. You are invited to come forward to a credence table, onto which will be placed the elements. The pastor will handle each host with tongs and after intinction place it onto a piece of parchment. The Worship Assistant will then place it on the table for you. Please take it and receive the elements of grace; broken and shed for you. There are small black receptacles on either side of the chancel for you to deposit the paper.*

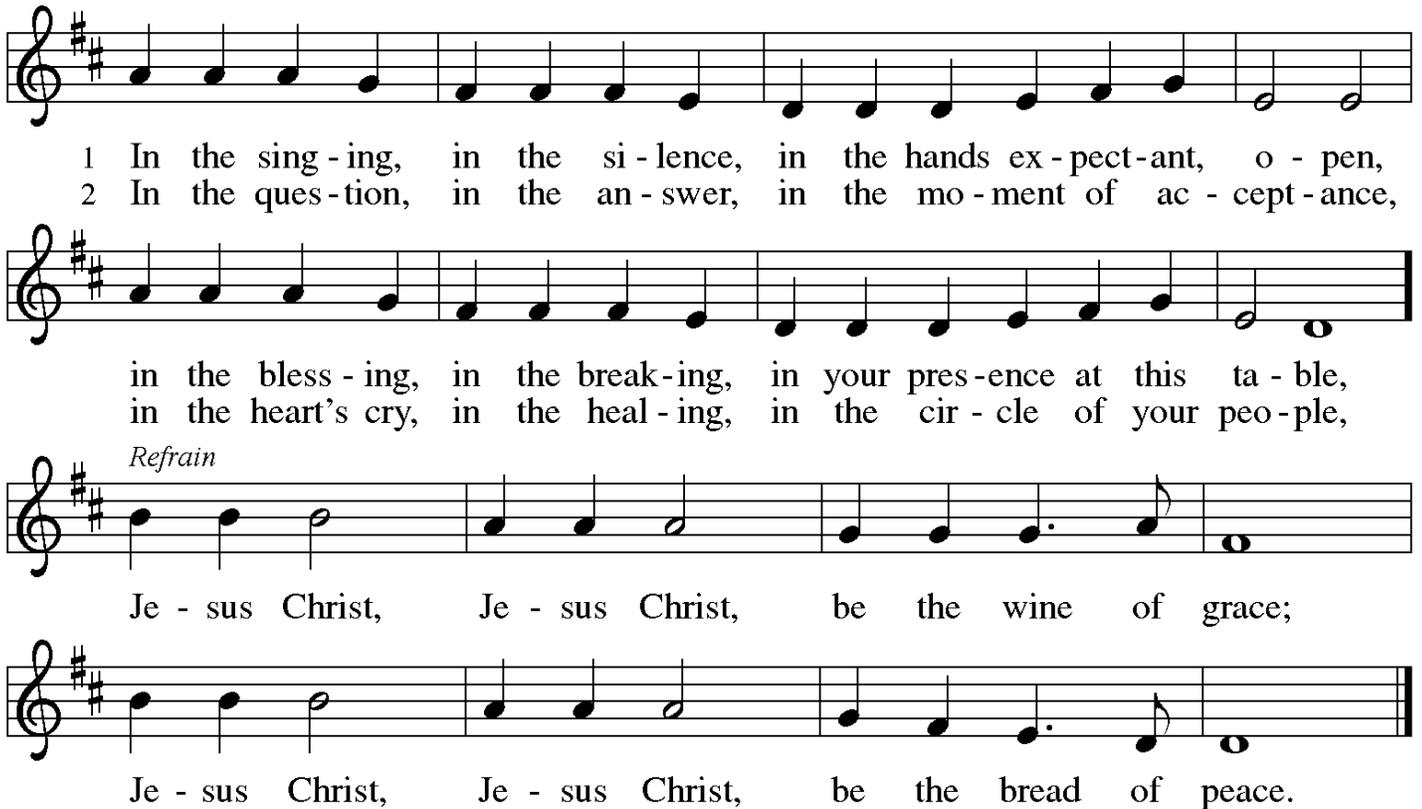
AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

In the Singing



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,
in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,
Refrain
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: BREAD OF PEACE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

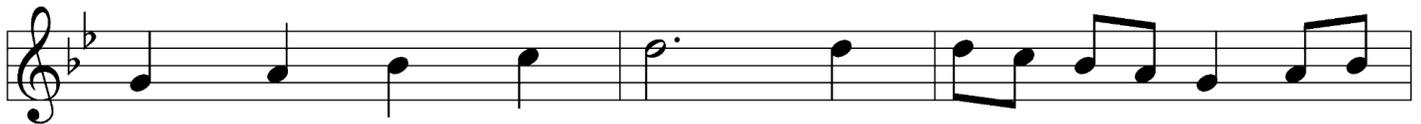
Amen.

SENDING SONG

In Suffering Love the Thread of Life



1 In suf - f'ring love the thread of life is
2 There is a rock, a place se - cure with -
3 In love's deep womb our fears are held; there
4 Lord, to our hearts your joy com - mit, in -
5 In suf - f'ring love our God comes now, hope's



wo - ven through our care, for God is with us;
in the storm's cold blast; con - cealed with - in the
God's rich tears are sown and bring to birth, in
to our hands your pain; so send us out to
vi - sion born in gloom; with tears and laugh - ter



not a - lone our pain and toil we bear.
suf - f'ring night God's cov - e - nant stands fast.
hope new - born, the strength to jour - ney on.
touch the world with bless - ings in your name.
shared and blessed the des - ert yet will bloom.

Text: Rob W. Johns, 1941-1986

Music: HIDING PLACE, J. Leavitt, *Christian Lyre*, 1830

Text © 1987 Elinor Johns, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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BLESSING & BENEDICTION

15 MONTHS ARE WASHED IN WATER AND SILENCE

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Litany of Lament

from Every Moment Holy, vol. II, Rabbit Room Press, 2021 Douglas McKelvey

confession & forgiveness, prayer of the day, offering prayer, and dismissal

from Sundays and Seasons 2021, Year B

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kyrie, preface, eucharist, sanctus, agnus dei, nunc dimittis

from Evangelical Lutheran Worship setting 2

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closing blessing

by Nathan Nettleton

a gift to the wider Church from the South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Melbourne, Australia

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