

# Service of Prayer and Proclamation

May 24, 2020 • The Seventh Sunday of Easter

Redeemer Lutheran Church-LCMS  
Charleston, WV

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### INVOCATION

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

### LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS – AN EXCERPT FROM LUTHER'S LARGE CATECHISM

Dr. Luther spends more time on the First Commandment than on any other portion of the Catechism, explaining how essential it is to know, trust, and believe in the true God and to let nothing take His place. He was convinced that where this commandment was being kept, all other commandments would follow. A right relationship with God produces right relationships with fellow human beings.

#### **The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.**

What this means: You shall have Me alone as your God. What is the meaning of this, and how is it to be understood? What does it mean to have a god? Or, what is God?

Answer: A god means that from which we are to expect all good and in which we are to take refuge in all distress. So, to have a God is nothing other than trusting and believing Him with the heart. I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol.

If your faith and trust is right, then your god is also true. On the other hand, if your trust is false and wrong, then you do not have the true God. For these two belong together, faith and God [Hebrews 11:6]. Now, I say that whatever you set your heart on and put your trust in is truly your god.

The purpose of this commandment is to require true faith and trust of the heart, which settles upon the only true God and clings to Him alone. It is like saying, "See to it that you let Me alone be your God, and never seek another." In other words, "Whatever you lack of good things, expect it from Me. Look to Me for it. And whenever you suffer misfortune and

distress, crawl, and cling to Me. I, yes, I, will give you enough and help you out of every need. Only do not let your heart cleave to or rest on any other.”

Let everyone, then, see to it that he values this commandment great and high above all things. Do not regard it as a joke! Ask and examine your heart diligently [2 Corinthians 13:5], and you will find out whether it clings to God alone or not. If you have a heart that can expect of Him nothing but what is good—especially in need and distress—and a heart that also renounces and forsakes everything that is not God, then you have the only true God. If, on the contrary, your heart clings to anything else from which it expects more good and help than from God, and if your heart does not take refuge in Him but flees from Him when in trouble, then you have an idol, another god.

### CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB 291

*Brief time of silence to think on God's Word and the sin we need to confess*

**G** O almighty God, merciful Father, we poor miserable sinners, confess unto You all our sins and iniquities with which we have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But we are heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and we pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to us, poor, sinful beings.

### ABSOLUTION

LSB 291

**P** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Easter 7

**P** O King of glory, Lord of hosts, uplifted in triumph far above all heavens, leave us not without consolation but send us the Spirit of truth whom You promised from the Father; for You live and reign with Him and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

### PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 68:1–20*

God shall arise, his enemies shall be | scattered;\*  
and those who hate him shall flee be- | fore him!  
As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive | them away;\*  
as wax melts before fire,  
so the wicked shall perish be- | fore God!  
But the righteous shall be glad;  
they shall exult be- | fore God;\*  
they shall be jubilant | with joy!  
Sing to God, sing praises | to his name;\*  
lift up a song to him who rides through the deserts;  
his name is the LORD;  
exult be- | fore him!  
Father of the fatherless and protector of | widows\*  
is God in his holy habi- | tation.  
God settles the solitary in a home;  
he leads out the prisoners to pros- | perity,\*  
but the rebellious dwell in a | parched land.  
O God, when you went out before your | people,\*  
when you marched through the | wilderness,  
the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain,  
before God, the One of | Sinai,\*  
before God, the God of | Israel.  
Rain in abundance, O God, you | shed abroad;\*  
you restored your inheritance as it | languished;  
your flock found a dwell- | ing in it;\*  
in your goodness, O God, you provided for the | needy.

### THE FIRST READING

*Acts 1:12–26*

**P** A reading from Acts, the first chapter:

Then [the apostles] returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke beforehand by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms,

“May his camp become desolate,  
and let there be no one to dwell in it’;  
and  
“Let another take his office.’

So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.” And they put forward two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also called Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed and said, “You, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

## **THE SECOND READING**

*1 Peter 4:12–19; 5:6–11*

**P** A reading from 1 Peter, the fourth chapter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

Therefore, let those who suffer according to God’s will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good...

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

## COLLECT FOR THE WORD

**P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 17:1–11*

**P** The Gospel according to St. John, the seventeenth chapter.

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

## SERMON


*Reality Check*

## APOSTLES' CREED

**P** 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Guard Your people, O Lord, and grant us unity of faith and singleness of heart as we come to You in prayer.

