

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1100 E. SUPERIOR ST., DULUTH, MINNESOTA

September 13, 2020

10:00 a.m.

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America celebrates **God's Work, Our Hands** this Sunday. We will continue this theme throughout the year as we live out being church in our daily lives.*

### GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

**PRELUDE** *Trumpet Voluntary*

John Stanley (1712-1786)

pre-recorded by Bob Boman, piccolo trumpet; Karen Sande, organ

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who extends an invitation to the Waters, the Word, and the Meal.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Sometimes we divide our lives between church and world,  
between Sunday and the rest of the days,  
but You, O God, are Lord over all our days.

**Forgive us when we fail to be bearers of Christ in our daily lives.**

**Forgive us when our hands fail to be an extension of your grace.**

**Forgive us when our words hurt rather than heal.**

**Forgive us when we forget that we have been forgiven and set free  
to be your forgiving people in your world.**

Deeply rooted in a boundless God beyond measure,  
Draw sustenance from the truth that God proclaims:  
Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

Be renewed in hope and filled with the Spirit  
so that you may accept God's invitation to be Christ's body in the world.

**Amen.**

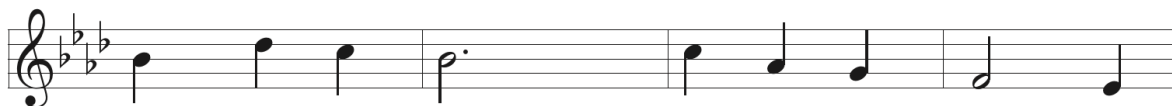
## GATHERING HYMN *God's Work, Our Hands*



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

### APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God the source of life and inspiration, may your love for us, shown so deeply in your resurrection of forgiveness, move us to practice forgiveness in our daily lives. Through Christ, we pray.

**Amen.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

**TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES: BLESSING OF BIBLES**

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

**FIRST READING** Genesis 50:15-21

*read by Dave LaMaster*

<sup>15</sup>Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" <sup>16</sup>So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father."

Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. <sup>21</sup>So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING** Romans 14:1-12

*read by Barb LaMaster*

<sup>1</sup>Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

Choir: We have an advocate, Jesus | Christ the righteous;\*  
your sins are forgiven on account | of his name. *Alleluia*

### GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

<sup>23</sup>"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. <sup>24</sup>When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; <sup>25</sup>and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' <sup>27</sup>And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. <sup>28</sup>But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' <sup>29</sup>Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' <sup>30</sup>But he refused; then he went and threw him into

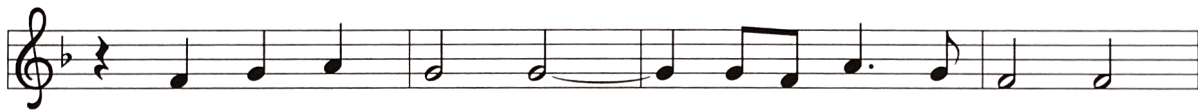
prison until he would pay the debt. <sup>31</sup>When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. <sup>32</sup>Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ <sup>34</sup>And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. <sup>35</sup>So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

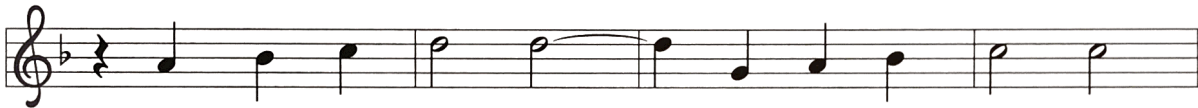
**HYMN OF THE DAY #639 *When We Are Living***



<i>1 Pues si vi - vi - mos,</i>	<i>pa - ra él vi - vi - mos,</i>
1 When we are liv - ing,	it is in Christ Je - sus,
2 'Mid times of sor - row	and in times of pain, . . . .
3 A - cross this wide world,	we shall al - ways find . . . .



<i>y si mo - ri - mos</i>	<i>pa - ra él mo - ri - mos.</i>
and when we're dy - ing,	it is in the Lord. . . .
when sens - ing beau - ty	or in love's em - brace, . . .
those who are cry - ing	with no peace of mind; . . .



