

WORSHIP SERVICE
September 19, 2021
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

* God's Greeting

* We Greet One Another

Christ be with you.

And also with you!

* Call to Worship: Psalm 9:1-2

We give thanks to the Lord with our whole heart;

We recount all of your wonderful deeds.

We will be glad and exult in you;

We will sing praise to your name.

* Opening Songs:

“Lord I Lift Your Name on High”

Lift Up Your Hearts #610

Lord, I lift your name on high;

Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life;

I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky.

Lord I lift your name on high!

“He Is Exalted”

Sing A New Creation #41

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high:

I will praise Him.

He is exalted, forever exalted,

and I will praise his name!

He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign;

Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high:

I will praise Him.

He is exalted, forever exalted,

and I will praise his name!

He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign;

Heaven and earth rejoice in his holy name.

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

* Opening Prayer

WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Prayer of Confession: Exodus 20: 1-17

God spoke all these words: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.”

**Save your people from the chaos of divided loyalties,
and the worship of many gods.**

*“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.
You shall not bow down to them or worship them.”*

Save your people from making God in our own likeness and self-centeredness.

“You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.”

Save your people from using God’s name trivially.

“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God.

On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Save your people from neglecting quiet times with you and being obsessed with busyness.

“Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.”

Save your people from ignoring the elderly and over-indulging the new generation.

“You shall not murder.”

Save your people from glorifying war and wishing our enemies dead.

“You shall not commit adultery.”

Save your people from watering-down love, marriage, and from exploitation of sex.

“You shall not steal.”

Save your people from self-justified loopholes and keeping what is not ours.

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.”

Save your people from the twisting of truth and cruel gossip in school halls, newsrooms and twitter feeds.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.”

Save your people from those who preach greed as a virtue.

**Jesus Christ, savior of all who lose their way,
O healing Spirit, power who renews the world,
God of truth and mercy,
Save your people.**

God’s Words of Assurance: Psalm 28, Lamentations 3:22-23

Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

* Song of Response: “Your Mercy Flows”

Lift Up Your Hearts #700

Your mercy flows upon us like a river.
Your mercy stands unshakable and true.
Most holy God, of all good things the giver,
we turn and sift our fervent prayer to you.

Hear our cry (Hear our cry)
O Lord (O Lord)
be merciful (be merciful)
once more. (once more.)
Let your love, (let your love)
your anger stem; (your anger stem;)
remember mercy
O Lord, again.
(Repeat song)

Congregational Prayer

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Children's Message: Stacy Hertz

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:17-20, 38-42

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ ³⁹But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. ⁴⁰And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. ⁴¹If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. ⁴²Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

Message: Christ, The End of the Law

* Song of Response: “Bring Forth the Kingdom”

Sing A New Creation #123

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life O people: life in the kingdom of God!
Bring forth the kingdom of mercy; pray for the kingdom of peace;
work for the kingdom of justice; hope for the city of God!
You are a light on a hill, O people: light for the city of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the kingdom of God!
Bring forth the kingdom of mercy; pray for the kingdom of peace;
work for the kingdom of justice; hope for the city of God!
You are a seed of the Word, O people: live for the kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the kingdom of God!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Application

WE DEPART TO SERVE

* Blessing

* Closing Song: “We Receive Your Blessing ”

Lift Up Your Hearts #947

We receive your blessing; we receive your grace,
as we walk in the light shining from your face.
May the peace that you give change the way that we live.
We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him, all creatures here below.

Praise him above, you heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son, and praise the Holy Ghost.

We receive your blessing; we receive your grace,
as we walk in the light shining from your face.
May the peace that you give change the way that we live.
We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise him, all creatures here below.

Praise him above, you heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son, and praise the Holy Ghost.

We receive your blessing as we leave this place.

* Postlude

* Please stand if you are able

Message: Rev. Tom Niehof

Musicians: Chloe Berns-Schweiggruber, Elijah and Laura Hufford, Tara Tilstra, Nate VanDyk, Char Verkade

THIS WEEK

Last Sunday's Special Offering

The special offering last week was Sunday for Resonate Global Missions, Benjamin Groenewold and Trica VanDyk (John VanDyk's sister). They are missionaries to Lithuania. They both teach at LCC International University in Klaipeda Lithuania. LCC is a Christian liberal arts university that is uniquely placed to develop future leaders in a region of the world deeply damaged by Soviet rule. They have a few flyers on the table outside the sanctuary.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday Evening Bible Study: We meet Sunday evening, September 19, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to begin our study of the Psalms. Mark Voss will lead our discussion of Psalm 23. New members are welcome.

CHURCH GROUNDS CLEANUP

Wednesday, September 22: mid-afternoon until dark.

We will work together on cleaning up tree debris, trimming hedges, general yard work, and possibly splitting/stacking some wood. And, there will be a bonfire. Gloves, wheel barrows, rakes, yard tools/supplies are good things to bring along.

The Fellowship Committee will be providing supper: pizza, soda, water, fruit, and dessert. EVERYONE IS INVITED! A headcount would be much appreciated by Tuesday 9/21/21 @ 3pm—please let us know if you are coming by emailing the office email, communications@amestrinity.org, or commenting on Tina's post on Facebook. Questions? Talk to Jeff Kopaska.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club meets on the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** at the Lincoln Center HyVee at **8:30 AM**.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adult Sunday School Facilitators

The Ed. Committee is looking for Adult Sunday School Facilitators. The materials will come from a RightNow Media study and the facilitator will guide the group through the discussion. Most of the studies are 4-6 weeks long and the facilitator can choose a study that interests them. Please talk to Pastor Randy or Rachel DeBruin if you are interested.

Operation Save Pine Lake: Tracy has informed Travis and I that Pine Lake is having discussions on whether or not to remain open. At this time the only other information I have gathered is on a Facebook page called “Operation Save Pine Lake” and they are asking people to advocate for the camp by sending letters or emails, I’ll share info below. It would be nice if all of us board members could take some time and do our best to help keep this camp open.

Letters can be sent:

Mark Bjorlo

Converge North Central

2 Pine Tree Dr

Suite 510

Arden Hills, Mn 55112

Or email:

mbjorlo@convergenorthcentral.org

They are also having a couple of listening sessions/town hall meetings in different towns surrounding camp.

That schedule is:

September 14th in the Quad Cities, Ia

September 16th in Hampton, Ia @ 7 p.m

October 6th in Kiron, Ia @ 6 p.m

October 23rd in Iowa Falls

There will be an informational meeting at Pine Lake Camp on Tuesday, November 30th at 6 pm where I believe they will listen and discuss and announce a final decision.

Furthermore, do we share this information on the camp Facebook page to make everyone aware of this situation so possibly kids as well as parents can be advocates as well?

Let’s all do our best to save such an important camp for so many kids and adults.

DENOMINATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith Practice Reflection Tip - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Sabbath: Read Mark 2:23-28 and ponder or discuss the following questions: What would a sabbath that is “made for you” look like? What would be life-giving? What would be restful? What would point you to God? For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

ReFrame Ministries

DOING MY FATHER’S WORK - Check out this week’s kids’ devotion at www.kidscorner.net. How was the twelve-year-old Jesus like us? We are also God’s children, and God has some important plans for each of us. Listen now at kidscorner.net and subscribe to KC’s weekly emails for all the new content.

FAITH PRACTICE REFLECTION TIP - Reflection and Discussion Starter—the Practice of Sabbath: Read Luke 6:6-11 and ponder or discuss the following questions: In what areas of your life do you need healing and restoration? How might celebrating sabbath help you open your heart to letting Jesus “completely restore” and heal you? (For more on faith practices from Faith Formation Ministries, visit bit.ly/FaithPracticesProject)

GROUNDWORK: YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY - The seventh commandment helps us live rightly in sacred marriage relationships. Join Groundwork as we study Exodus 20:14 and other scriptures to better understand why God cares and how we find the hope and grace to help us commit and, when necessary, receive forgiveness and re-commit to keeping this commandment. Listen now at GroundworkOnline.com and subscribe to Groundwork's weekly emails for future episodes.

Pastor Randy Raak: pastor@amestrinity.org or 928-699-9329

Elders: A-G = Tom Kuyper, H-K = Melody Franje, L-S = Mark Voss, T-Z = Paul Kleinwolterink

Deacons: A-G = Tina VanDyk, H - K = Andrew Friend, L-S = Judy Oltman, T-Z = Donna Bergman