

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**Aitkin, Minnesota**  
**July 5, 2020**  
**The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Order of Worship (Online)**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I 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 me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and 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  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

## Introit

*Ps. 91:2, 9–10; antiphon: Ps. 91:1*

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—  
the Most High, who is my refuge—  
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.

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

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

## Kyrie

**☩ Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

**☩** Glory be to God on High,

**☩ and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.**

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee.**

**we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great  
glory.**

**O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon  
us.**

**Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our  
prayer.**

**Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,**

**have mercy upon us.  
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.  
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,  
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Collect of the Day**

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

*Zechariah 9:9-12*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!  
behold, your king is coming to you;  
righteous and having salvation is he,  
humble and mounted on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.  
I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall speak peace to the nations;  
his rule shall be from sea to sea,  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,  
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.  
Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm***Psalm 145:1–14 (antiphon: v. 19)*

I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.  
Every day I will bless you  
and praise your name forever and ever.  
Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.  
One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.  
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.  
They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,  
and I will declare your greatness.  
They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.  
The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.  
All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your saints shall bless you!  
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,  
to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.  
The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and kind in all his works.  
The LORD upholds all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.

## Epistle

*Romans 7:14–25a*

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## Alleluia

**G** **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 11:25–30*

At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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

**G** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

### **Apostles' Creed**

**G** 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.**

**Sermon Text – Matthew 11:25–30**

**Theme – “God Given Rest”**

Are you enjoying this 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend? This 4<sup>th</sup> of July is different with there being no public fireworks and fewer family gatherings. Of course, this 4<sup>th</sup> of July is different just because it falls on a Saturday. For some people that mean there are not

getting an extra day off from work. They might feel cheated because of it. While they can still celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> they aren't getting that extra day of rest.

Rest is something we all need. We need the rest we get when we are able to sleep in; we need the rest we get when we can take a day off from work; we need the rest we get when we can take more than just a few days off.

When Jesus says, **“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”** (Matthew 11:28), He is not talking about physical rest we might get when we are able to enjoy a long weekend. He is talking about spiritual rest we need because of other things that weigh us down. Among those other things that weigh us down can be sin and guilt.

That's what Jesus means by the words, **“heavy laden.”** We know what the Law of God demands that we do; we know what the Law of God tells us what not to do. And, we know that we are unable to perfectly do what the Law demands and we are unable to always avoid doing what the Law tells us not to do.

We want to be the perfect spouse or parent or child. Or, at least, we want to be a good one. We want to provide for our family. We want to give them all that they need and some of what they want. We want to protect them from evil. We want to show them love. But sometimes, we don't do those things. Things happen; things get in the way.

This is an awfully big burden of worry we are putting on ourselves. Instead of worrying about such things we can remember that Jesus loves our family even more than we do. He knows their troubles and temptations. This is a burden He can carry for us.

And, as far as the burden of all our failures are concerned, the guilt we feel, and as far as our sin is concerned, Satan loves to remind us of them all. It is for us just as it was for Paul, who says in our epistle lesson: **“I do not understand my own action. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate”** (Romans 7:15). This, too, can weigh heavily upon us.

Jesus can carry this burden for us, as well. He carried it to the cross. He took all of our sins, all of our failures, all of our shortcomings, all of our inability, all of our wrong thoughts and motives to the cross so that we can be forgiven. That’s what Jesus is talking about when He says, **“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”** (Matthew 11:28).

After saying that, Jesus goes on to say, **“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”** (Matthew 11:29-30).

What that is saying is that Jesus wants to trade burdens with us. He wants to take our heavy and crushing burdens upon Himself and He wants to give us His light and saving ones. He wants to take from us the burden of all our sin and guilt and He wants to put on us all the good that He has done. In other words, He wants to exchange all of our unrighteousness for all of His righteousness.

That’s how He gives us rest. He gives us this rest through His Word and Sacraments. That’s why we gather for worship; that’s why we take the time to look at a service online or listen on the radio.

When the Law shows us our sin, Jesus gives us rest as He reminds us of our Baptism – when water was applied in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

He also gives us rest as we hear the words of Absolution that tells us that all our sins are forgiven. And, then there is the Sacrament of the Altar in when we receive bread and wine, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

Rest is a gift we receive when we **“come to [Jesus].** We don’t need to keep on burdening ourselves. We can **“take [His] yoke upon ourselves.”** And we can **“learn”** from Him. We can learn about the forgiveness and salvation that we have through Him.

Listen to Jesus gracious invitation to **“Come,” “take,”** and **“learn”** and know that He will give us **“rest,”** rest now and rest forever. AMEN

☐ The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

☐ **Amen.**

### **Offertory**

☐ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Church**

Our God and King, as once Your people received You in joy, open our hearts to rejoice in Your coming so that we may meet You in Your Word and Sacrament, for the forgiveness of our

sins and the strengthening of our faith. Help us to bless and extol Your name before the nations and to declare Your salvation to the generations to come, proclaiming that You are merciful and gracious and abounding in steadfast love.

Our merciful God and Lord, You are good to all Your creation. Continue to bless Your Church and to provide for her faithful pastors who will preach and teach Your Word and church workers who will serve us in Your name. Make bold our witness before the nations, and help us to act in love toward our neighbors.

Our Creator and Lord, from You all things come and to You are all things directed. Provide for our nation faithful leaders who will hear and heed Your law, protect and defend the citizens, preserve the precious gift of liberty, and inspire us to use our freedom honorably. Make us mindful of the heritage our forebears have given to this land, and guide us to be faithful in our stewardship of all the resources You have provided.

Our wise and giving God, You are the God of truth and in You is no falsehood or deception. Help us to delight in Your Law, to love what is good and true and right, and to seek after these things. Help us to wage war against the old Adam within us, restore us when we stray from Your Word, and forgive us when we give into the devil's temptations.

Our compassionate Lord, we do not suffer alone the pain and afflictions of this life, but we live them out within Your grace and are sustained by Your mercy. Hear us on behalf of the sick, those who suffer, the grieving and those to whom death is near [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*] and those we now name in our heart. According to Your will, deliver them from their afflictions and give

to all Your strength, patience and hope, that they may endure to eternal life. Show compassion, and drive all pestilence from our land.

Our loving Father, You have hidden Your greatness from our wisdom and made Your ways known to children. Guide us to bring our children to the waters of Baptism, to raise them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord, and to know perfect rest and peace within Your loving arms.

Our gentle God and Lord, You have invited us to come to You with the heavy burdens of this life, that we may find rest and peace in Your mercy. Grant relief to those who struggle, supply to those in need, hope to those who fear, and peace to those who are anxious, that we may be delivered from all adversity and brought to everlasting life, where we shall join the saints of old in Your presence forevermore.

All these things, blessed Lord, we pray You to grant us according to Your merciful goodness and for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**☩ 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.**

## **Benediction**

- 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.

**G** **Amen**

## **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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