



A TIME FOR WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION

September 12, 2021

11:15 AM More Modern Worship

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?

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

"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.

CHILDCARE

If you need a place to take a child during the worship, you may certainly take
your child to the room behind the windows at the back of the sanctuary.
There is a speaker so that you can see and hear the service.

PONDER THESE WORDS OF JESUS

*"I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words
and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house,
who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came,
the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built."*

Luke 6:47-48

THINGS HAPPENING TODAY

We are starting our fall ventures in spiritual growth for all ages, including our Sunday School.
We will be asking our Sunday School staff members and other teachers to rise
for a blessing and prayer. Of course, Sunday School and Bible classes start at 10:00.
We hope you will join us every Sunday for those spiritual growth opportunities.

PRE-SERVICE PRAYER IDEAS

Before we worship, 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.
Pray that God would fill the spirits of all who worship, causing us to lift up His glorious
name in thanksgiving and praise. Pray that anyone who does not yet trust God's promise
of salvation through Jesus and trust Jesus as his/her Savior would do so today.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR GOD HAS POURED HIS SPIRIT INTO US

Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 5:1-2, 5

AN OPENING PRAYER

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: In the creeds of the Christian church we confess our faith in the Triune God -- the God who reveals Himself in the Scriptures as three persons in one God. Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: Yes, I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

**All: Yes, I believe 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 at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

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

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**All: Yes, 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**

adapted from the Apostles Creed

OUR PRAYER IN SONG – “Give Us Clean Hands”

THE PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, AND PETITIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

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**

THE TRUE GOD TEACHES US HIS TRUTH

Acts 3:13-15, 17-26

Peter testifies: The God of Abraham has glorified His servant Jesus.

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ... ¹⁷ Now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you--even Jesus. ²¹ He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. ²² For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. ²³ Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from among his people.' ²⁴ Indeed, all the prophets from Samuel on, as many as have spoken, have foretold these days. ²⁵ And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' ²⁶ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways."

1 John 5:1-6

John testifies: Christ's victory has overcome the world.

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. ² This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. ³ This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, ⁴ for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. ⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is

the Son of God. ⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood – Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: Christ has risen from the dead. We are at peace with God.

People: God the Father has crowned Jesus with glory and honor.

Pastor: He has made Him ruler over the works of His hands;

He has put everything under His feet. (Heb. 2:7-8, Eph. 1:22, 1 Cor. 15:27)

All: Hallelujah!

Pastor: As John wrote: "This is love for God: to obey His commands."

All: O Lord, help us live as You desire.

Compel us and empower us. Amen

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OUR HYMN OF PRAISE – "Living Hope"

THE MESSAGE FOR TODAY — "One People, One Faith, One Mission"

Ephesians 4:11-13

Galatians 3:28

Colossians 3:12-17

John 20:29-31

John 20:20b-23

Luke 19:10

John 3:17-18

1 Peter 2:24

Romans 10:14, 17

John 20:23

THE LORD HEARS OUR PRAYERS

OUR PRAYER OF RESPONSE

**O Lord God, what a joy to know how much You sacrificed for us.
Lord Jesus, You suffered the agony we should have suffered.
You bore the punishment for our guilt.
You have made us one in You – united.
Help us to treasure You and Your gifts to us.
Help us to trust You fully and live in the one true faith.
Help us to follow You – just as You fulfilled the will of the Father.
Guide us as we seek and save the lost. Amen**

AN ENCOURAGEMENT TO CONFESS OUR SINS

OUR CONFESSION OF SINS IN QUESTION AND ANSWER FORMAT

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF FORGIVENESS

THE PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE INSTALLATION AND BLESSING OF THOSE LEADING, TEACHING, AND ASSISTING IN OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH MINISTRIES

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**

THE LORD SENDS US OUT

THE GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERING

Giving our tithes and offerings is a wonderful expression of our trust in the God
who has rescued us from damnation and put His Spirit into us.
He has truly blessed us with great spiritual gifts . . . and with bodies and souls,
homes and families, learning and recreation, etc., etc.
The Lord God promises blessings to those who honor Him, as we see in the Scriptures.

