
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School

5625 Franklin Avenue – Des Moines, IA 50310

Web: www.molcs.org

Email: school.office@molcs.org

Church: (515) 277-8349

fax: (515) 274-2723

School: (515)277-0247

Mark Kleckner, Pastor

Maria Regalado, Secretary

Cory Emily, Principal

Jim Behrens, Organist

Aaron Powell, Director of

Brenda Schoen, Pianist

Worship & Music Ministries

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

God's Gift Service T May 17, 2020

God Gathers Us in His Name

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

C Amen.

Opening Hymn:

“Father Welcomes”

LSB # 605

God's Gift of Forgiveness

*As God gathers us in worship today the only thing we are able to give Him is our sins,
and out of undeserved love for us God gives us forgiveness.*

*King David wrote in the Psalms: “I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD’
— and You, [O God,] forgave the guilt of my sin.”*

Psalm 32:5b NIV

P Do you confess to Almighty God that you are a poor, miserable sinner who has sinned against Him in thought, word, and deed and therefore justly deserve His present and eternal punishment? If so, answer, “Yes.”

C Yes.

P Do you believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has lived a holy life, satisfying all the demands of God's holy Law for you, and died, shedding His blood for you upon the cross for the forgiveness of all your sins? If so, answer, “Yes.”

C Yes.

P Do you ask God, for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter suffering and death of His beloved Son Jesus, to be gracious and merciful to you? If so, answer, “Yes.”

C Yes.

P I have great Good News! Through His holy life and innocent death on the cross, Jesus has satisfied the holy demands of God's Law and has earned forgiveness and eternal life for us. He desires that this gift be delivered to all people. For He told His disciples on Easter evening, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you. ... If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

John 20:21,23 NIV

P Therefore, in the stead and by this command of my Lord, Jesus Christ, and as the called and ordained servant of the Word in this place, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the T Son, and of the Holy Spirit. C Amen.

P You are forgiven! You are set free! You are dearly loved children of God! Together you and I can now raise our voices in thanksgiving and praise to God for His tremendous grace. We can bring Him our fears and hopes, our needs and prayers, with all boldness and confidence as dear children do to their dear Father. C Amen.

Our Praise in Response to God's Forgiveness:

"Beautiful Savior"

by Stuart Towend

God's Gift of His Word

By ourselves we are spiritually dead.

By our own efforts we are unable to create or sustain a relationship with God.

However, out of undeserved love for us, God has made us spiritually alive.

He creates and sustains a relationship with us by way of His Word, the Word of Jesus:

*"For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable,
through the living and enduring word of God."*

— 1 Peter 1:23 NIV

First Reading:

Acts 17:16-31

ESV

[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Evangelist St. Luke writes:]

While Paul was waiting for [Silas & Timothy] at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, "What does this babbler wish to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities"—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean." Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, for 'In Him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are indeed His offspring.' Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent, because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."

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

Epistle Reading:

1 Peter 3:13-22

ESV

[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Peter writes:]

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which He went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading:

John 14:15-21

ESV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle John writes:]

[Jesus continues His conversation with His disciples on the night He was betrayed and said to them:] "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. Whoever has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day:

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

LSB # 821:1-3,5

Sermon:

"You Are NOT Alone!"

John 14:15-21

Apostles' Creed

P We confess our Christian faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C 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.

Our Prayers in Response to God's Word

The following people or matters are being lifted up before the Lord:

- The CoViD-19 pandemic, including its removal, the safety and health of those not yet infected with the coronavirus, especially frontline health workers like Linda Light's niece, a nurse at St. Luke's in Cedar Rapids; the healing of those who have CoViD-19 – including Jose; a worker at the Genesis Care Center where Dale Curtice's mother resides; Maxine Maly, a long time member of Mt. Olive who resides at Ramsey Village near Drake (the Maly family asks that contact with Ron Maly be limited at this time); and granting comfort, peace, and the certain hope and joy of the resurrection to come when Jesus returns to those who have lost loved ones to the disease.
- Donna Foltman's neighbor Elaine, whose son-in-law Jamie has tested positive for CoViD-19, whose wife Julie's health is compromised (as is Elaine's).
- The provision of help and aid to all whose lives have been upended by the restrictions imposed in the pandemic, including the provision of employment to those who have been laid off or furloughed during this time.
- Wisdom and guidance of the Holy Spirit to all who are in leadership positions within the medical community, within the government, within business and industry, and well as within the Church as decisions need to be made about which pandemic restrictions must be kept in place and which may be relaxed or eliminated.
- Healing for all those with illnesses and injuries other than CoViD-19: Alex Brown (ear surgery); Dale Curtice's Aunt Harriet (recovery from a stroke) and Uncle Dean (3rd knee replacement and a return to the church); Ian Thompson; Dale Foltman (Donna's husband); Joan Koch's brother, Bill, suffering with cancer; John Light's girlfriend who has entered a nursing home with numerous health issues; Dale Curtice; David West; Joan Erickson; Debbie Holseid; Gretchen Versteeg; Michael Sturgeon; Doug Burke; Pat Davison; & Kathryn Sprecher.
- Protection for Beth Larson's daughters as they move, one in Tennessee and one in Texas.
- The Lord's blessings upon those partaking of His Body and Blood during our drive through Communion on Saturday, May 16, at 5:00 pm.
- Thanksgiving for Rev. Bob Zirkelbach and his years of service as Mt. Olive's business manager and for Rene Shepard, a member of our school community, who will be the new MtO business manager.
- The members of our Mt. Olive Lutheran School community, including Marisa Muniz and her son Arlo Alcala; Paige Beck and her sons Dominic & Jeice Beck-Webb; Jim, Anita, and Nicole (granddaughter) Behrens; Lydiane and Sam Kayina and their children, Azael, Prince, Princia, and Julia Bizimana; and Leora, Andrew, and Donovan Borell.
- Our MtO teachers and students as they finish out the current academic year online and prepare for the summer this coming week.
- For Jesus' work throughout the world, that the Gospel might be proclaimed to all people and the forgiveness of sins delivered through God's Means of Grace.

The prayers, silent or spoken, will be prayed now. Each prayer will end with:

P ...Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your loving hands, dear Lord, we place everyone and everything for which we've prayed.

We trust You to answer our prayers according to Your mercy in the way that is best for us.

We pray this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Our Offerings in Response to God's Word

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,
so that you through His poverty might become rich. ...*

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!

– 2 Corinthians 8:9; 9:15 NIV

You are encouraged to continue regularly giving your tithes and offerings to the Lord either online at www.molcs.org/church or by mailing them to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 5625 Franklin Ave, Des Moines IA 50310 or bringing them to one of our drive through Communion services.

We thank God for your ongoing generosity in supporting the Lord's work during this challenging time.

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting in 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.

Collect Prayer of the Day

P We join in the Collect Prayer of the Day:

C O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Final Prayer

P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, grant

that our lips which have here sung Your praise may now glorify You in the world;

that our ears which have heard the voice of our Shepherd through Your Word

may now be closed to the clamorous voice of Satan and the world;

that our eyes which have seen Your great love may also behold Your blessed hope;

that our tongues which have confessed Your name may ever speak the truth; and

that we may be fully restored to newness of life

through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior,

who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His Face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give T you His peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

Closing Song:

“All the People Said Amen” *by Matt Maher, Trevor Morgan, & Paul Moak*

Announcements and Postlude