

Welcome To

## **Mt. Hope Lutheran Church**

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation

**September 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 18)**

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### **ABOUT OUR WORSHIP**

**We welcome all who gather here today!** We are blessed to celebrate together the mercy, grace, and love we have from God through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Children:** Families with children are *very* welcome here. Having children in church is important so they can begin to learn about their faith in Jesus, and it's good for the whole congregation to see. *Please feel comfortable keeping "squirmy" kids in the service. This is where they belong, too!*

**Pew Cards:** While we don't have pew cards to fill out during this time, if you have a prayer request please email or write a note to Pastor or the church office.

**If standing is difficult:** Please feel free to remain seated during any portion of the service. Please let an Elder or Usher know if you need communion in your pew seat.

**About our celebration of Holy Communion:** We celebrate the Lord's Supper in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood contrary to that which is stated above do so to their great harm, and also because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with Pastor. Those not communing are still invited to come forward for a blessing from Pastor, and you may indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

## GREETING and SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: Peace be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

*(From Divine Service Setting One LSB pg. 151 ff.)*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Please stand as able*

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.**

*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.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

*Psalm 92:1-4; antiphon: 92:5*

P: How great are your works, O LORD!  
C: **Your thoughts are very deep!**  
P: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,  
C: **to sing praises to your name, O Most High;**  
P: to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
C: **and your faithfulness by night,**

P: to the music of the lute and the harp,  
C: **to the melody of the lyre.**  
P: For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;  
C: **at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

**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.**

P: How great are your works, O LORD!  
C: **Your thoughts are very deep!**

### **SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.  
O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration,  
C: **that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them;**  
P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C: **Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Ezekiel 33:7-9*

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE READING

*Romans 13:1-10*

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup>for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as able*

## GOSPEL READING

*Matthew 18:1-20*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

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

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" <sup>2</sup>And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup>and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup>"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup>but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

<sup>7</sup>"Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup>And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

<sup>10</sup>“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

<sup>15</sup>“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

#### NICENE CREED

C: 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.



In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

*Please be seated*

### **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*Communion will be served in a continuous fashion. Households may commune at the same time together. Ushers will help direct you forward via the center aisle; please return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten-free bread is available for those who need it, as is non-alcoholic grape juice. Simply request either when you come forward to receive Communion.*

*Please stand as able*

### **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

**P:** Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS and SENDING WORDS**

**P:** We go to live for Jesus!

**C: We go to share His love!**

### **Acknowledgements**

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