OUR EXPRESSION OF FAITH IN SONG – “Who You Say I Am”

THE BLESSING

*Silent Prayer
Announcements*

.....
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

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PETITION

Almighty and gracious God, all life is a gift from You – physical life, spiritual life, and an abundant life. Help me each day to revere You, to desire Your word, to follow Your word and live wisely, to be filled with Your Spirit, and to seek to be a godly influence on others.

A DAILY PRAYER FOR THE ABSORBPTION AND APPLICATION OF GOD’S WORD

O LORD, Triune God, You who saved us from our eternal damnation,
we pray for You to work in our lives through Your word.

Help us to absorb Your word into our souls and to be moved by its power.

Help us, by the power of Your Spirit to apply Your word to every facet of our lives. Amen

A PRAYER FOR OUR DIRECTION IN MISSION

Lord, we know Your will – it’s to see all people saved and that none should perish! We ask that You also reveal to us the specific timing, plans and locations You are calling us to as we partner with You in the fulfillment of Your will. Continue to call us to GO and show us just what that looks like in these unusual times. We believe Your message is LIFE, and we want to take it wherever You lead. Show us the way, and we will follow. We pray In Jesus’ name, Amen.

A PRAYER FOR OUR DAILY LIVES OF WORSHIP

O Lord Jesus, what an awesome gift to experience Your sacrifice and remember Your great sacrificial love. We praise You for the overwhelming sacrifice You made for us. We are awed. Help us live every moment of every day in worship – honoring You, trusting You, living for You, obeying You, zealously following You, revering You, exalting You, and loving You. Grow us in all those facets of worship. Amen

THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

- Ask God to open our eyes to the possibilities for sharing the message of salvation with others around us in our neighborhoods, our work places, our networks of friends, etc.
- Ask God to make us bold in sharing our faith, our spiritual insights, our trust in Jesus
- Ask God to help us just to talk about our faith or trust, our beliefs, our insights in our families
- Pray that God would bless the efforts of all those who share the gospel . . . with neighbors and friends, co-workers, and relatives and those who share the gospel to the ends of the earth.
- Pray that the Spirit of God would fill us with joy as we live in faith so that the people of our world would see in us the joy in knowing God and having His salvation.
- Ask the Spirit of God to continue deepening our understanding of His unfathomable greatness
- Ask God to impress the good news of life and salvation in Jesus Christ on us so that we are firm in faith and untouched by the ploys of the devil.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of the billions of people around the world who do not know and trust Jesus as their only hope of eternal life
- Seek the zeal of the Spirit for living your faith
- Pray that more and more people in our community would trust Jesus as their Savior and only hope of eternal life with God
- Urge the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of your family members who do not trust Jesus
- Pray for the leaders of First Lutheran Church that we would be examples of people fully devoted to our Savior and God in their worship, prayer, Bible study, and involvement in ministry
- Pray that each board chairperson would build a team of people and work to build their ministry
- Seek God's guidance for your area of ministry and for direction and boldness for expanding it
- Seek God's direction for all our Targets for Improvement
- Pray that people of God would see the need for them to worship regularly with the body of believers at First
- Pray for the saints of First Lutheran that all of us would be renewed in spirit daily
- Ask God to get us out of ruts of complacency and give us eyes to see His vision for us
- Ask the Spirit of God to lead us to Scriptures which touch our needs
- Seek the Holy Spirit's direction daily for every person of our congregation
- Pray for the Elders and their ministry to and with the families under their spiritual care
- Pray to the people in our congregation and around the world who pull away for following God
- Ask the Holy Spirit to draw us to lives of prayer – praising, thanking, confessing, and asking
- Pray for renewal in our collective spiritual fervor for God and the things of God.
- Ask God to impress upon us the need for a daily lives of worship – honoring God, trusting Him, living for Him, obeying Him, zealously following Him, revering Him, exalting Him, and loving Him.