



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Christian Worship in Corinth

November 15, 2020

10:30 Holy Communion

We continue our look at Paul's letters to the church in Corinth today. These early Christians had many struggles, including how to best worship. Some of their problems are laughable by today's standards. But we must remember that they had nothing at all to go on. From what Paul writes in his letters it appears as if their worship times were nearly chaos. Paul lays down some principles for them to follow. Those same principles influence the way we worship today and the way we operate everything in the church.

Welcome to worship today!

Please observe social distancing and remain conscious of the need to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In this bulletin is an insert that will be used to determine today's attendance. It will also help to identify who was here if contact tracing is necessary. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

P: Let us acknowledge that we fall short of what we have been created to be.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Holy One,

C: we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

**We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.**

**Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P: Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn O Day of Rest and Gladness

(For music see Hymn 521 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **O day of rest and gladness,
O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness,
most beautiful, most bright;
on you the high and lowly,
through ages join in tune,
sing, "Holy, holy, holy,"
to God the great triune.**

2. **On you, at earth's creation,
the light first had its birth;**

**on you, for our salvation,
Christ rose from depths of earth;
on you, our Lord victorious
the Spirit sent from heav'n;
and thus on you, most glorious,
a three-fold light was giv'n.**

**3. Today on weary nations
the heav'nly manna falls;
to holy convocations
the silver trumpet calls,
where gospel light is glowing
with pure and radiant beams
the living water flowing
with soul refreshing streams.**

**4. New graces ever gaining
from this our day of rest,
we reach the rest remaining
to spirits of the blest.
We sing to you our praises,
O Father, Spirit, Son;
the church *its* voice upraises
to you, blest Three in One.**

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807/1885, alt. Music: German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X.L. Harting *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in a spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading 1 Corinthians 11:17-26

¹⁷Now in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it is not for the better but for the worse. ¹⁸For, to begin with, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you; and to some extent I believe it. ¹⁹Indeed, there have to be factions among you, for only so will it become clear who among you are genuine. ²⁰When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. ²¹For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk. ²²What! Do you not have homes to eat and drink in? Or do you show contempt for the church of God and humiliate those who have nothing? What should I say to you? Should I commend you? In this matter I do not commend you!

²³For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Poetry Psalm 111 (*read responsively*)

A: Hallelujah!

With my whole heart

I praise the Lord among the just.

**C: Great are God's works,
a delight to explore.**

A: In splendor, in majesty,
God's justice will stand.

**C: Who can forget God's wonders!
a God, merciful and kind**

A: Who nourished the faithful,
upheld the covenant,

**C: and revealed mighty deeds,
giving them the land of pagans.**

A: Faithful, just, and true
are all God's decrees:

**C: each law in its place,
valid forever.**

A: The Lord redeems the faithful,
decrees a lasting covenant.
Holy and awesome God's name!

**C: Fear of the Lord is wisdom's crown,
wise are those who live by it.
Praise the Lord forever!**

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 14:26-33, 37-40

²⁶What should be done then, my friends? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. ²⁷If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn; and let one interpret. ²⁸But if there is no one to interpret, let them be silent in church and speak to themselves and to God. ²⁹Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. ³⁰If a revelation is made to someone else sitting nearby, let the first person be silent. ³¹For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged. ³²And the spirits of prophets are subject to the prophets, ³³for God is a God not of disorder but of peace.

³⁷Anyone who claims to be a prophet, or to have spiritual powers, must acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord. ³⁸Anyone who does not recognize this is not to be recognized. ³⁹So, my friends, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues; ⁴⁰but all things should be done decently and in order.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (1 Corinthians 14:33)

C: Alleluia. God is a God not of disorder but of peace. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading Matthew 13:54-58

The gospel is announced:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

⁵⁴He came to his hometown and began to teach the people in their synagogue, so that they were astounded and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these deeds of power? ⁵⁵Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶And are not all his sisters with us? Where

then did this man get all this?" ⁵⁷And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honor except in their own country and in their own house." ⁵⁸And he did not do many deeds of power there, because of their unbelief.

After the reading:

P: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
(For music see Hymn 886 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and king,
the triumphs of his grace!**
2. **My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honor of your name.**
3. **The name of Jesus charms our fears
and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.**
4. **He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.**
5. **Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!**
6. **To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.**

Apostles' Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Apostles' Creed

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. These petitions will be read by people in the congregation:

For the United States we pray. Quell attempts at violence, and restore national good will. End prejudice of all kinds, and lead us into a unity that embraces diversity. Comfort those who live in fear of the future.

Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for the church in our community and throughout the world. Raise up and sustain believers who will use their talents to assist with worship and to lead congregational ministries in this difficult time. Be with the missionaries we support: the Rev. Matthew Nickloff in Rochester and the Rev. Karen Anderson in Chile. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

For all the nations we pray. Bring an end to war and terrorism. Cultivate a worldwide spirit of cooperation that will seek just international agreements and shared human rights. Rescue humankind from the worship of wealth. Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Special Music

† MEAL †

Thanksgiving Prayer

P: Let us pray: God of all goodness,

C: generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather gifts from your abundance and give you thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus of Nazareth; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of

everlasting life. And so, with church of yesterday, today and tomorrow; and the church here in this place and all churches throughout the world, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:8 spoken)

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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.**

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. The pastor will bring a wafer to you and place it in your hands. The communion assistant will follow with a tray of grape juice or wine.

Communion Blessing After all have communed the pastor will say:

P: The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray...

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C: Amen

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,
Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth
(For music see Hymn 879 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:**

Refrain **Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

**2. For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light:** *Refrain*

**3. For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,**

**for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight: *Refrain***

**4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain***

**5. For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain***

Text: Folliott S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

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