<i>Sea que vi - va - mos</i>	<i>o que mu - ra - mos,</i>
Both in our liv - ing	and in our dy - ing,
wheth - er we suf - fer,	or sing re - joic - ing,
and when we help them,	or when we feed them,



<i>so - mos del Se - ñor,</i>	<i>so - mos del Se - ñor.</i>
we be - long to God,	we be - long to God.
we be - long to God,	we be - long to God.
we be - long to God,	we be - long to God.

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Boundless God, remind us:

**I AM Created by an ever-present, loving God,  
Deeply rooted in Christ Jesus,  
Equipped to be resilient amidst change,  
Grounded in community,  
Free to struggle, grow and expand,  
Compelled to reach out in response,  
Renewed in hope each day.**

God, speak these words to us today, plant them within us, that we may find our identity in you. **Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

God of abundant grace,  
**Open your healing hands.**

## **THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to **218-325-9525** with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.*

**OFFERTORY MUSIC** *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* tune *Beach Spring*, arr. L.Sue  
prerecorded by Roberta Maughan, Suzanne Rauvola, Sarah Climis, handbells; Karen Sande, piano

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God our provider,  
You extend an invitation to offer ourselves in response to your goodness.  
Accept the gifts you have first given us, which we bring to your table,  
and which we share in your world in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

*The LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast wilderness. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything. Deuteronomy 2:7*

While we are a scattered community today, we remain one body in Christ, rooted and held together by the ever-present love of God. As with the Israelites in the wilderness, God watches over us even as we are apart, providing what is needed to sustain us on the journey.

It is often through the ordinary work of our lives that God's nourishing presence is revealed and offered. Tear off a piece of bread and hold it in your hand. Give thanks for the many hands that worked separately but in common purpose to produce this food for our bodies. Remember God's presence through hands that create, hands that support and protect, hands that reach out in love, hands that soothe and console, hands that work together for peace and justice. As you eat this bread, pray that your own hands will be strengthened and blessed for service, revealing in all they do the loving presence of God in the world. **Amen.**

### HYMN #493 *Taste and See*

*Refrain – All*

Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,

taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Cantor: I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips;  
My soul shall glory in the Lord; for God has been so good to me. **Refrain**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Nourished by the living God and grounded in this community of faith, we pray:

**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.**

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

### BLESSING

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN #580 *How Clear Is Our Vacation, Lord*



1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord, when once we heed your call  
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear;  
3 We mar - vel how your saints be - come in hin - dranc - es more sure;  
4 In what you give us, Lord, to do, to - geth - er or a - lone,



to live ac - cord - ing to your word and dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,  
if world - ly pres - sures fray the mind and love it - self can - not un - wind  
whose joy - ful vir - tues put to shame the ca - sual way we wear your name,  
in old rou - tines or ven - tures new, may we not cease to look to you,



that you are Lord of all and will not let us fall.  
its tan - gled skein of care: our in - ward life re - pair.  
and by our faults ob - scure your pow'r to cleanse and cure.  
the cross you hung up - on, all you en - deav - ored done.



## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Alla Hornpipe (from Suite #2 "Water Music")

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Karen Sande, organ

**MINISTERS** All People of First Lutheran Church

**PASTOR** The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman

**PROGRAM STAFF** Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate

Karen Sande, Director of Music

Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities

Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship

Rachael Kresha, Apostle Choir Director, Associate Organist

**MUSICIANS** Suzanne Rauvola, Liz Raduege, Michael Fuchs, Glen Backman, singers

Roberta Maughan, Sarah Climis, Suzanne Rauvola, handbells;

**VIDEOGRAPHER** Sam Weston

**VIDEO EDITOR** Stacie Curnow

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** **God's Work, Our hands** tune: *Earth and All Stars*, D.N. Johnson, text: Wayne Wold. Permission is granted to reproduce this composition for local, non-sale use in synods, congregations, and other ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Other texts and hymns ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917 and One License #A-729428.

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

**faithlovecommunity**  
First Lutheran Church

