

**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**ORDER OF WORSHIP June 7, 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: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

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

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**All: O, God, I know the wrong I have done, and my sin is always before me. I have broken your laws and done what is evil in your sight. Have mercy on me, according to your unfailing love. Wash away all my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a pure heart and renew a faithful spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has sent His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.

**C: Grant this, Lord, unto us all. 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**

**(sung)**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia!

**C: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor and glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

### **HYMN LSB 507 Holy, Holy, Holy!**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.**

**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

## SCRIPTURE READINGS *(be seated)*

### Isaiah 53:1-3

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

### Psalm 23

(Read Responsively-Reader=unbold **Congregation=BOLD**)

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside quiet waters,**

he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

### Philippians 2:5-11

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledges that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

## GOSPEL

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### Mark 1:14-20

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near.

Repent and believe the good news!" As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." At once they left their nets and followed him. When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ**

### **HYMN LSB 807 When Morning Gilds the Skies**

**When morning gilds the skies,  
My heart, awaking, cries,  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"  
When evening shadows fall,  
This rings my curfew call:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"**

**When mirth for music longs,  
This is my song of songs:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"  
God's holy house of prayer  
Hath none that can compare  
With "Jesus Christ be praised!"**

**No lovelier antiphon  
In all high heav'n is known  
Than "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
There to the eternal Word  
The eternal psalm is heard:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"**

**Ye nations of mankind,  
In this your concord find:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"  
Let all the earth around  
Ring joyous with the sound:  
"May Jesus Christ be praised!"**

**Sing, sun and stars of space,  
Sing, ye that see His face,  
Sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
God's whole creation o'er,  
Both now and evermore  
Shall Jesus Christ be praised!**

## Sermon- "The Greatest Leader Of All"

Back in the 1970's and 80's when I was in the business world there was a lot of talk about leadership. What makes a good leader? What qualities do good leaders possess that make people want to follow them? How can one become a good leader? Hundreds of books were written about leadership and thousands of training programs were offered to help business managers become effective leaders. There was general agreement about *who* the good leaders were, but opinions about *what* made them good leaders were all over the map. Jack Welch, the CEO of General Electric, was often cited as a good leader even though he stuttered when he spoke and at times couldn't decide whether to stay at G.E. Or leave. He was considered a good leader because General Electric prospered under his leadership. Good leaders were generally judged by the results they got rather than by how they got them and all you could say for sure was that good leaders were people who could attract and motivate followers. But even that could be controversial. At a leadership symposium I once attended, a dispute arose over whether Adolf Hitler was a good leader. One man said that anyone who could motivate and mobilize four and a half million soldiers to die for him while screaming "heil Hitler" was clearly an effective leader. Another man said he was a horrible leader because he was evil. Then a third person jumped into the argument and said that morality had nothing to do with leadership. And so it went—and went—and went.

In any case, at some point I was asked to address a leadership conference. I was inclined to turn down the invitation because I didn't know any more about leadership than the next guy. But as I thought about it, it occurred to me that even if I didn't know much about leadership, I did know who was the greatest leader of all time, and that was Jesus Christ. After all, two thousand years after he had appeared one third of the people living on earth still followed him. No other leader in history can come close to those numbers. So all spiritual considerations aside, Jesus must have done a lot of things right to attract and motivate that many people. So I decided to do what you might call a secular analysis of Jesus' leadership style and see if I could identify the things he did to attract and motivate his followers. This is the result.

1. First and foremost, *Jesus led by example*. He didn't say, "go there"; he said, "follow me." Before he asked his disciples to proclaim the gospel, he proclaimed the gospel—loudly and clearly. Before he asked them to minister to others, he ministered to others. Before he asked them to give up their lives for him, he gave up his life for them. So when Jesus asked his followers to do something he could do it with credibility because he had done it himself. He led by example.

2. Jesus spent a lot of time teaching his disciples what their mission was and how to accomplish it. What he taught them could be boiled down to two things: first, that the kingdom of this world and all who dwelt in it were sinful and headed for destruction, and second, that he had come to usher in a new kingdom called the kingdom of God where people could be saved from their sins and have eternal life by following him. That was his message and how he went about teaching it is very interesting. Every teacher knows that one of the most effective teaching tools they have is analogy. Jesus' analogies took the form of parables—short, vivid stories which described the kingdom of God, showed people how they could enter it, and warned them of the consequences of ignoring it.

