



christ lutheran hellertown

You are welcome here.

Come join the journey.

September 13, 2020

Worship Service

10 a.m.

Welcome to worship today.

Welcome to this real live community of Faith, Christ Lutheran Church!

We hope that your virtual presence among us this morning will enliven your spirit.

We are glad and grateful to have you worshipping with us.

WELCOME BACK STEVE WYSOCKI, OUR MINISTER OF MUSIC!

“Our view of others is often not so much one of factual observation as much as subjective perspective, We see things not as they are, but as we are.”

Coached by Jesus, pg 17. Nancy Nelson

Prelude

“The Lord’s Prayer”

GWOH Presentation

Welcome

No matter who you are or where you are on your journey,
you are welcome here!

We are gathered and ready and aware of God’s presence

Chime

Silence

Prayer

Gathering Song

“Bring Your Kingdom Here”

WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD

First Reading:

Kathie Jones

Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions.

²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not

despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to God, and if we die, we die to God; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we belong to God. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Genesis 4:8-24 (NRSV)

⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let us go out to the field." And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is your brother Abel?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" ¹⁰ And the LORD said, "What have you done? Listen; your brother's blood is crying out to me from the ground!

¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. ¹² When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth."

¹³ Cain said to the LORD, "My punishment is greater than I can bear! ¹⁴ Today you have driven me away from the soil, and I shall be hidden from your face; I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and anyone who meets me may kill me."

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, "Not so! Whoever kills Cain will suffer a sevenfold vengeance." And the LORD put a mark on Cain, so that no one who came upon him would kill him.

¹⁶ Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD, and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

¹⁷ Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch; and he built a city, and named it Enoch after his son Enoch.

¹⁸ To Enoch was born Irad; and Irad was the father of Mehujael, and Mehujael the father of Methushael, and Methushael the father of Lamech.

¹⁹ Lamech took two wives; the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.

²⁰ Adah bore Jubal; he was the ancestor of those who live in tents and have livestock.

²¹ His brother's name was Jubal; he was the ancestor of all those who play the lyre and pipe.

²² Zillah bore Tubal-cain, who made all kinds of bronze and iron tools. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

²³ Lamech said to his wives:

"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice;
you wives of Lamech, listen to what I say:
I have killed a man for wounding me,
a young man for striking me.

²⁴ If Cain is avenged sevenfold,
truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold."

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Help us God, as we seek to interpret what this means for our lives.

Message

Message Song

“Forgiveness”

Matthew West –sung by Deb and Steve Wysocki

It's the hardest thing to give away
And the last thing on your mind today
It always goes to those who don't deserve
It's the opposite of how you feel
When they pain they caused is just too real
Takes everything you have to say the word
Forgiveness, forgiveness
It flies in the face of all your pride
It moves away the mad inside
It's always anger's own worst enemy
Even when the jury and the judge
Say you've got a right to hold a grudge
It's the whisper in your ear saying set it free

Forgiveness, forgiveness
Show me how to love the unlovable
Show me how to reach the unreachable
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness
It'll clear the bitterness away
It can even set a prisoner free
There is no end to what its power can do
So let it go and be amazed by what you see through eyes of grace
The prisoner that it really frees is you
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Show me how to love the unlovable
Show me how to reach the unreachable
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Songwriters: Matthew West / Matthew Joseph West
Forgiveness lyrics © Warner Chappell Music, Inc, Kobalt Music Publishing Ltd.

Prayers

Anne Baum

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Let us begin with our own silent, personal prayers. *A brief silence.*

O God, you welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Lead us as we work to strengthen our faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Guide us as we search for new ministries of education and growth.

Oh God we will pass on the light of faith, **through the way we live.**

The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you for guidance as we search for ways to heal, renew, and redeem your world.

Oh God we will pass on the light of faith, **through the way we live.**

Make your ways known to the nations. Help us to speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom, kindness and understanding, and love and respect for all people. We will support those who act in these ways.

Oh God we will pass on the light of faith, **through the way we live.**

Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Help us to make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors.

Oh God we will pass on the light of faith, **through the way we live.**

We remember and pray for those who are in need of healing in many ways. Especially today we pray for *Jim, Mary Ann and Esther, Geoff Baer, Neil McCardle, Margaret Drake, Diane Voron, Timmy Henn, Jr., Andrea & Jerry, Kyle, Rod, Ruth, Linda, Rudy, Hugh, Joanne, Allison, Sean, Courtney, Lorraine, Kay, Cathy, Kristen, Dale Kichline, Lorane & Larry, Debbie Riegel, Wendy, Tony & Karen, Gene Heft, Molly, Carol Mitchell, Joe Kupsky, Teri, Patti Ruth, Baby Silas, Dawn Ward, Doris Icove, Dianne Diehl, Melissa, Donna B., Kathy Kunsman and Megan.*

Congratulations to Suzanne & Michel Daage on the birth of their grandson, Denver Thomas Lamb.

*The Rev. Howard Weidemoyer & Marguerite Dawson in hospice care and those we name in our hearts. **A brief silence.***

Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have shown us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you.

Oh God we will pass on the light of faith, **through the way we live.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The 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.

Closing Hymn

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

Sung Benediction

"Edelweiss"

May the Lord, mighty God,
Bless and keep you forever,
Grant you peace, inner peace,
Faith for every endeavor.
Lift up your eyes and receive His grace,
And His love forever.
May the Lord, mighty God,
Bless and keep you forever.

Dismissal: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour