

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP July 12, 2020

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness (stand)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

All: Heavenly Father, show me the way I should go, for to You I lift up my soul. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God. I confess that I have sinned against You in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. My sins trouble me and I am deeply sorry for them.

P: God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting men's sins against them. By making Jesus, who knew no sin, to become sin for us and to pay the penalty for our sin by dying on the cross, God assures us that we are free of the penalty of our sins; and by Jesus' resurrection we are confident that in Him we are clothed with the righteousness of God. You can be totally sure that if you are in Christ, you are a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come.

C: Spirit of God, move us to cling tightly to Jesus our Savior. Amen.

KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

ALL: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

HYMN LBS 686 Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now, like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the bloodwashed linen,
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 20:7-12:

You deceived me, LORD, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long. But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.

I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side! Denounce him! Let's denounce him!" All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying, "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him." But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten. LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Psalm 22:1-11, 19-24

(Read Responsively-Reader=unbold Congregation=BOLD)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?

My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.

In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.

To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

"He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.

From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.

Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.

You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Here end the readings. Please stand for the Gospel.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 10th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 10:5-23

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. "Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet. Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the Day of Judgment than for that town. "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ

HYMN LSB 525 Crown Him with Many Crowns

**Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.**

Crown Him the virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won
Which now His brow adorn;
Fruit of the mystic rose,
Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows,
The babe of Bethlehem.

Crown Him the Lord of Love,
Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
Can fully bear that sight,
But down-ward bends their wond'ring eyes
At mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of Life,
Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n,
Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to whom is giv'n
The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns
As thrones before him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
For He is King of all.

Sermon- Snatched Out of Sin; Catapulted Into Discipleship
Matthew 10:5-23; Jeremiah 20:7-12

Jesus' instructions to his followers before he sends them out to proclaim the good news about the kingdom of God make it clear that being his disciple can be a difficult and even dangerous business. Disciples will be like "sheep among wolves" and therefore they must be "shrewd as serpents" as they negotiate their way through a hostile world--yet remain as "innocent as doves" as they do so. They are to be "in the world, but not of the world."

To labor in the vineyard without acquiring too much of a taste for the wine. To be salt and light in a tasteless and darkened world, yet stay salty and bright. To eat and drink with sinners as Jesus did, yet not be drawn into their sins. And they must do all this knowing that unbelievers around them are waiting and watching for them to slip up so they can point their finger and shout, "hypocrite!" As Jesus said, "if they hate you remember that they hated me first." Jeremiah said it about as clearly as it can be said: "i am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me...the word of the Lord has brought me insult and reproach...all my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying 'perhaps he will be deceived, then we will prevail over him...'" It's tough duty to live a life of a committed Christian disciple in this world full of Christ-hatred. The first thing we have to understand is that when the lord chooses us to be his disciple, we become strangers in our own land. Our primary citizenship is no longer in the country where we live, it's in the New Jerusalem of God. No longer look forward to greener pastures here on earth, we look forward to the great and glorious day of the coming of Lord. We have been conscripted as guerilla soldiers in the Lord's army and sent behind enemy lines to set spiritual prisoners free from their bondage to the prince of this world. It's a hard job and we who have been chosen to do it are not always grateful for having been given the opportunity. Sometimes we feel like Jeremiah, who complained, "O Lord, you seduced me and I was seduced! You overpowered me and prevailed!" Still, we are what we are and we would not change it, even though it causes us pain and discomfort. In the first place, disciples live in a perpetual state of self-reproach. We have the Word of God living in us and we know we should speak it boldly, but we're afraid that if we do, we will cause offense and provoke retaliation. So we shut it up within ourselves until we're around our Christian friends and then we preach to the choir. Once again, we end up feeling like Jeremiah, who complained, "...if I say, 'I will not mention him or speak any more in his name,' his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I weary of holding it in..." We're between a rock and a hard place: we're ashamed of not witnessing to Christ but we're afraid that if we do we'll give offense. As a brother Pastor of mine once remarked, "it's a hell of a thing to be a committed disciple of Christ in this world." In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus describes our predicament bluntly: He says, "do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man's enemies will be the members of his own household." Like the civil war, which set brother against brother over the issue of slavery, the Gospel can set family members against each other over the issue of Jesus Christ. Many of us can attest to the truth of that after we've tried to witness to an unbelieving member of our own family. After a few of those conversations we give up and stop talking to them about it because we know what their reaction will be. Even worse, we stop talking to other members of our family because we fear what their reaction *might* be. Then we feel guilty and are haunted by Jesus' words: "if anyone is ashamed of me before men I will be ashamed of him before my father." Then we find that the sword that Jesus brought divides more than families. The author of the *Book of Hebrews* writes: "...the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow..." The word of God doesn't only divide members of the same family against each other; it also divides us against ourselves and starts a civil war raging inside us. We are attacked by our own sinful nature which hurls temptations at us all day long. Paul said, "I do not understand what I do, for the good that I would do I do not do, but the evil which I hate, I keep on doing." Internal spiritual warfare is a fact of life for a disciple.

Temptation versus resistance; judgmentalism versus forgiveness; blame versus mercy; despair versus hope. To add to it all, the devil eggs us on, saying, “how much more of this do you think God is going to put up with? You keep returning to your sins like a dog returning to its vomit! Give up your faith and you’ll feel a lot less guilty! Anyway, God is merciful--he doesn’t want you feeling guilty all the time! Just accept the fact that you’re sinful and your life will be a lot easier.” By the way, there are lots of psychologists and counselors and even, I’m ashamed to say, Pastors who will gladly offer you that kind of advice. And like all good lies, this one has an element of truth. It’s true that if you decide to stop letting your faith interfere with your enjoyment of life in the here and now, and you start drawing away from worship and prayer and communion and bible study and Christian fellowship—your life will get a lot easier--at least initially. For one thing, you’ll be free to do whatever you like on Sunday morning. For another, you won’t be plagued with self-reproach for not witnessing. You won’t worry so much about your sins. You’ll begin to wonder why people get so worked up over immorality and write them off as being judgmental. You’ll become more open-minded. You won’t offend people by mentioning the name of Jesus Christ. Your family will breathe a huge sigh of relief because they won’t have to listen to your attempts to convert them anymore. The spiritual warfare inside will settle down and you will be at peace with your sinful flesh--and the one whom it serves. Your conscience will quiet down and you’ll start enjoying the brave new world you’ve discovered. Your heart will gradually harden against God and you’ll feel more at home in this world than at church. You will have peace and pleasure—and you will be eternally lost. There’s much in our society which encourages us to follow this line of thinking. Never has the Christian faith been as libeled and reviled in America as it is today. Christians are called racists and bigots simply because of their faith. The governor of New York recently said that we “don’t need any help from above to beat this virus—we can do it ourselves.” I am not aware of any nationally recognized clergyman who has dared to suggest that this pandemic ought to arouse a fear of God in our hearts. The public discourse consists of tweets and social commentary from self-promoting politicians and celebrities and other nitwits. Even if there were Christians who had the nerve to say something about the moral and spiritual rot in our country, there is next to no interest in what they would have to say. If ever there was a time for Christians to stand up for their faith, that time is now. When God saved us, it wasn’t a two-way deal, a contract we entered into which provided benefits and penalties for both sides. God initiated the covenant and only God can consummate the covenant. We were snatched out of our sins, plunged into repentance, enlivened with faith and catapulted into discipleship. We didn’t necessarily ask for it--in fact many of us were trying to avoid it. We were hiding behind the tree with Adam and Eve when God came looking for us; we were sleeping peacefully and didn’t want to be aroused from our slumber. But God found us and jarred us awake, and like people who have been roused from a comfortable nap, we resent it even though we wouldn’t trade it for anything. We have to face the fact that a life of Christian discipleship, if it is done with any real degree of commitment, is much tougher than living as an unbeliever. The unbeliever is at peace with the world. The believer is at war with the world—and with himself. Our strength lies in the words of our Sovereign Lord, who promised us that not a single sparrow falls apart from the merciful father; that our job is to take up the cross of Christian discipleship and follow our master, and that only in losing our life for the sake of our Savior, will we find it. This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Amen.

APOSTLE'S CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

CLOSING HYMN LSB 537 Beautiful Savior

**Beautiful Savior,
King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee,
Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.**

**Fair are the meadows,
Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer;
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine,
Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.**

**Beautiful Savior,
Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.

C: Amen.