



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2020

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

God hears the cries of all who call out in need...and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit,...live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven (ELW #864)

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven; joyfully your tribute bring. Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore God's praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praises everlasting ring!

God be praised for grace and favor to our forebears in distress. God be praised, the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious is God's faithfulness!

Frail as summer's flow'r we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone; but, as mortals rise and perish, God endures unchanging on. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the great Eternal One!

Angels sing in adoration, in God's presence, face to face. Sun and moon and all creation, all who dwell in time and space. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927-2005. Music: John Gross, 1800-1880. Public Domain.

GREETING (ELW p. 184)

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

KYRIE (ELW p. 184)

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord **Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

PSALM 119:33-40

A reading from Psalm 119; please read responsively.

³³Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. ³⁴**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire. ³⁶**Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood; give me life in your way. ³⁸**Fulfill your promise to your servant, which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judgments are good. ⁴⁰**Behold, I long for your commandments; by your righteousness enliven me.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Word

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

In our first reading, God has appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

A reading from Ezekiel.

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

Our second reading tells us the obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

A reading from Romans.

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

In All Our Grief (ELW #615)

In all our grief and fear we turn to you. O God, you know all that we think or do, you know the pain we put each other through.

Refrain Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, grant us peace.

Help us to put aside the angry word, the clenching fist, the wish and will to hurt. Teach us the way in which love best is served. *Refrain*

You did not even spare your only Son. He lived our griefs and bore all evil done, but through his cross, redemption has been won. *Refrain*

God, when we suffer all that we can bear, then let us know that you in truth are near and will not leave us lost in all our fear. *Refrain*

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APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 189)

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 INTERCESSION

Meal

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (ELW p. 190)

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.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table, for all is ready.

COMMUNION SONG (*Lamb of God*, ELW p. 191)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Distribution Hymn

As the Grains of Wheat (ELW #465)

Refrain As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread; so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst, may we share the presence of your love. *Refrain*

Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come when all creation shares this feast with you. *Refrain*

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The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and give you peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. Amen.

SENDING SONG

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW #836)

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heav'n reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933. Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 192)

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

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Ministry & Mission Information

Large Print Bulletins

If you struggle reading this, the words on the screen, your pew hymnal or pew Bible, we have large print bulletins available which include the full service order of today's worship.

Hearing assistance in-ear speakers are available from our ushers.

Prayer Concerns

Kerlange Aristide in Haiti, her husband Armstrong and baby Zeke, & Lois Jones (Val Olson's sister, cancer), Sandy Almlie

Confirmation

Confirmation for the school year begins this Wednesday, September 9, with information meetings at church for students and parent(s)/guardian(s) at 6pm (7-8 grade) and 7pm (9th grade).

"God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday

After morning worship, next Sunday, September 13. We will be making cards for care center residents and cleaning Wheatland residents' windows.

Journey Through the Bible

Our Sunday services lessons will take us on a journey through familiar and unfamiliar stories in the Bible this school year, each with a clear theme, starting in Genesis next Sunday, Sept.13. Sunday school will follow the same stories.

Lost Items

Miscellaneous items can be found on the lost & found shelf in the narthex. Also unclaimed coats on the coat rack.

In-Person Worship & Covid-19

We thank Mike and Connie for continuing and increasing cleaning and sanitation at the church. For the time being:

- pews are taped off for social distancing;
- we will refrain from handshakes and passing offering plates;
- we will not have congregational singing (**except when worshipping outdoors**), or coffee after church;
- worship attendees will be encouraged but not required to wear face masks;
- additional precautions are being taken when distributing Holy Communion;
- the congregation will be ushered out following worship services.

(Some of this is more for indoor services!)

Sunday School

We are making adjustments to our programming for Sunday school this school year and will be resuming LATER this year, on the first weekend in October (10/04). We will have 9:15am start times.

We are still in need of teachers; please contact Carla Gemmill if interested and if you have a new K-6 student you would like to enroll.

Getting Worship to You

Dale Klein continues to make DVDs of our services. We are also streaming our 10am Sunday worship services live on our church Facebook page. These services and their sermons are also edited and posted to our YouTube and church websites.

School Supplies

Deborah Circle would like to thank those who donated school supplies for the local schools; they were dropped off this week.

PRBC Ham & Meatball Dinner

September 27, 11am-2pm, TAKE OUT ONLY from Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Park River. Includes ham, meatballs, mashed potatoes, corn, lefse, buns, cranberries and dessert. Call PRBC for pre-sale tickets (\$20) or lutefisk (\$10/lb). \$25 tickets at-the-door.

Online Worship Needs

We're excited to share **we will be purchasing digital equipment and a camera** to improve access and quality for those worshipping from home. Initial funding will come from the church's dedicated music fund; two additional gifts have already been given toward this project, more **gifts are welcome** (please write "camera fund" in the memo).

Sunday, August 30

Not including those who tuned in online, 24 disciples were sent out from our in-person worship in God's name to make a difference and \$1,835 was given to support our ministry. Gifts given online through tithe.ly are included in the last Sunday of the month total.

Bibles for Three-year-olds

During our September 27 worship, we will be giving Story Bibles to three-year-olds in our congregation. We have contacted families with three-year-olds to join us for worship that day as we celebrate this gift with them.

Today's Faith and Care Leaders

Reader: Laura Dease
Communion Asst:
Ushers:
Projectionist: Victor Long
Organists: Kathie Johnson & Lisa Schuler

Next Sunday's Leaders

Reader: Kim Hart
Ushers: Jerry & Bev Domres
Projectionist:
Organists: Kathie Johnson & Lisa Schuler

The Week Ahead at ULC

Monday Labor Day

Wednesday: 6PM 7th & 8th Grade Parent/Student Confirmation Meeting
 7PM 9th Grade Parent/Student Confirmation Meeting

Saturday: 9AM-1PM Fellowship Hall reserved
 3PM-5PM Fellowship Hall reserved

Next Sunday: 10AM Worship
 "God's Work, Our Hands Sunday"
 service projects after worship



Welcome to United! We are glad you're here and we pray today's worship would be a blessing to you. Children are welcome here; we have a "quiet space" just in our fellowship area just out our sanctuary's south doors and a nursery with a speaker available to listen to the worship service. If you are looking for a church home or would like more information, please let Pastor Karl know.

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

Name(s)		
Email	Phone	
Address		
City	State	Zip

- I/we received communion today (please indicate at least annually)
- I contributed my offering with Bill Pay through my bank
- Prayers requested/answered:
- I would like a Pastor to call regarding:

Today, I am a

- Member
- First Time Visitor
- Second Time Visitor
- Regular Visitor

Please send me information about membership in United Lutheran Church

I am a member of another church. Where?

What brought you to United today?