



OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Southern Pines, North Carolina

ORDER FOR WORSHIP
3rd Sunday after Pentecost – June 26, 2022

PRELUDE- ORGAN

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God,
Who forgives all our sin,
Whose mercy endures forever.

Seeking reconciliation with God and neighbor,
Let us remember the gift of baptism and forgiveness of sin.

God of mercy,
We confess that we have sinned against you,
Against one another,
And against the creation entrusted to our care.
We're worried and distracted by many things,
And we fail to love you above all else.
We look after ourselves
And turn our back on those unlike us.
We participate in separating ourselves from others
Creating distinctions that divide us
We create hostility where you desire peace.
Forgive us, that we may live in the unifying freedom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

When we were laid low by sin and guilt,
God made us alive together with Christ,
Forgiving us (+) all our trespasses
By taking our sins to the cross.
For freedom Christ has set us free,
But this freedom is not for selfish consumption,
We are freed from sin to be free for service.
Rejoice in this good news!

THE GATHERING SONG: *Come, Now is the Time to Worship*

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE - ELW p. 139

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

People: **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: *Esther 2*

After these things, when the anger of King Ahasuerus had abated, he remembered Vashti and what she had done and what had been decreed against her. Then the king's servants who attended him said, "Let beautiful young virgins be sought out for the king. And let the king appoint commissioners in all the provinces of his kingdom to gather all the beautiful young virgins to the harem in the citadel of Susa under custody of Hegai, the king's eunuch, who is in charge of the women; let their cosmetic treatments be given them. And let the young woman who pleases the king be queen instead of Vashti." This pleased the king, and he did so.

Now there was a Jew in the citadel of Susa whose name was Mordecai son of Jair son of Shimei son of Kish, a Benjaminite, who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with King Jeconiah of Judah, whom King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had carried away. He had brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his cousin, for she had neither father nor mother; the young woman was fair and beautiful, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter. When the king's order and his edict were proclaimed and when many young women were gathered in the citadel of Susa in custody of Hegai, Esther was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai, who had charge of the women. The young woman pleased him and won his favor, and he quickly provided her with her cosmetic treatments and her portion of food and with seven chosen maids from the king's palace, and he advanced her and her maids to the best place in the harem. Esther did not reveal her people or kindred, for Mordecai had charged her not to tell. Every day Mordecai would walk back and forth in front of the court of the harem to learn how Esther was and how she fared.

The turn came for each young woman to go in to King Ahasuerus, after being twelve months under the regulations for the women, since this was the regular period of their cosmetic treatment: six months with oil of myrrh and six months with perfumes and cosmetics for women. When the young woman went in to the king, she was given whatever she asked for to take with her from the harem to the king's palace. In the evening she went in; then in the morning she came back to the second harem in custody of Shaashgaz, the king's eunuch who was in charge of the concubines; she did not go into the king again unless the king delighted in her and she was summoned by name.

When the turn came for Esther daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had adopted her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther was admired by all who saw her. When Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus in his royal palace in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, the king loved Esther more than all the other women; of all the virgins she won his favor and devotion, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. Then the king gave a great banquet to all his officials and ministers: "Esther's banquet." He also granted a holiday to the provinces and gave gifts with royal liberality.

When the virgins were being gathered together, Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate. Now Esther had not revealed her kindred or her people, as Mordecai had charged her, for Esther obeyed Mordecai just as when she was brought up by him. In those days, while Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthan and Teresh, two of the king's eunuchs who guarded the threshold, became angry and conspired to kill King Ahasuerus. But the matter came to the knowledge of Mordecai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mordecai. When the affair was investigated and found to be so, both men were hung on the pole. It was recorded in the book of the annals in the presence of the king.

Here ends the reading. Word of God, Word of Life...

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16 (*Read responsively by half verse.*)

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones

in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;

their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out

or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;

you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;

I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;

in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol

or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

THE SECOND READING: *Galatians 5:1, 13-25*

St. Paul writes, "For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit."

Word of God, Word of Life...
People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON - Heather Lussier

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *How Firm a Foundation, verse 1* – ELW 796

**How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said,
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled? Amen.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 9:51-62*

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

The People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE SERMON: *For Just Such a Time As This!* - "Resident Aliens"

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *God of Light* - ELW #507

THE APOSTLES' CREED - ELW p. 104

People: **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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC- ORGAN

THE OFFERING HYMN – *The Doxology*

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God,
For the greening earth given for all,
For the talents are given to share,
And for this bread and wine.
Transform us to be the body of Christ,
That, feasting on this food and drink,
Our lives may reflect your generosity,
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - ELW p. 144

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE PREFACE (*Sung by Pastor.*)

THE SANCTUS

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

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (SUNG)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
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;**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name**

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.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

THE EUCHARISTIC INVITATION

COMMUNION SONGS:

Lamb of God - ELW p. 146 / Once and For All

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, in this holy communion
You have welcomed us into your presence,
Nourished us with words of mercy,
And fed us at your table.
Amid the cares of this life,
Strengthen us to love you with all our heart,
Serve our neighbors with a willing spirit,
And honor the earth you have made,
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

Pastor: Live your lives in Christ, rooted and built up in him, and abound in thanksgiving; and the blessing of the holy Trinity (+) one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

People: **Amen**

THE SENDING SONG: *Friend Of God*

THE DISMISSAL/ POSTLUDE