



July 27, 2016
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PRAYER
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Wonder Window Children's Center
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Our Mission Statement
Lutheran Church of Prayer walks with others and teaches the
Word of God through relationships and personal example.

Welcome Friends & Guests!

We pray you will be blessed by our worship today. A welcome packet can be found at the Welcome Center Desk in our lobby. Please pick one up. Each family is asked to fill out an attendance card. Place the completed card in the offering plate. If you have a prayer request to be included in the service, please write your requests on the blue Prayer Requests sheet found in the pew rack and hand it directly to an Usher before worship begins.

A Time for Quiet Meditation

As you enter the sanctuary for worship you are encouraged to use this time for prayer and meditation to prepare your hearts to worship our Lord and to look over the worship bulletin. Visiting with friends can be done in the narthex area so others will not be disturbed. Thank you.

Offering

The offering is an act of worship for members and friends of Lutheran Church of Prayer, moved by God's love, to support the mission of the church. We do not want guests to feel obligated to participate. We want you to feel welcome and we truly wish to serve you! God bless you!

Standing

If at any time during the service it becomes uncomfortable for you to stand, please feel free to sit down, even if others are standing. God knows our strengths and understands our weaknesses too.

Organist, David Collins • Choir Director, David Ortiz
Pianist, David Collins • Handbell Director, Judy Houston
Praise Band Director, Tammy Poynor

Serving Us Today

Pastor Pastor Dwayne Hendricks
Elder Harry Kralej
Ushers Richard Kuhn & Jerry Sturz
Reader Ken Madding
Greeters Diane Blankenship & Brenda Higgins
Altar Circle Carolyn Schaefer & Betty Jordin

As We Gather

God's Word instructs us to stay connected to Christ. We experience that connection as we gather to hear God's Word, dine at our Lord's Table, and pray persistent, bold prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, communities, and world. Today we hear Abraham pleading with God on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah. We hear Jesus teaching His disciples to pray. Jesus then illustrates the power of bold, persistent prayer and affirms the goodness of the One who hears our prayers. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time" (1 Timothy 2:5–6).

Prelude:

"I Choose to Worship"

By Rend Collective

"I Choose to Worship"

By Rend Collective

Welcome

Song:

"Lord I Lift Your Name on High"

Music and Lyrics By: Rick Founds

**Lord, I lift your name on high,
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you are in my life.
I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift your name on high.**

**Lord, I lift your name on high,
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you are in my life.
I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift your name on high.**

**You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift your name on high.**

**Lord, I lift your name on high,
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you are in my life.
I'm so glad you came to save us.**

**You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift your name on high.
Lord, I lift your name on high.
Lord, I lift your name on high**

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

P Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

C **The Mighty One, God the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Our God comes; He does not keep silence; before Him is a devouring fire, around Him a mighty tempest.**

P Jesus says, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”

C **He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that He may judge His people.**

- P** The apostle Paul writes, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”
- C** **God says, “Gather to Me My faithful ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!”**
- P** Jesus said, “You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you.”
- C** **“Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, and call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.”**
- P** Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Confession and Absolution *1 Thessalonians 5:23–24*

- P** Most merciful God,
- C** **we call upon You because we are troubled by our sins—our sinful thoughts, words, and actions. We are equally troubled by those times when we have failed to act or speak up. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus, who delivered us through His perfect life, death, and resurrection so that we may glorify You with our lives.**

P Our God hears our prayers for mercy and graciously forgives our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Go in peace.

C Amen.

Psalm:

Psalm 138; antiphon: v. 3

¹I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;

²I bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love
and your faithfulness,
for you have exalted above all things
your name and your word.

³On the day I called, you answered me;
my strength of soul you increased.

⁴All the kings of the earth shall give you thanks, O
LORD,

for they have heard the words of your mouth,

⁵and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD,
for great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly,
but the haughty he knows from afar.

⁷Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve my life;
you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my
enemies,
and your right hand delivers me.
⁸The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus Christ,
to be the rock upon whom our lives are built.

C **Help us rest securely in Your promises and find
strength in Your mighty deliverance;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated

Song: "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

Verse 1

**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
And his righteousness,
And all these things will be added unto you.
Al- le- lu, al-l e- lu -ia.**

Verse 2

**Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and you shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Al- le- lu, al-l e- lu -ia.**

Chorus

**Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia
Al - le - lu - ia, Al-le -lu – Al- le- lu- ia**

Verse 3

**Man shall not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Al- le- lu, al-l e- lu -ia.**

Chorus x's 2

**Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia
Al - le - lu - ia, Al-le -lu – Al- le- lu- ia**

Old Testament Reading:

Genesis 18:20–33

²⁰Then the LORD said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, ²¹I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me. And if not, I will know.”

²²So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD. ²³Then Abraham drew near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? ²⁴Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? ²⁵Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?”

²⁶And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

²⁷Abraham answered and said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. ²⁸Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking. Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.”

²⁹Again he spoke to him and said, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” ³⁰Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.”

³¹He said, “Behold, I have undertaken to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” ³²Then he said, “Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.” ³³And the LORD went his way, when he had finished speaking to Abraham, and Abraham returned to his place.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading:

Colossians 2:6–19

⁶Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through

faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

¹⁶Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Song:

“Fear to Faith”

By Covenant Worship

Sung by the Fourth Sunday Band

Please stand

Holy Gospel:

Luke 11:1–13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” ²And he said to them, “When you pray, say:

“Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³Give us each day our daily bread,

⁴and forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us.

And lead us not into temptation.”

