

Grace Lutheran Church
Order of Service
March 29, 2020

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

Merciful God, Forgive us, for we have fallen short of your vision for humanity. We have put ourselves before others, ignored the vulnerable, and forgotten you altogether. We have missed the point of your kingdom. Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, amen.

Pause, then...

Children, you are not forgotten. Jesus knows your struggles and your weakness and yet sees through to your true identity, beloved child of God. You are made whole simply by seeking forgiveness.

God who is rich in mercy loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. Receive the Lord's pardon and believe that it is true. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Amen.

***Opening Hymn Lord I Need You**

Lord, I come, I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
Without You I fall apart
You're the One that guides my heart

Lord, I need You, oh, I need You
Every hour I need You
My one defense, my righteousness
Oh God, how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
Where You are, Lord, I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
When I cannot stand I'll fall on You
Jesus, You're my hope and stay

***Greeting/Kyrie**

May God be with you all
And also with you

Let us sing our thanks to God
It is right to give god thanks and praise

Blessed are you, creator of the universe. From old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are a light to our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation. **Amen.**

Canticle

Joyous Light

Joyous light of heav'nly glory,
loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story,
shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us,
we shall raise our songs to you.
God of daybreak, God of shadows,
come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness,
in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom,
we can hear your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder,
love that warms the weary soul,
love that bursts all chains asunder,
set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor,
ev'ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice,
let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all creation,
gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation,
lead us on to endless day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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***Prayer of the Day**

O Lord,
No one on earth knows the hour when you will return in glory. Keep us watchful and awake for that moment but also mindful that you are present with us always, even in our moments of darkness, even now, that we might always be at work in your kingdom, for the sake of Jesus, Amen.

Word

Psalm 102:12-17

Our first reading is from the One Hundred and Second Psalm, verses twelve through seventeen.

- ¹² But you, O Lord, are enthroned forever;
your name endures to all generations.
- ¹³ You will rise up and have compassion on Zion,
for it is time to favor it;
the appointed time has come.
- ¹⁴ For your servants hold its stones dear,
and have pity on its dust.
- ¹⁵ The nations will fear the name of the Lord,
and all the kings of the earth your glory.
- ¹⁶ For the Lord will build up Zion;
he will appear in his glory.
- ¹⁷ He will regard the prayer of the destitute,
and will not despise their prayer

Scripture Introduction

Jesus taught the disciples about the end of all things. But in his words, they learned about the things of now. Be awake and watchful. Life is happening all around us.

Focus Scripture Mark 13:1-8, 24-37

13As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

²⁴“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until

all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Children’s Time
Musical Offering
Message

Rev. John Odegard

***Hymn of the Day** **Lord of all Hopefulness**

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| <p>1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.</p> <p>2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the
lathe:
be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the
day.</p> | <p>3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:
be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.</p> <p>4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is
balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.</p> |
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Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

Apostle’s Creed

Together with the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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.**

Prayers of the Church

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

We come before you from all corners of the earth, separated physically but joined into your one holy church. We lift up before you all those who are working to keep your beloved children safe and healthy at this time, who are putting themselves in danger for the health and betterment of others. We pray for our leaders that wisdom would guide them, and that, as you have instructed us to take our signs from the fig tree, their judgements would be informed by the realities unfolding in the world around us.

Give comfort, Lord, to those who are hurting in this time, especially those who suffer from depression and anxiety, both afflictions that are made worse through isolation and uncertain times.

Teach us to care for our neighbors who do not have a home in which to take shelter right now. Help us to seek solutions that bring justice to all of your children, regardless of social or economic divisions and barriers.

There are many who claim to have special knowledge of your plan to redeem the earth, O Lord. Do not allow us to be led astray, keeping us focused instead upon all the ways you are calling us to live out our discipleship here and now.

Send your Spirit also to those whom we know are suffering, *especially...Bill, LaDonna, Randel, Loren, Margaret, Renee, Dick, Vi, Robyn, David, and Andrew. You know our hearts and our needs, and so now, we take a moment to silently lift up those for whose needs lie heavy on our hearts...*

We celebrate Hans Nielsen Hauge, who renewed the church in Norway, promoted a living faith among its members, and advocated for working people's rights. Bless all who follow in his example. Eternal God,

Bless all for whom we pray this day, and keep us alert to the ways you are working in the world. In Jesus' name, amen.

Virtual sharing of the peace

Meal

Offering

Offering Prayer

The things which we value are rarely eternal ones, O God. Teach us to let go of worldly temptations and to offer what resources we have: time, abilities, and wealth, to your service. Bless these gifts we bring before you, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Remembrance of Communion

Lord's Prayer *Traditional*

**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.**

Sending

Blessing

Closing Hymn

Here I am, Lord

ELW #574

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?"

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

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Dismissal

Postlude