



GOD IS LOVE

**"Praise the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all His benefits!"**

THIS IS A DAY FOR WORSHIP

8:30 and 11:15 am Worship

September 20, 2020

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP TODAY

May your worship be blest as you hear the Word of God and respond.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Charlotte, Michigan

WELCOME TO THE FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP OF GOD'S PEOPLE.

Our prayer is that you would be encouraged spiritually today . . .
and that you would enjoy the fellowship of Jesus-followers.

WHO ARE WE?

OUR FOUNDATION STATEMENT

First Lutheran Church, Charlotte, Michigan

. . . a statement of who we are and how we function together . . .

**We are people of God, graciously saved by God through
the sacrificial death of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit.**

**In relationship with God as His family,
recognizing His love for us,
in faith we seek Him whole-heartedly,
worship and commune faithfully,
absorb God's word, pray to Him, and obey Him.**

**In relationship to others both inside and outside our family of God,
as people enlightened by the Holy Spirit to the atoning work of God's Son,
Jesus Christ, we encourage, serve, and care for others.**

**Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we evangelize, witness, and share
with a desire to make all people disciples of Jesus.**

"CONNECTION FORM" AND PRAYER REQUESTS

(a blue insert in your bulletin)

We are asking that every individual or family complete a "Connection Form"
and put it into the offering basket. Please also share your prayer requests.

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER IDEAS

Ask God to open your heart, mind, will, and spirit to His word. Ask God to help
you experience Him and our bonds of unity with Him in this time of worship.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Please help the children worship.

OUR GOD COMES TO US AND BRINGS US HIS LOVE

THE INVOCATION AND OPENING PRAISE

Vicar: We've come together for worship . . .
in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Vicar: Grace and peace to you from Him Who is, Who was,
and Who is to come, Jesus, the Alpha and Omega.

All: Amen

Vicar: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name.
Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness. (Psalm 29:2)

**All: We praise You, LORD, our God.
We praise You in this assembly of the saints . . . and out in the world.
You are the LORD who sits enthroned as king forever. (Psalm 29:10b)**

(sing) **O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.**

**Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!**

LSB 801 - "How Great Thou Art" – stanza 1

OUR CONFESSION OF SIN AND OF FAITH

Vicar: As we come into God's presence, we remember that the scriptures
tell 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)**

Vicar: Compelled by God's word and His Spirit in us,
let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**All: Most merciful God,
we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.
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.
We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.
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 ways . . .
to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

OUR RESPONSE OF PRAISE AND JOY

Vicar: Sing to the LORD, you saints of His; praise His holy name. For His anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime. (Psalm 30:4-5)

**All: I will exalt You, O LORD, for You lifted me out of the depths . . .
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.**

O LORD my God, I called to You for help and You healed me.

O LORD, You brought me up from the grave;

You spared me from going down into the pit. (Psalm 30:1-3)

(sing) **When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art.**

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee:

How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

LSB 801 - "How Great Thou Art" – stanza 3

THE LORD RENEWS AND TEACHES US THROUGH HIS WORD

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING - Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?"

¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Vicar: This is God's word for God's people.

All: Thank You, Lord.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE EPISTLE READING – Colossians 3:12-15

As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Vicar: This is God's clear instruction for us.

All: Lord, help us live according to Your desire for us. Amen.

THE GOSPEL READING – Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' ³⁰ But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Vicar: This is also God's word for us.

All: Lord, thank You for Your word. Help us to grasp its meaning and its application. Help us trust You fully and live by Your word. Amen

OUR HYMN OF FAITH – LSB 851 – "Lord of Glory You Have Bought Us"

THE LORD AND HIS WORD STIMULATE OUR RESPONSE

CONFESSION OF FAITH — The Apostles Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven . . .

and sits on the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

A SONG OF TRUST AND PRAISE - BoB 161 - "More Precious than Silver"

Lord, You are more precious than silver.

Lord, You are more costly than gold.

**Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds,
and nothing I desire compares with You.**

JESUS ASSURES US OF HIS GRACE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE PREFACE TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all time and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, everlasting God. We praise You that You sent us Your only-begotten Son and that He, taking on human flesh, has manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name.

All: (sing)

LSB page 208

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored,
heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord.
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

THE CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE BLESSING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

OUR SONG OF PRAISE – “Lamb of God”

LSB page 210

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God. You take the sin of the world away.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God. You take the sin of the world away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

We will be using a continuous flow coming from the East side of the sanctuary.

As you receive the “bread” in a little paper cup, step aside to eat “the body of Christ”
and reflect on His awesome grace for us..

As you receive the “wine” in the individual cup, step aside to drink “the blood of Christ”
as you thank Jesus for His tremendous sacrifice for us.

During the distribution please join in singing these hymns.

LSB 543 – “What Wondrous Love Is This” - stanzas 1, 3-4

LSB 537 – “Beautiful Savior”

THE DISMISSAL BLESSING

OUR POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

THE SPIRIT WORKS IN US AND SENDS US OUT

REMINDERS OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

It is truly an awesome blessing that God provides for us and protects us and meets our needs of all kinds. He is meeting needs that we cannot not even recognize.

Just think about that. Each of us is one out of billions of people on this earth, and He knows us inside and out and carefully meets all our needs. Of course, our greatest need is for rescue from our path to eternal destruction, and God has wonderfully blessed us with Jesus, our Rescuer, who made the impossible for us, possible. He did it. We just receive the benefits of His love, exhibited in His mercy and grace..

We are further blessed by being a “family” in this place, looking after one another, encouraging one another, helping each other grow and follow our God.

Please complete a “Connection Form” and put it into the plate at the back of the sanctuary. To express our recognition of His gifts and our thanksgiving, we return a portion to Him.

OUR CLOSING PRAYER IN SONG - LSB 577 - “Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast”
stanzas 1-3

THE BLESSING

Silent Prayer
Announcements

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GO OUT WITH CHRIST

As one of God’s chosen people, you have His love, peace, strength and joy!
You also have the ability to share His love, peace, strength and joy with others!

CREDITS

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THOSE WHO SERVE US

Keyboardist – Diane Johncock . . . Vicar Dan Longden
Specific Ministry Pastor Mark Gawura

Our thanks to those who prepare for our worship and serve us during worship.

OUR DAILY PRAYER

O Lord God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, give US undivided hearts that are centered on You and are totally attached to You. Help every one of us trust You and Your word fully. Help us love You above all people and things. Help us all revere You as the true God – our creator, provider, and protector, our savior-rescuer and model, and our sanctifier and enabler. Help us make You our Number 1 Priority. Protect us from evil and the evil one because we are Yours, O Lord. Amen