

2020 08 16 Service of the Word.

IN THE NAME

P: "Behold, how good and pleasant it is,

C: When brothers dwell in unity!" (*Ps 133:1*)

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 133

P: Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity!

**C: It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down on the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down on the collar of his robes!**

It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion!
For there the Lord has commanded the blessing,
life forevermore.

**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 fulfilled our human longing for justice and peace in the coming of Your Son as a human being. May He shine in our

lives, so that all who see us are drawn to Him as their only Saviour. For He 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 Isaiah 56:1-8.

“Thus says the LORD:

**“Keep justice, and do righteousness,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my righteousness be revealed.**

**Blessed is the man who does this,
and the son of man who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath, not profaning it,
and keeps his hand from doing any evil.”**

**Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say,
“The LORD will surely separate me from his people”;
and let not the eunuch say,
“Behold, I am a dry tree.”**

For thus says the LORD:

**“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,
who choose the things that please me
and hold fast my covenant,**

**I will give in my house and within my walls
a monument and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that shall not be cut off.**

**“And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it,
and holds fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.”**

**The Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares,
“I will gather yet others to him
besides those already gathered.”**

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 **Isaiah 56:1-8**

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

Sermon “Be righteous and ... righteous.”

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

Let us pray to the Lord for all that we need and on behalf of all people, that He may bestow upon us the riches of His grace and that we may receive His gifts with faith and thanksgiving in our hearts.

For true unity in the faith; for the preservation of pure teaching of the Gospel; for harmony in the lives of our congregation, district and the LCA; and for charitable hearts that put the best construction on what we see and hear.

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

For those outside the kingdom; for missionaries near and far; for the ministries and agencies of our Church whereby the Gospel is spoken to those who have not heard; and for those who hear, that they may be brought to faith.

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

For all pastors and church workers, for those preparing for full-time church work, and for those considering church-work vocations.

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

For all families, for husbands and wives to live in faithfulness to each other, for all mothers with child, for all children, and for those who bring them to Baptism and nurture them in the faith.

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

For our fellow saints Ken and Margaret Lienert and Maureen Balch, whose faith journey is taking them to the next stage. We thank You, Father, for all the blessings that You have so richly provided through them to this group of saints and we pray that You would continue to bless Margaret and Ken and Maureen in the days to come.

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

For our Prime Minister Scott Morrison, for all elected and appointed leaders; the members of the armed forces; and our police, firefighters and emergency medical personnel in their duties to protect and serve us.

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

For all honest work and occupations, for our good use of the fruits of our labours, for generosity for those in need, and for the tithes and offerings that accompany our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

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

For the healing of the sick, the relief of the suffering, the comfort of the grieving and the peace of the dying, and especially we pray for our fellow saints – Margaret Moll, Bob and Pat Taplin, and for those who care for them in their afflictions.

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

For our remembrance of the saints and in thanksgiving for their faithful witness, that at last we may be joined with them in Your eternal presence. Especially today for Beverley Everett (Mum of our sister Sheryl Wagenknecht) whom it has pleased You to call in Your nearer presence. We thank You for the blessings You have provided through Beverley and we pray that You would be with Sheryl and her family during this time and would grant them Your peace and comfort.

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

For this holy assembly of Your beloved saints and for our communion upon the Lord's body and blood, and for us to bear in our lives the fruits of the Spirit and do the good works for which we were created.

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

Lord God, giver of all that is good, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your grace, that we may endure the changes and chances of this mortal life and be found worthy when our Saviour comes to bring to completion all things; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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.