

2020 07 26 Service of the Word.

IN THE NAME

P: "If God is for us,

C: Who is against us?"

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Friends in Christ: Let us confess our sins to God our Father and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

C: We confess that we are born in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We have not loved You with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. We deserve Your eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us. Amen.

P: Upon this your confession and prayer I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Peace be with you!

C: Amen.

PSALM 128

P: Happy is everyone who fears the LORD,
who walks in His ways.

**C: You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.

**Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the LORD.**

The LORD bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

**May you see your children's children.
Peace be upon Israel!**

**C: Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Almighty and merciful God, You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in You. Teach us to seek You and to rely on You in all our needs, so that our deepest desires may be satisfied, and we may finally see You face to face. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

P: Our Scripture reading for today comes from **Romans 8:26-39**.

“Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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, dead, and 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.

SERMON for today is based on **Romans 8:26-39**

P: Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Sermon “The ultimate assurance.”

P: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray!

C: Gracious Father, we offer with joy and thanks what You have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions — as signs of Your goodness and symbols of our love. Accept them for the sake of Jesus Christ, who offered Himself for us. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord, we are Your people, chosen by Your grace to be Your own possession and granted mercy upon mercy. Hear Your people who cry to You in need, and remember us according to the favour You have shown to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

That the Lord may open our hearts to prayer and guide us in this holy conversation so that we may know those things for which we ought to pray and seek them according to His grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the Church may prosper, the good news of Jesus Christ goes forth unhindered, and the Spirit bring many into the fellowship of the redeemed.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the Lord may grant to us good and faithful pastors to preach and teach the whole counsel of His Word, and that we may receive their words with joy and thanksgiving.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That we may remember our Baptism into Christ and live boldly in our vocation as His children no matter the difficulties of this fallen world, within our families, in our neighbourhoods and throughout the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the Lord may bless our nation and those who govern us, and that we may use the gift of freedom to live holy, upright and godly lives, to the praise of His glory.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the Lord may bless all lawful occupations and professions, and that we may pursue honesty and virtue in all things.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That God's people may recognize the true treasure of the cross and rejoice in the resurrection, pursuing with all their hearts, minds, bodies and souls the things of His kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the sick may be healed, the troubled granted peace, the grieving comforted and the dying kept in peace, and especially do we pray for our brothers and sisters, for Bob and Pat Taplin, please, walk with them during this time, and for Margaret Moll, be with Margaret, heal, restore and strengthen her in body and soul.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the Lord may grant us generous hearts so that we may honour Him with the worship of our hearts and bring to Him the tithes and offerings that support His work.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That we may be steadfast and immovable, abiding in Christ and in His Word of truth, and that we would be kept from error and delivered from temptation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the Lord may watch over our comings and goings and deliver us safely into the arms of His mercy, in the blessed rest of the faithful, to receive with all the dead in Christ the gift of life everlasting.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That we may soon receive with faith the Lord's body and blood today and by this Holy Communion be forgiven of our sins, strengthened in faith and equipped for His service, glorifying God with our words and works.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, mighty Lord, endless is Your mercy and eternal Your reign. Hear the prayers of Your people who cry to You in their need and who plead to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour †, and give you peace.

C: Amen.