

June 25, 2023: No Easy Path

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity,† one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings.

We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

we confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak. We

have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail.

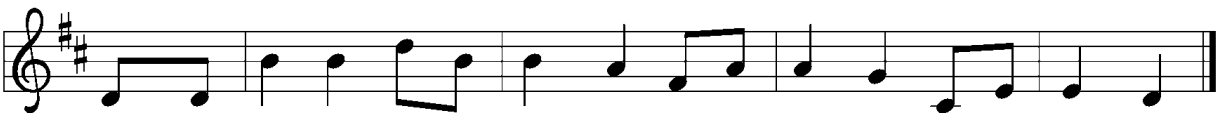
Receive the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Children of the Heavenly Father: Tryggare kan ingen vara* (ELW 781)



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune


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Kyrie (ELW p. 184)

The words "kyrie eleison" are an ancient prayer meaning "Lord have mercy". Some settings of the kyrie are more penitential in nature but this one is an upbeat celebration of God's grace. The worship leaders will sing the verses and the congregation will join on the refrain.

Refrain




Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

Each verse ends with:

Congregation enters:



Refrain


let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 185)

Refrain



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, the high - est, and



peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you



for your glo - ry. *Refrain*

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
A - men. A - men. A - men.

Final refrain

Prayer of the Day

Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

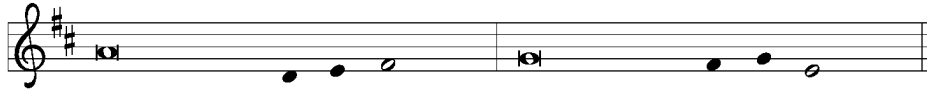
Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-13

- ⁷O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me.
⁸For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.
⁹If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.
¹⁰For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him."
¹¹But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.
¹²O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.
¹³Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

PSALM: Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18



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⁷Surely, for your sake I have suf- | fered reproach,
and shame has cov- | ered my face.
⁸**I have become a stranger to | my own kindred,
an alien to my | mother's children.**
⁹Zeal for your house has eat- | en me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fall- | en upon me.
¹⁰**I humbled my- | self with fasting,
but that was turned to | my reproach. R**
¹⁶**Answer me, O LORD, for your | love is kind;
in your great compassion, | turn to me.**
¹⁷Hide not your face | from your servant;
be swift and answer me, for I am | in distress.
¹⁸**Draw near to me | and redeem me;
because of my enemies de- | liver me. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 6:1b-11

^{1b}Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? ²By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel using the words of Peter in John 6:68

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 10:24-39

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ. Today's Gospel is not printed due to length. It is on page 10 in the New Testament (back 1/3) of the pew Bibles. The reading concludes with:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY *Will You Come and Follow Me: The Summons (ELW 798)*



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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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.

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends with the words "God, in your mercy," and the assembly responds with "hear our prayer."

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving Dialogue

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.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW p. 190)



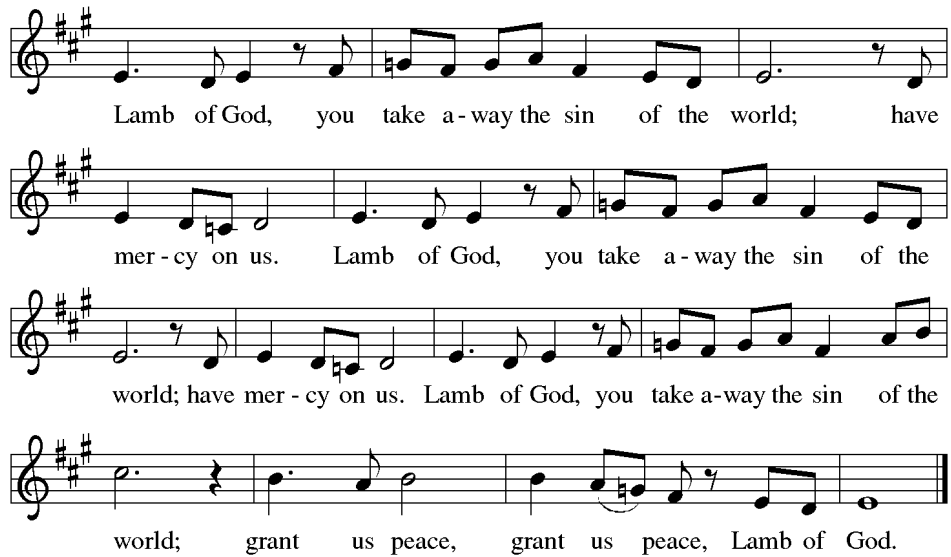
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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.

Invitation to Communion, Lamb Of God



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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Song: *We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus* (ELW 451)



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je-sus, we are bap-tized in his death;
2 In the wa-ter and the wit-ness, in the break-ing of the bread,
3 Glo-ry be to God the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son,
that as Christ is raised vic-tor-ious, we might live a brand new life.
in the wait-ing arms of Je-sus who is ris-en from the dead,
glo-ry to the Ho-ly Spir-it, ev-er three and ev-er one;
And if we have been u-nit-ed in a dread-ful death like his,
God has made a new be-gin-ning from the ash-es of our past;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, glo-ry now re-sounds a-gain
we will all be re-u-nit-ed, for he lives.
in the los-ing and the win-ning we hold fast.
in a song that has no end-ing. . . . A-men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker
Text and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker

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Prayer after Communion

We thank you, generous God, for the refreshment we have received at your banquet table. Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world, through the one who is our dearest treasure, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The God who calls across the cosmos and speaks in the smallest seed
✚ bless, keep, and sustain you now and to the end of the age. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (ELW 543)

This is one of our hymn suggestions from the congregation, a summer practice here at First Lutheran. You are invited to write a suggestion from our hymnal and put it in the basket on the table at the building entrance.



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.