⁵And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹And I tell you, ask, and it

will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; ¹²or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C 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 at 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.**

Song:

“I Come to the Cross”
By Maranatha! Music

Verse: [Fourth Sunday Band only]

*I come to the cross-seeking mercy & grace,
I come to the cross where You died in my place.
Out of my weakness & into Your strength,
Jesus, I come to the cross.*

Verse: [Congregation join into the end]

**I come to the cross-seeking mercy & grace,
I come to the cross where You died in my place.
Out of my weakness & into Your strength,
Jesus, I come to the cross.**

Chorus:

**Your arms are open, You call me by name,
You welcome this child that was lost,
You paid the price for my guilt & my shame,
Jesus, I come,
Jesus, I come,
Jesus, I come to the cross**

Verse:

**I come to the cross-seeking mercy & grace,
I come to the cross where You died in my place,
Out of my weakness & into Your strength,
Jesus, I come to the cross.**

Chorus:

**Your arms are open, You call me by name,
You welcome this child that was lost,
You paid the price for my guilt & my shame,
Jesus, I come,
Jesus, I come,
Jesus, I come to the cross**

Jesus, I come to the cross

Sermon: “Ask, Seek, Knock, Find!”

Offering:

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

By Paul Baloche

Sung by Fourth Sunday Band

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, You hear the prayers of Your dear children and care for all their needs of body and soul. As we come before You with our petitions, unburden our hearts from the weight of our sins and troubles, and give us faith to live in light of Your promises. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P O Lord, You have bestowed a high honor and duty upon Your Church by teaching her to pray and promising to hear her. Bless our pastors in their prayers for Your people, and hear us all as we offer our petitions in the name of Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Everlasting God, You have called the hearts of fathers to their children by bringing Your Son into our world. Nurture the life of prayer in the homes of Your people, that we all would know the full blessing of Your fatherly care. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Lord God, You have ordered the nations that men would seek after You. Curb the wickedness of this world, embolden the witness of the righteous, and make our nation a repentant and faithful place where Your gracious presence is welcomed with thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Righteous Lord, You do not wink at wickedness, and You promise that Your patience with evil will not last forever. As You punished Sodom and rescued Lot in days of old, save Your people today and vanquish our enemies. Give us prayerful hearts to leave all vengeance in Your hands. Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to
you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you
peace.
C Amen.

Announcements

Song:

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

Traditional Hymn

Arrangement and chorus lyrics by Tammy Poynor

(PRAISE BAND ONLY)

What a friend we have in Jesus,

All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer

Verse 1: [Congregation join in to end of song]

What a friend we have in Jesus,

All our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry

Everything to God in prayer

Oh, what peace we often forfeit,

Oh, what needless pain we bear

all because we do not carry

everything to God in prayer.

CHORUS:

Take it to the Lord in prayer, in prayer

Take it to the Lord in prayer

Take it to the Lord in prayer, in prayer

Take it to the Lord in Prayer

Verse 2

Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged,

Everything to God in prayer.

**Can we find a friend so faithful?
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer**

CHORUS

**Take it to the Lord in prayer, in prayer
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Take it to the Lord in prayer, in prayer
Take it to the Lord in Prayer**

Verse 3

**Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.**

CHORUS 2XS

**Take it to the Lord in prayer, in prayer
Take it to the Lord in prayer
Take it to the Lord in prayer, in prayer
Take it to the Lord in Prayer**

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Acknowledgments

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+ What We Believe +

God: is Triune, Father, Son, Holy Spirit; Three Persons, One Essence. He is the only true God: *Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 8:4*

Jesus: is true God, equal to the Father and Holy Spirit, the only Savior of mankind. *John 5:23; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 20:28*

Sin: all mankind is wicked; by nature the human race is spiritually blind, dead, broken in heart/mind, and in need of restoration with God and each other. God's wrath abides on all. *Genesis 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23, 7:15, 18; Mark 7:20-23; John 3:36.*

Justification: Sin and God's wrath against it has been dealt with by God through the death of God the Son on the cross. All have salvation through the blood of Jesus where our Father no longer holds our wickedness and sin against us but declares us righteous. We have peace again with God through faith in Jesus. This good news gives believers hope, peace, joy, and love to live as Christians. *Romans 5:1-10; John 3:16, 36; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 2:1-2; Corinthians 5:18-21.*

Conversion: to faith in the Savior is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God (spoken, written, and sacramental). In the message of the cross God gathers His family. *Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 1:23; John 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 12:3.*

Holy Baptism: is a gracious work of the Holy Spirit Who creates faith, washes away sins, and connects us to Jesus and His body the church. *John 3:5-6; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27, 1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13.*

The Holy Spirit's Work: Converted through faith in Jesus our human nature still threatens our unity with God and each other. Reconciliation, that is repentance and faith, is the daily rhythm of believers. Guilt and sorrow are promptings of the Holy Spirit for us to speak with God confessing thoughts, words, and actions asking Him for forgiveness in Jesus' name. *Ephesians 4:30-32; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Hebrews 10:19-25.*

The Lord's Supper: or Holy Communion is Christ's True Body and Blood, where He is really present in the bread and wine to assure us of forgiveness. We gather to receive Jesus often because we daily sin much and are in constant need of His power to live the Christian life of faith, hope, and love/charity. *John 6:53-59; 15:5; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16.*

Scripture: is inspired by God, without error and is our solid guide to life. *John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16.*

Creation: happened according to Genesis 1-2. Evolution is unscriptural, unscientific, and unnecessary. *Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6.*

2nd Coming: of Jesus will be sudden/unexpected. *2 Peter 3:10; Mark 13:32; Matthew 24.* We are living in the New Testament era where we rule with Jesus in the activity of sharing His message of love. *1 Corinthians 15:23-26; Ephesians 2:1-7; Matthew 28:19-20; Revelation 20:4-6*