Parables like “the good Samaritan” and “the prodigal son” are still regarded as literary masterpieces. Jesus told these stories—and others like them—again and again so that they would sink in. He wanted everyone who followed him to know exactly what he wanted them to do—and how to do it. Good leaders are good teachers—and Jesus was a wonderful teacher.

3. Jesus was absolutely honest with his followers. Like “the five minute manager” he admonished them when they did wrong and he praised them when they did right—and he did it right then and right there. When Peter called Jesus “the Christ—the Son of the living God—Jesus said, “blessed are you...” A few minutes later, when Peter advised Jesus not to submit to abuse and crucifixion, Jesus said, “get behind me satan.” That gives new meaning to the term “performance appraisal.” Jesus never equivocated or held back information from his followers: he told them the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. He was bluntly honest with them about what the consequences of following him would be. “They will lay hands on you and persecute you...you will be betrayed even by parents, brothers, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. All men will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. By standing firm you will gain life.” (Luke 21:12, 16-19) [My recruiting strategy when we were trying to convince a manager to come to work for us at Nestle.] And when I left the business world and went into ministry, I would use the same technique when I was making evangelism calls. “Why don’t you come to our church sometime and worship with us? We’ve got a beautiful church, great music and wonderful people—you’ll feel right at home!” That’s not how Jesus did it, is it? Jesus said, “Come follow me and you’ll be persecuted and betrayed and all men will hate you. “Well, I never claimed to be Jesus.

4. *Jesus’ was humble: he came to serve rather than be served.* The bible tells us that, “he had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.” (Isaiah 53:2) Jesus never flaunted his wisdom or his power. Paul writes of him that, “...he did not consider equality with God something to be clung to, but made himself nothing...and being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death...” (Philippians 2:6-8) But Jesus wasn’t passively humble, he humbled himself by serving others. When two of his disciples—James and John—asked to sit at his right hand and left hand in his kingdom, Jesus called all twelve of his disciples together and said: “you know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:24-28)

5. *Jesus was not shy about asking his disciples to give him everything they had to give—including their lives.* “...he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. He told them: take nothing for the journey—no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic...go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.” He demanded their loyalty and condemned disloyalty in the strongest possible terms, saying: “if anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the son of man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.” There was no middle ground with Jesus: you were either for him or you were against him.

**6. Jesus showed complete trust and confidence that his disciples would achieve the goal he had set for them. When he spoke to them about their mission, he didn't speak in terms of "if you do" but in terms of "when you have done." Before he died he told his disciples, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these...." And he assured his disciples that when they had completed their mission, he would be there to welcome them into his kingdom, calling them "good and faithful servants" and promising them a heavenly reward. "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my father's house are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you."**

**Finally—and most important of all—Jesus loved his followers. He loved them in truth and action by caring for them and by giving up his life for them. He also urged them to love and care for one another. He proved through his life and his legacy that love and forgiveness are more powerful than hatred and revenge.**

**An English magistrate by the name of Lord Acton once said that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. One might add that humility purifies and complete humility purifies completely. When Pontius Pilate tried to use his power as a Roman governor to threaten Jesus, Jesus replied, "you have no power but that which God has given you." Those words should be inscribed in every leader's brain. The power to lead people doesn't consist of authority and commands and threats and promises. The power to lead people consists of doing what you ask them to do, of teaching them how to do it, of trusting them to achieve it, of serving them with humility, and, above all, of loving them in truth and action. That's how Jesus led those who followed him and he was the greatest leader of all time. 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.**

**HYMN LSB 930 All You Works of God, Bless The Lord**

All You Works of God, Bless The Lord!  
All You Angels now bless the Lord!  
Come you heavens and pow'rs that be,  
Praise the Lord and His Majesty!

***Refrain***

***Raise your voices high! Praise and Magnify!  
All you works of God, Bless the Lord!  
Raise your voices high! Praise and Magnify!  
All you works of God, Bless the Lord!***

Sing you sun and you moon above!  
Stars of heaven now sing His love!  
Dew and showers you wings that blow,  
Heat and fire—you ice and snow:

***Refrain***

Frost of winter with song so cold,  
Dews of summer, your song unfold.  
Light and darkness, you day and night,  
Clouds of thunder, you lightening bright:

***Refrain***

Hills and mountains now sing His worth  
All you green things that grow on earth.  
Seas and rivers, you springs and wells,  
Beast and cattle, you birds and whales:

***Refrain***

Come humanity, sing along,  
Sing you people of God, a song:  
Join your spirits and souls at rest:

***Refrain***

Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart,  
All you humble, His praise impart  
God the Father and Son adore  
Bless the Spirit forevermore!

***Refrain***

**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.**