
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School

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The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

God's Gift Service T September 5, 2020 T 5:00 pm

Prelude

Welcome

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: "Lord, Jesus Christ, Be Present Now" *Stand for vs 4; LSB # 902*

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; Our hearts in
true de - vo - tion bow. Your Spir - it send with
light di - vine, And let Your truth with - in us shine.

2. Unseal our lips to sing Your praise
In endless hymns through all our days.
Increase our faith and light our minds;
And set us free from doubt that blinds.

3. Then shall we join the hosts that cry,
"O holy, holy Lord Most High!"
And in the light of that blest place
We then shall see You face to face. ■■■▶

Stand 4. All glory to the Father, Son, • And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity • Be praise throughout eternity!

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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 With the Psalmist we say, "Out of the depths I cry to You, O LORD;
C O Lord, hear my voice. Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.
P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared." *Psalm 130:1-4 NIV*
P Let us each silently reflect for a moment on our sinfulness, on any particular sins that may be weighing heavily on our minds and hearts, and on the gracious invitation of God's Word.

(A time of Silent reflection)

- P Holy and gracious God,
C I confess that I have daily sinned against You. Some of my sin I know – the thoughts, words, and deeds of which I am ashamed – but some is known only to You. Forgive me for failing to love You with my whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. Forgive me for failing to love my neighbors as myself. Forgive me for my sinful nature and for all my sins of commission or omission. For all this I deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, all to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.
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:

"Baptismal Waters Cover Me"

LSB # 616



1 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me As I ap -
 2 I look to Christ up - on the tree, His bod - y
 3 Lord, may Your wound - ed hand im - part Your heal - ing
 4 From Your own mouth comes forth a word; Your shep - herd
 5 Bap - tis - mal wa - ters cov - er me; Christ's wound - ed



proach on bend - ed knee; My Fa - ther's mer - cy
 bro - ken there for me; I lay be - fore Him
 to my bro - ken heart; Your love a - lone can
 speaks, but You are heard; Through him Your hand now
 hand has set me free. Held in my Fa - ther's



here I plead, For griev - ous sins of thought and deed.
 all my sin, My dark - est se - crets from with - in.
 form in me A heart that serves You joy - ful - ly.
 stretch - es out, For - giv - ing sin, de - stroy - ing doubt.
 strong em - brace, With joy I praise Him for His grace.

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Psalm

Psalm 32:1-7; antiphon: v. 1

[By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, King David writes:]

- P Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
C Blessèd is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
P For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
C For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me, [O God];
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
P I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;
C I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and You, [O God,] forgave the iniquity of my sin.
P Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
C You are a hiding place for me;
You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with shouts of deliverance.
P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
C as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray together:
C O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the 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.

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

Old Testament Reading:

Ezekiel 33:7-9

ESV

[The Lord said to the prophet Ezekiel:]

“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. 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. 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

ESV

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

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. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. 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, 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.

Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. 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.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 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.” 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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

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

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to Him a child, He put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

“Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me, 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.

“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! 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. 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.

“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. For the Son of Man came to save the lost. 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? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of My Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

“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. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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.

Hymn of the Day: "Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing"

Public Domain: *LSB # 686*



1 Come, Thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer, Hith - er by Thy
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con -
 4 Oh, that day when freed from sin - ning, I shall see Thy



sing Thy grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing,
 help I've come; And I hope, by Thy good plea - sure,
 strained to be; Let that grace now like a fet - ter
 love - ly face; Clothed then in the blood - washed lin - en,



Call for songs of loud - est praise. While the hope of end - less
 Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
 Bind my wan - d'ring heart to Thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
 How I'll sing Thy won - drous grace! Come, my Lord, no long - er



glo - ry Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me
 strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
 feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my
 tar - ry; Take my ran - som'd soul a - way; Send Thine



ev - er to a - dore Thee; May I still Thy good - ness prove.
 res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed His pre - cious blood.
 heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a - bove.
 an - gels soon to car - ry Me to realms of end - less day.

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Sermon "Who IS the GREATEST in the Kingdom? . . . ??" *Matthew 18:1-20*

Apostles' Creed

P Together we confess our common 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

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens,

Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses,

but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,

that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

— Hebrews 4:14-16

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For those who continue to support the Lord's mission through the school & church – gifts, online auction, tithes & offerings.

Prayers for Healing:

- That God would bless Ryan and Melissa Pillack with children.
- For Tom Ruhberg, 91 year old uncle of Sue Barlow.
- For Pat Davison, whose breast cancer remains in remission, but who will be undergoing a left-side mastectomy and radiation treatments in late September.
- Dale Curtice's friend, Bill Nelson.
- Dale Curtice in the aftermath of an accident – he's okay but pray that everything flowing out from the accident also goes okay.
- For Ron Maly; Lucas McNeeley; Ian Thompson; Dale Foltman; Joan Koch's brother, Bill; John Light's girlfriend; David West; Joan Erickson; Debbie Holseid; Gretchen Versteeg; Michael Sturgeon; Doug Burke; Kathryn Sprecher; & Pastor Jim Stogdill, Sandi Jones, and Phil Mattheis.
- Those infected with COVID-19.

Prayers for Comfort in Grief:

- Maxine, the mother of Christine Ryerson (*member and MtO Jr Hi teacher*), has a brain tumor and appears to be approaching the end of her earthly life – that the Lord’s will is done, that Maxine’s last days are peaceful, that she looks forward in faith to being received into her Savior Jesus’ presence, and that Christine and her family members are protected by the Lord’s angels as they travel to be with Maxine.
- For Garry & Christie Knapp as they continue to grieve the death of Christie’s mother, Beverly Wolfe, and now also Garry’s brother, Steven Knapp.

Prayer for Relief from the COVID-19 pandemic and all its resultant consequences, especially as it impacts schools in the Des Moines Metro area and around the State of Iowa.

Prayer for Blessings and Guidance for ALL schools – Administrators, teachers, staff, students and families as they seek to safely begin school during these days.

Prayer for God’s Help with seasonable weather – rains in the drought-stricken areas of IA.

Prayer for Protection of & Provision for members of the MtO Lutheran faith community, both congregation & school, who are continuing to “shelter in place” in view of the pandemic.

Prayer for Christians around the world who are being persecuted and even martyred for the sake of Jesus’ name and the Christian Faith. Blessings on proclaimers of the Gospel.

Prayers for our Country and its Leaders: In view of..

- the pandemic; • civil unrest; • the approaching campaign and election.

Prayers for Mt. Olive and its Ministries:

- Mt. Olive Lutheran School – Administrators, Teachers, Staff, Students & Families as the year has begun and continues – that God would keep everyone safe and healthy and focused on learning.
- God’s guidance & blessings on our church leadership as they faithfully serve the congregation & school, and that others would be prayerfully led to join them in the Lord’s service.
- That God would show each of us ways to pray for and to reach out to others in Jesus’ name where we live, work, and play.

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

*To maximize health & safety for everyone, offering plates will not be passed during the service.
You are encouraged to place your tithes and offerings in the plate on a stand
at the door to the worship area either as you enter or leave the Divine Service.
We thank God for your ongoing generosity in supporting
His work at Mt. Olive during this challenging time.*

God's Gift of His Supper

Out of undeserved love for us, God has made us spiritually alive & a part of His family.

The relationships within our earthly families are strengthened through shared meals.

Even more so is our relationship with God and one another strengthened by a meal:

“Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ?

Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread.”

– 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 NNAS

An Explanation of the Supper

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.

Jesus' Words Instituting His Supper

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My T 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 T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

The Peace of the Lord

P Together, in, with, and under the bread and wine, this is the very body and blood of our crucified but risen Savior, Jesus Christ, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; therefore, the peace of the Lord is with you always.

C Amen.

God Gives Us the Gift of Jesus' Body and Blood

Jesus has said "This is My Body, this is My Blood, given and shed for YOU for the Forgiveness of Sins."

*During the singing of the following song,
the communion elements will be brought to you where you are seated.*

*The communion wafer will be given to you in a cup. The wine will be given to you in another cup.
After eating and drinking place both of the empty cups in the container presented to you.*

Distribution Hymn: "Chief of Sinners though I Be"

Public Domain; *LSB # 611*

1. Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me, Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die. As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.	2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love, Higher than the heav'ns above, Deeper than the depths of sea, Lasting as eternity! Love that found me – wondrous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
3. Only Jesus can impart Balm to heal the wounded heart, Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to walk with God In the way that Enoch trod.	4. Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is all in all to me; All my wants to Him are known, All my sorrows are His own. He sustains the hidden life Safe with Him from earthly strife.
5. O my Savior, help afford • By Your Spirit and Your Word! When my wayward heart would stray • Keep me in the narrow way; Grace in time of need supply • While I live and when I die.	

The Dismissal

P Now may this True Body and True Blood of Jesus, our crucified but risen Savior, strengthen and preserve each of you in the True Faith from now until our Lord returns. His Peace is with you. Your sins have been forgiven indeed!

C Amen.

Final Prayer

P Let us pray:

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 our bodies which have tasted of Your Son's Body and Blood
may be restored to newness of life through faith in Him.

This we pray through 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 Hymn: "Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways"

LSB # 707



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

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Announcements / Postlude

T T T

Our next service will be held on Sunday, September 13, at 9:00 am. The Saturday services thereafter will be at 5:00 pm on September 19 and October 3 & 17. Besides on September 13, the upcoming Sunday services will be at 9:00 am on September 27 and October 11 & 25.