

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONOVER, NC
REV. SCOTT JOHNSON & REV. ANTON LAGOUTINE
15th Sunday after Pentecost/Christian Education Sunday
September 13, 2020

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Speak, O Lord, your servant listens. Let your Word to me come near. New-born life and spirit give me, let each promise still my fear. Amen.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***OPENING HYMN** LSB # 578 "Thy Strong Word" verses 1-3

Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; At Thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank Thee, While Thine ordered seasons run.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, Dark as night and deep as death,
Broke the light of Thy salvation, Breathed Thine own life breathing breath.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; Bright with Thine own holiness,
Glorious now, we press toward glory, And our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

THE INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

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.

(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

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

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*10:30 svc. - please rise on last verse

THE COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: and also with you.

P: Let us pray. Almighty and merciful God, defend your Church from all false teaching and error, that Your faithful people may confess You to be the only true God and rejoice in Your good gifts of life and 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.

THE READINGS FROM GOD'S WORD

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.'" Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

P: This is the Word of God.

C: Thanks be to God!

Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ² One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³ Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵ One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

P: This is the Word of God.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON 10:30 svc.

SERMON HYMN AGPS # 247 "*Thy Word is a Lamp*"

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path

When I feel afraid Think I've lost my way
Still you're there right beside me And nothing will I fear
As long as you are near Please be near me to the end **Refrain**

I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering Jesus be my guide
And hold me to your side I will love you to the end **Refrain**

THE SERMON "*Just Do What He Says!*" based on Joshua 6:2-5

THE NICENE CREED 8:00 svc.

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom

will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE APOSTLES CREED 10:30 svc.

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.

THE GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD stjohnsconover.com/donate

SPECIAL MUSIC 10:30 *"There Is A God"* Lillie Christenbury

RESPONSE HYMN LSB # 577 *"Almighty God, Thy Word is Cast"*

Almighty God, your word is cast like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend, and righteous fruits abound.

Let not the foe of Christ and man this holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares the rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold the fruits of peace and joy.

Oft as the precious seed is sown, your quick'ning grace bestow,
That all whose souls the truth receive, its saving pow'r may know.

RECOGNITION OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS during the pandemic
SUNDAY SCHOOL BIBLES PRESENTED

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION 8:00 svc

The Words of Institution

The Distribution

Distribution Hymns

LSB # 575 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. **Refrain**

His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. **Refrain**

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! **Refrain**

LSB # 547 "The Lamb"

The Lamb, the Lamb, O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price!

**Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!**

The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering.

The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing. **Refrain**

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will On our behalf the Law to fill. **Refrain**

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.

He lives, forgives, He gives me His own righteousness. **Refrain**

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.

His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. **Refrain**

LSB # 643 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,

The people of God from His dwelling take leave.

The Supper is ended. O now be extended

The fruits of this service in all who believe.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,

The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,

Embracing His children of each tribe and race.

Post Communion Prayer

THE BENEDICTION

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

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN LSB # 578 "Thy Strong Word" verses 4-6

From the cross Thy wisdom shining Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;

From the cross forever beameth All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, alleluia! Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia without end!

Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,

Throats that shout the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name.

Alleluia, alleluia! May the light which Thou dost send

Fill our songs with alleluias, Alleluias without end!

God the Father, light-creator, To Thee laud and honor be.

To Thee, Light of Light begotten, Praise be sung eternally.

Holy Spirit, light-revealer, Glory, glory be to Thee.

Mortals, angels, now and ever Praise the holy Trinity!

SILENT PRAYER, THE SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE, POSTLUDE