

Welcome To

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation

September 12th-13th, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19)

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE and GREETING

- 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 143:1-2; antiphon: 143:9

- P: Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
C: **I have fled to you for refuge!**
P: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
C: **In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**
P: Enter not into judgment with your servant,
C: **for no one living is righteous before you.**

**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: Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

C: **I have fled to you for refuge!**

SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness,

C: **hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain;**

P: through Jesus Christ, 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

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 the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let 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. ⁴Who 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.

⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The 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. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸For 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. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

¹⁰Why 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; ¹¹for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

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 18th chapter.

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

²¹Then Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus 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. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

²⁵And 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.

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.

**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.**

Please be seated

SERMON *“Transformed: Living and Dying to the Lord” – Romans 14:1-12*

Please stand as able

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with this response: P: Lord, in Your mercy,
C: **hear our prayer.**

LORD’S PRAYER

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and give it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

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.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; 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!**

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