### *Brief silence*

Lord, You have promised not to abandon Your people but to be with us always. Grant us grace to hear Your Word with faith and receive Your Holy Sacrament with repentant hearts, and to keep what we hear and receive upon our lips in holy lives. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You have delivered the saints from fiery trial and raised up the martyr from the darkness of death to everlasting life. Give us courage, that we may give bold witness to the truth in our own day and proclaim Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You have pledged to us Your Spirit and promised to supply Your Church with pastors who will preach and teach Your Word. Give us ears to hear and hearts to believe Your Word. Raise up those who will serve Your Church in generations to come, that we may never be without the aid of those to serve us in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You have power over all things and appoint an order on earth for the protection of the weak, the punishment of evildoers and the encouragement of virtue. Bless Donald, our president; Jim, our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws. Give them wisdom for the challenges of our times and preserve them from self-serving concerns. Give us grace, that we may honor the gift of liberty and be good citizens and neighbors to all. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You have compassion upon all who suffer. Give grace to the sick, to those with mental illness, to the dying in their last hours and to those who grieve. Hear us especially for those we name in our hearts before You. Grant them patience in their afflictions, and deliver them according to Your gracious will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You are the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Bless those who teach, those who learn and especially those who graduate this year. Be the hope of those whose plans have been disappointed and grant that all graduates would find good employment. Guide them in the pursuit of Your Word and truth, to live honorable lives in worthy vocations, that in all things You may be glorified. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You have given us Your own Son as our Savior and Redeemer. He has set His table among us in the presence of our enemies, that we might be fed upon the body of Christ and drink His blood. Guard the unity of this table, that we would confess Him with one voice and receive this blessed Sacrament with one faith, and hear our prayers for all for whom gathering has been made difficult. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You have daily and richly supplied us with all things for this body and life. Give us grateful hearts, that we may receive Your gifts with thanksgiving and bring to You our tithes and offerings. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we rejoice in the Savior's promise to guard the people who wear Your name by Baptism and faith. Until we are with You in Your presence forevermore, guard us against the devil who prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking those whom he might devour. Grant us the power to resist him and trust in You without fear; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Thus, we pray, giving testimony of our confidence in Your gracious favor in Christ who taught us to pray:

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C** Our Father which 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 (Aaronic)**

**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. **Amen.**

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book

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Large Catechism excerpt - Paul Timothy McCain, ed., Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (St. Louis, MO: Concordia Publishing House, 2005), 359, 361.

## **PRAYER LIST**

**Family of Zach** (young friend of several RLC members) passed into eternity following heart surgery and a severe infection.

**Elloise Tallman** (sister of Janet Winans) tested negative for Covid-19.

**Patrick, Kandice and Baby Ben Clark** (son, daughter-in-law, and pre-born grandson of Jeff and Tina Clark) Ben is breech and will need to be delivered via C-section likely in the next couple of weeks.

**Debbie Bradley Wilson** (friend of Judy Knox) passed into eternity.

**Jamie Holm** (new mom and niece of Sarah Shaver's boss) diagnosed with stage 4 liver cancer before giving birth about 6 months ago. She is unsaved.

**Sage** (infant son of family friends of Kelly Gray's daughter) healed from adenovirus.

**Melody Trierwiler** learned she is not having kidney issues and will undergo more testing.

**Cleo North** (nephew of Janet Winans) beginning radiation treatment for metastatic brain cancer.

**Liz Albitz, Ali, Betty and Bob, Ed & Kim Booten, Billie Brisendine, Catherine, Teresa Cisco, Linda Cooper, James Cosby, Susan and Skip Daly, Erin, Harrison and Cindy Gapter, Doris Gerke, Jim and Marlene Hanson, Jo Hartley, Roy "Hutch" Hutchison, Jack, Tom Janicki, Roy and Betty Lindmark, Marie Marcum, Jeanneane Maxon, Sandy McKinney, Bob Mitchell, Lori Nettles, Herb & Marian Pauley, Gary Peters, Harold Reed, Thresa Robinson, Donna Ruffatto, Stu and Marcia Schwalm, Carmella Shaver, Family of Bill Shell, Jeff & Cara Wade, Taegan Witcher**

**All diagnosed with Covid-19;**

**All diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, and their caregivers;**

**All diagnosed with any form of cancer;**

**All diagnosed with any incurable (even if treatable) disease.**

**For our congregation - that we would pursue God's will for us as His people gathered here to bring Him glory as we make disciples being help, hope, home in the body of Christ.**