

+DIVINE SERVICE II+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY+ 10 JULY 2022+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
902 S. Maple
Inglewood, CA 90301-3824
tgslicms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Leon Tarr, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

“Christ Be My Leader” is a newer hymn by Timothy Dudley-Smith, set to the ancient Irish tune “Slane,” which is usually associated with the text “Be Thou my Vision.” Paul Manz gives us a gentle setting using flutes and strings.

BWV 642 is from the “Little Organ Book,” Bach’s collection of short chorales for the Church Year. He provides energetic counterpoint under the hymn melody.

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

903 This Is the Day the Lord Has Made



1 This is the day the Lord has made; He calls the
 2 To - day He rose and left the dead, And Sa - tan's
 3 Ho - san - na to the a - noint - ed King, To Da - vid's
 4 Bless - ed is He who comes to us With mes - sag -
 5 Ho - san - na in the high - est strains The Church on



hours His own. Let heav'n re - jice, let
 em - pire fell; To - day the saints His
 ho - ly Son! Help us, O Lord; de -
 es of grace; He, in the Lord's name,
 earth can raise. The high - est heav'ns, in



earth be glad And praise sur - round the throne.
 tri - umphs spread And all His won - ders tell.
 scend and bring Sal - va - tion from Your throne.
 comes to us To save our fall - en race.
 which He reigns, Shall give Him no - bler praise.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Exhortation

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

LSB 167

- C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 167

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 27:3-4a, 5; antiphon: vv. 1-2

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom | shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to eat | up my flesh,*

my adversaries and foes, it is they who stum- | ble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart | shall not fear;*

though war arise against me, yet I will be | confident.

One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:*

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days | of my life.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;*

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
 and to the Holy | Spirit;
 as it was in the be- | ginning,*
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom | shall I fear?*

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

**When evildoers assail me to eat | up my flesh,*
 my adversaries and foes, it is they who stum- | ble and fall.**

Kyrie

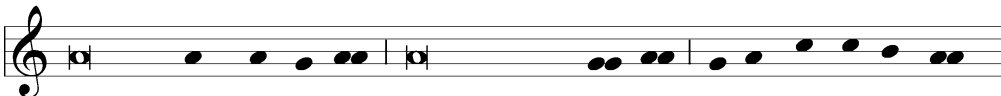
LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



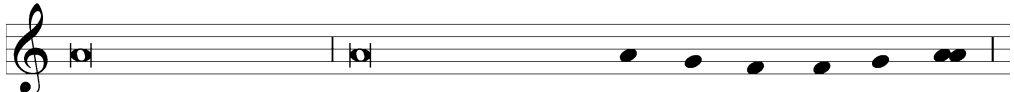
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,




and for the uni - ty of all let us pray to the Lord.




C Lord, have mer - cy.



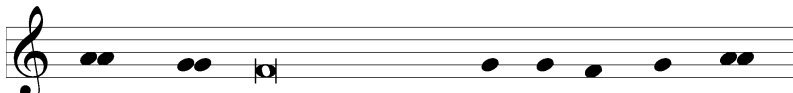
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise




let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.




C A - men.

This Is the Feast

LSB 171



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



C Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,



whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.



Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and strength and



hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are His.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and might be to



God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



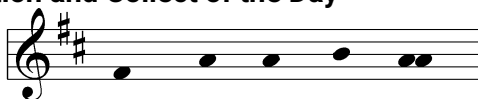
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God,



for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun His reign.



Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, grant that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by Your governance that Your Church may joyfully serve You in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 50:15–21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 79:9–10a

Atone for our sins, for your | name's sake!*

Why should the nations say, "Where | is their God?"

Help us, O God of our sal- | vation,*

for the glory of your name de- | liver us.

Epistle

Romans 12:14–21

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 6:36-42

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

³⁶[Jesus said:] "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

³⁷"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

³⁹He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? ⁴⁰A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. ⁴¹Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? ⁴²How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.



Be merciful, just as your
Father is merciful.
Luke 6:36

Nicene Creed

☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit



Hymn of the Day

707 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



- Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "Lord, have mercy."

- P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**

- P** For strong confidence in the Lord, our light and salvation, that He would work in us a worthy fear and constant trust in His mercy to fear nothing else in this passing world, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For Matthew, our Synod president; Mike, our district president; *Edward*, our circuit visitor; and our pastor, that they may faithfully proclaim the exalted name and Word of God to us; and that we may give thanks to the Lord for His steadfast love and faithfulness toward us in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For all baptized children of the Father, that we would be merciful as He is merciful, measuring others as He measures us in Christ and not counting their sins against them but forgiving as He has forgiven us, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For an increase in hope, that seeing creation subjected to futility all around us, we would nevertheless believe it groans in hope, and so look with expectation for the day when Christ will set us free from our bondage to decay, let us pray to the Lord:

- P** For an increase in faith to believe that what others mean for evil against us, God uses for our good; and that He would lead us to forgive them for Christ's sake as He has forgiven us, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For those with whom we weep, especially *Alice, Beth, Carmen, Cynthia, Dalton, Debra, Deneice and her family, Gary, Gloria, Jod, Johnathan, Karen, Lynette, Marie, Marion and her family, Royce, Sabrina, Timothy, and William* that the Lord would hear our cries and comfort them in their time of sorrow with His Spirit; and that He would sustain us all in the truth of His Son's resurrection victory over death for all who believe in Him, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** For forgiveness and sustenance from Christ's body and blood as we walk in the midst of trouble in this broken world; and that the Lord would stretch out His hand against sin, death and hell to deliver us from their wrath, let us pray to the Lord:
- P** Lord God, heavenly Father, You are merciful and through Christ have promised that You will neither judge nor condemn us, but graciously forgive all our sins and abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul. By Your Holy Spirit, establish in our hearts a confident faith in Your mercy. Teach us in turn to be merciful to our neighbor, that we may not judge or condemn others, but willingly forgive all and, judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives in Your fear; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*


Offertory

LSB 176

C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.


Service of the Sacrament

Preface


LSB 177



P The Lord be with you.



G And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



G We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

LSB 177

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 178

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is He who comes in the name

of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

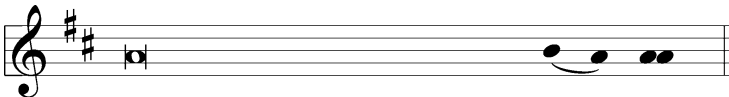
Lord's Prayer

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.

Pax Domini

LSB 180



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 180



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



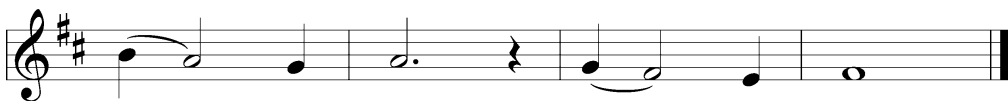
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.
Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901
Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

628 Your Table I Approach



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Thank the Lord

LSB 181

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
 He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
 joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
 es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
 giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

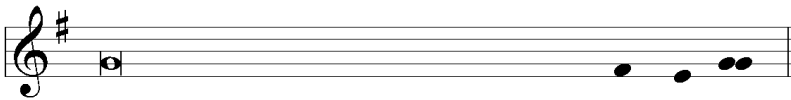
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.



Benediction

LSB 183



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 A - - men.

Hymn to Depart

685 Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to
bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He
con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,
is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,
us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and
We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts
That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
 Tune: Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.
 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000401
 Tune: Public domain

I Leave All Things to God's Direction BWV 642 *J.S. Bach*

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✚ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✚

Announcements

+ Last Sunday's Attendance: 33

+ Altar Guild Set Up: July 10th Susie July 17th Marie
Cleanup for June: Mary & Royce

+ LWML Summer Meeting - Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 24 where you will learn about our time at the LWML District Convention in Tempe, AZ, through pictures and personal stories! We will also have election of officers for the coming two years. For lunch, we are planning a summer picnic! Our LWML will furnish burgers and hotdogs and dessert if you will bring a picnic side dish. ALL are invited for lunch before our LWML get together!

Take me out to the ball game! - The Good Shepherd will have a group outing to a Dodger ballgame on Friday, August 19, at 7:10 p.m. played against the Florida Marlins! There are just 20 tickets available, Reserved section 14, at \$19 a piece, so see Gayle asap, first come first served! You will need to download the MLB Ballpark App in order to receive your tickets. Parking at the ballpark is normally \$30 but can be gotten online early for \$25. Or,

you can park at Union Station for \$8 and let an Express Bus take you to and from the ballpark for free! For more information about Union Station parking, see Leon. Let's have some fun at the ole ball game!!

Coming up! A Sunday after church pizza and beer lunch in El Segundo with music and an old movie at the Old Town Music Hall!

July Birthday Celebration

Mary Fløtt July 10th

Brent Tilløy July 18th

Ed Griffin July 28th

Synod Sentences for the Fourth Sunday After Trinity

Christ's Mercy Is Ours to Show to Others

"Be merciful, even as your Father also is merciful" (Luke 6:36–42). The old Adam in us wants to condemn and seek vengeance. But the Lord says, *"Vengeance is Mine, I will repay"* (Rom. 12:14–21). To condemn, to avenge yourself, is to put yourself in the place of God. It is to fail to trust that He is just. Ultimately, it is to disbelieve that Jesus suffered the full vengeance for all wrongs. Only Christ is merciful as the Father is merciful. He is the one who overcame all evil with the good of His cross, forgiving even His executioners. Jesus is our Joseph, who comforts us with words of pardon and reconciliation (Gen. 50:15–21). He is the One who does not condemn but gives life that runs over. Only through faith in Christ are we sons of the Father—being merciful, forgiving, doing good to our enemies. For in Christ we know that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Rom. 8:8–13).

A Prayer For The Week

O Lord God, heavenly Father: You are merciful, and through Christ promised us that You will neither judge nor condemn us, but graciously forgive us all our sins, and abundantly provide for all our wants of body and soul: We pray that by Your Holy Spirit You would establish in our hearts a confident faith in Your mercy, and teach us also to be merciful to our neighbor, that we may not judge or condemn others, but willingly forgive all, and, judging only ourselves, lead blessed lives in Your fear; through Your dear Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

An Excerpt from Martin Luther's Sermons

"Therefore, observe here what a perversion it is for man to exercise himself in doing works to God, which should be done to his neighbor; and then centers his faith in men and saints, which he should center alone in God. Turn this around, and then it is right, thus: faith must belong alone to God, whoever receives the divine works, God alone does them, and the same works of God we receive alone through faith. Then we should apply ourselves to our neighbor and arrange all our affairs to the end that they serve our neighbor. Before God all should be done in pure faith alone. The reason of this is because no one can help us but God, and what we have in body and soul we have alone from God, and in Him alone should we anchor our heart." *From Martin Luther's sermon for the Fourth Sunday after Trinity, 1523.*

Children's Devotional for the Fourth Sunday After Trinity

What is the meaning of this Gospel lesson? *Read Luke 6:36-42*

We are to be merciful and forgive others. Do not judge or condemn others. What Jesus is condemning here, in this Gospel, is a double standard. You can't hold others to a higher standard than you hold yourself to. And the standard by which you are held to are not some petty rules, but rather God's holy Law – Law that does not bend, Law that does not allow for loopholes, Law by which all stand condemned; God's holy Law which you break time and time again. And neither is it your job to stand as judge, jury and executioner over your neighbor. That is God's place. Your job, when it comes to your neighbor, is to defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way (SC. I: 8) – whether it's your family, your friends, or even and especially your enemies.

A Quote From Lutheran's For Life

Whether it be the evils of abortion or the assaults on biblical marriage, it becomes easier to attack people rather than confront the evil. We end up fighting evil with evil. But the way of Christ is different. "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them" (Romans 12:14). "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (12:21). *Jesus, help us boldly confront evil and compassionately deal with those caught up in it. Amen.*

