



First Lutheran Church

785-537-8532 | office@flcmhk.org

Firstlutheranmanhattan.org

Sunday, July 26, 2020 • 8th Sunday after Pentecost

As we continue to reopen the church and gather in person for worship again, there will be several important announcements coming to your email inbox! Please make sure you are getting the Friday announcements and email office@flcmhk.org or call 785-537-8532 if you are not receiving them.

If you are part of the Cleaning Crew for this service, thank you! Worship would not be possible without you! After you receive Communion, head to the narthex closet, where cleaning supplies and printed instructions will be available to get you started.

Prelude

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

† Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C: We give thanks that we are one united body, joined together even with those who cannot be here in person.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: **We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives.**

We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts.

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P: Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

In the + name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Beloved and sovereign God,

C: Through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Be seated.

The Word

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalm: Psalm 119:129-136 (Read Responsively)

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.

**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**

I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.

**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**

Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.

**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**

Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.

**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 13: 31-33, 44-52

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, thirteenth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P: This concludes the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Be seated.

Children’s message

Reflection

Pastor Liz Kocher

Special music

Audrey Pickering

APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess what we believe.

C: 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 PEOPLE

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

Meal and Sending

† Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray,

C: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Water and word, wine and bread:

these are signs of your abundant grace.

Nourish us through these gifts,

that we might proclaim your steadfast love

in our communities and in the world,

through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

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.

**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.**

Explanation of Holy Communion

All are welcome to God's table. During this time when we are especially aware of safety, communion will be served as a dismissal. At the conclusion of the service, you are invited to receive Holy Communion in the narthex. Communion servers will offer you a tray, where you will pick up a cup of bread (gluten-free available), and a cup of wine or grape juice. Holy Communion elements have been prepared with attention to health and safety.

Dismissal

P: Let us pray,

**C: God of the welcome table,
in this meal, we feast on your goodness
and are united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.
Amen.**

P: God nourishes us at the table to live as disciples.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Anyone is welcome to stay and pray at the communion rail before you exit.

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Please see our Friday emails and our website for **more announcements and information**.

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Who We Are & Statement of Inclusion

First Lutheran Church was founded back in 1879 by Swedish immigrants. We seek to know God and our neighborhood, to grow the gifts that God has given us, to raise up disciples of Jesus Christ, and to go into the world to serve God and God's people. We are a part of the mission and ministry of the wider church through our denomination, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). We affirm with St. Paul that in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, and we welcome all people regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation.