



GOD
Reigns
with Love

CELEBRATING THE GREATNESS AND LOVE OF GOD

Both Worship Celebrations

September 6, 2020

WELCOME

We are pleased that God has moved you to worship this morning.
May your soul be renewed through His Word and Spirit.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Charlotte, Michigan

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.

Psalm 33:12

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP TODAY

***Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!
Give thanks to Him; bless His name!***

Psalm 100:4 (ESV)

May your soul be renewed through God's Word and Spirit.

We pray that everything you experience today would increase your faith, give you assurance of your salvation through Jesus, and renew you spiritually.

We also pray that every one of us would have a renewed or growing sense of God's design for life in this world.

GOOD NEWS FROM GOD

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

1 John 4:9-12

"CONNECTION FORM"

We are asking that every individual or family complete a blue "Connection Form."

CHILDCARE

If you need a place to take a child during the worship, you may certainly take your child to the "NURSERY" behind the windows at the back of the sanctuary.

There is a speaker so that you can see and hear the service.

OUR FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COMMUNION POLICY

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at First Lutheran in the belief and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold any understanding different from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR LORD AND GOD INSPIRES OUR PRAISE AND CONFESSION

AN OPENING PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING AND INVITATION

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: Sovereign God, as we speak, may our confession of faith come from our hearts and be lived out in our lives.

**All: I believe in You, God. You are God from eternity --
three persons in one God.**

Pastor: You are our Father and creator.

All: You, O Father, are the almighty creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: You are our redeemer -- our savior.

**All: I believe in You, Jesus Christ. You are our Savior and Lord,
the only son of the Father. You were conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary. You suffered under Pontius Pilate
and were crucified for my sins. You died, were buried,
and descended into hell, but on the third day You rose again
from the dead. You ascended into heaven . . .
and sit on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
*There You reign as Lord of lords and King of kings.***

**I believe that You will come again to judge both the living
and the dead.**

Pastor: You are our sanctifier and encourager.

**All: I believe in You, Holy Spirit of God, because You have brought me to
faith in Christ Jesus . . . and have convinced me that He is my Savior
from sin. I believe that You have made me a part
of the holy Christian church, which is the communion of saints.
I believe that with all the saints I will rise from the dead . . .
and live eternally in Your presence. Amen.**

OUR SONG OF FAITH AND ADORATION – **LSB 802** – “Immortal, Invisible, God”
stanzas 1-3

OUR PRAYERS OF PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, AND PETITION

THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT

**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**

OUR GOD OPENS OUR EYES TO HIS GREATNESS

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 25:6-9 (NIV)

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines. {7} On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; {8} he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. {9} In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Reader: This is God's word to us through Isaiah the prophet.

THE EPISTLE READING – Philippians 4:4-13 (NIV)

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! {5} Let your gentleness be by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. {7} And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. {8} Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. {9} Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. {10} I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. {11} I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. {12} I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. {13} I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Reader: This is God's word for God's people through the apostle Paul.

THE GOSPEL READING – Matthew 22:1-14 (NIV)

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: {2} "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. {3} He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. {4} Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' {5} But they paid no attention and went off--one to his field, another to his business. {6} The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. {7} The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. {8} Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. {9} Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' {10} So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. {11} But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. {12} 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. {13} Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' {14} For many are invited, but few are chosen."

Pastor: These are the teachings of Jesus as written by His disciple Mathew.
Let's pray.

**All: O Lord, our God, Help us apply Your word to our lives
and to our congregation. Amen**

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OUR PRAYER – **LSB 686** – “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessings” – stanzas 1, 3

THE MESSAGE “Rejoice in the Lord Always”

OUTLINE AND NOTE-TAKING GUIDE

1. God says: Rejoice! Your name is "written in _____," i.e., in the "book of life." You are in the good graces of the Lord; salvation is yours.
2. Get rid of the things that drag down your _____, namely, anxiety and mind pollution.

– Anxiety

- Joy through trust in _____
 - Mind pollution
 - Joy though _____ on whatever is pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy
3. Putting into practice what we have learned from God's word brings _____ and rejoicing, but it is also a testimony to others.

OUR LORD CONTINUES TO BLESS US

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PETITION

OUR CONFESSION OF SINS

Pastor: The word of God tells us: "No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." (Romans 3:20-22) The Scriptures also teach us: "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us . . .

All: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:8-9)

Pastor: What is it that you confess to God?

**All: Most merciful God, we confess . . .
that we are by nature sinful and unclean.**

Pastor: What kinds of sins do You admit?

**All: O Lord, 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.**

Pastor: What do we all deserve because of our sin?

All: Holy God, we justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

Pastor: On what basis do You appeal to God for mercy – for forgiveness?

**All: Merciful God, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we would delight in Your will . . . and walk in Your way
. . . to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

THE PREFACE TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God, for His mercy and grace.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, almighty Father, who with Your only begotten Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, one Lord. In confessing You, the one true God, we worship the Trinity in person and the Unity in substance, of majesty coequal. Therefore with angels and all the saints in heaven, we laud Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

All: (sing)

LSB page 161

**Holy, holy, holy Lord – God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the same night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way He also took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

A SONG OF CELEBRATION AND AMAZEMENT – “Lamb of God” – LSB page 163

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace.**

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

During the distribution of the Lord's Supper, please join in singing these hymns:

LSB 729 – “I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”

LSB 709 – “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

THE POST-CMMUNION CANTICLE – “Thank the Lord” – LSB page 164

**Thank the Lord and sing His praise. Tell ev’ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

OUR POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

A TIME FOR REJOICING IN OUR CONNECTION IN THIS CONGREGATION

We are asking that every individual or family complete a blue “Connection Form.”
Tithes and offering may be put into the offering plate along with your connection form
at the back of the sanctuary.

AN INVITATION TO SHARE THE GOSPEL AND INVITE OTHERS TO WORSHIP

OUR CLOSING PRAYER IN SONG – **LSB 966** – “Before You, Lord, We Bow” – stanza 3

THE BLESSING

*Silent Prayer
Announcements*

BIND US TOGETHER, LORD

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who prepare for our worship services
and help in various ways during our worship.

First Lutheran Church

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A DAILY PRAYER

O Lord God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, give me an undivided heart . . . that is
centered on You and is totally attached to You. Help me trust You and Your word
fully. Help me love You above all people and things. Help me revere You as the
true God – my creator, provider, and protector, my savior-rescuer and model,
and my sanctifier and enabler. Help me make You my Number 1 Priority.
Protect me from evil and the evil one because I am Yours, O Lord. Amen