

WE ARE GATHERED

Worship Song – **IF YOU NEVER**

Worship Song – **GRAVES INTO GARDENS**

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS (*pastor front center*)

-
- _____
-
- WL: Last Announcement: Let us stand, turn to our neighbor and say hello.

WL: Please join me in prayer ... **<PAUSE>**

WL:

Confession and Forgiveness

P: God is forgiving and gracious.

Join with me in your hearts for this time of confession.

ALL: We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone, and we grow fearful. We cling to false comforts, and we turn away from our neighbors. We plead: come to us, bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: Friends, God's spirit embraces us with forgiveness and grace. In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven. Amen.

Worship Song – **FIRM FOUNDATION (HE WON'T)**

P: The congregation may be seated.

WE ARE TRANSFORMED

Children's Message

Word –Matthew 13:24-30 *NRSVue*

Introduction:

P: Patience is not the same as passivity. For a field mixed of wheat and weeds, "let both grow together" is a statement about how the way of God tolerates ambiguity, coexists with what opposes it, and refuses the premature sorting the servants want to do. Patience is not indifference, but a gracious waiting.

A reading from Matthew, chapter 13.

P: [Jesus] put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

P: The gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON – STEVE

SERMON RESPONSE – HONEST OFFERING/I SURENDER ALL

Commissioning of Visitation Ministry

Steve: Dear brothers and sisters, you have been equipped to serve as Hospital Visitors, and Home Communion Visitors at First Lutheran Church. Listen now to the words we find in scripture.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

Address

P: As the Lord Jesus patiently listens when you turn to him,
we ask you to be a patient listener in a hurried world.
As the Spirit of Christ has given you gifts for service,
we ask you to use your gifts to serve others and to pray for them.
As the Lord Jesus has shown his care to you,
we ask you to help this congregation grow as a caring community.

Vows

Pastor: Are you prepared to serve in your capacity to serve in the designated ministry of visitation: to visit the sick, and to bring communion to the homebased? If so, respond: Yes with the help of God.

Response: Yes, with the help of God.

Pastor: *(addressing the congregation)* Members of First Lutheran, will you open your hearts to the ministry of these servants, to receive their prayers and visits in the hospital, to welcome them for home communion, and pray for them as servants of Christ? If so, answer: "Yes, with the help of God."

Congregation: Yes, with the help of God.

Prayer

Steve: Let us pray.

Gracious God, you have called these persons *to* be care givers in this congregation: TO VISIT THOSE IN THE HOSPITAL, TO BRING COMMUNION FROM THE TABLE TO THE HOME. You have gifted and empowered *them* for this task. Grant *them* joy in *their* service and a spirit of bold trust in you, that *their* ministry may further healing and wholly in our ministry as a congregation. Help us all to be thankful recipients of this ministry, so that your name may be glorified, your people live in peace, and your good and gracious will be done, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Blessing

Steve: May the Lord of the church fill you with the Holy Spirit and guide, bless, and keep you, so that you may be faithful in the ministry to which you have been called, gifted, trained, and sent.

People: Amen.

Steve: Let us acknowledge these servants of our visitation ministry with our applause.

WL: Please stand. We join in a time of prayer. Following each petition, please join me in saying: Hear our Prayer. Let us pray.

After each petition, please respond with:

P: God of Grace,

ALL: hear our prayer

Offering

WL: You may be seated.

- We take a moment to offer our thanks to God.
- I invite you to use the gratitude card in your bulletin.

- Place it in the offering plate your gratitude card along with any offering. You can also make an offering electronically.

Would the ushers please come forward.

Offering Song- MY DELIGHT IS IN YOU

Communion

P: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again,
after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the
forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

P: Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

P: You may be seated. Please follow the direction of the ushers to come forward.
There is gluten free bread and juice available upon request. The table is set
and all are welcome. (optional) Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Distribution – HEALER

Post communion prayer:

P: We give you thanks, gracious God,
for we have feasted on the abundance of your house.
Send us to bring good news and proclaim your favor to all,
strengthened with the richness of your grace in your Son, Jesus Christ.
All: Amen.

WE ARE SENT

Blessing of Sheila Anderson at the Conclusion of Ministry

P: Sheila Anderson, *in January of 2022*, you were hired to serve First Lutheran as Visitation Chaplain. You have served the members of this congregation and the wider community with love and faithfulness. You are now leaving our midst to new ventures. As your fellow members of this congregation we wish to honor your ministry among us and bid you farewell and Godspeed in your new endeavors, bringing closure to your ministry at First Lutheran Church.

Presentation of Gifts

Sheila Anderson: I thank the members of First Lutheran Church for the love, the kindness, and the support shown to me during my active ministry among you. I ask forgiveness for the ways I have sinned against you. I am grateful for the ways my ministry has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

All: We receive your thankfulness. We offer you our forgiveness. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask forgiveness for the ways we have sinned against you. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

Sheila: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

P: Do you, the people of First Lutheran Church release Sheila Anderson from the duties as Visitation Chaplain?

C: We do, with God's help.

P: Do you offer encouragement for her as she goes from here?

C: **We do, with God's help.**

P: Do you, Sheila, release the people of First Lutheran from turning to you and depending on you?

Sheila: **I do, with God's help.**

P: Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here?

Sheila: **I do, with God's help.**

Gifts For Sheila.

P: Let us pray: God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move us in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Sending & Blessing

WL:

ALL: Amen.

Sending Song – GREAT THINGS

Dismissal

WL: Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior.

ALL: Thanks be to God!