

## 2020 09 06 Service of the Word.

### IN THE NAME

P: "Again, I say to you, where two or three are gathered in my name,

**C: There am I among them."**

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 119:33-40

P: Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes;  
and I will keep it to the end.

**C: Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law  
and observe it with my whole heart.**

Lead me in the path of Your commandments,  
for I delight in it.

**Incline my heart to Your testimonies,  
and not to selfish gain!**

Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things;  
and give me life in Your ways.

**Confirm to Your servant Your promise,  
that You may be feared.**

Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
for Your rules are good.

**Behold, I long for Your precepts;  
in Your righteousness give me life!**

**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:** O Lord, let Your continual pity cleanse and defend Your church; and because it cannot continue in safety without You, preserve it forever by Your help and goodness; 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 **Matthew 18:15-20**.

**“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 be to You, O Christ!

## **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 **Matthew 18:15-20**

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

## Sermon “Don’t judge! Or judge?”

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

Blessed Lord, You have promised that where two or three are gathered in Your name, You are in the midst of them. Hear the prayers of Your people, and grant our supplications.

O Lord, grant to Your people courage, that with boldness we may speak Your name in witness and warn sinners so that they may come to faith and repentance and so enjoy the forgiveness of their sins. Give Your Church wisdom and strength by Your Spirit, that she may be steadfast and unmovable in Your Word and truth.

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

O Lord, be present among Your people to serve us with the gifts of Your grace, and grant that we may receive them with joy. Give to us faithful pastors and church workers who will minister to us in Your name and strengthen our faith and life together as Your baptized people.

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

O Lord, we give You thanks for the gift of our earthly fathers, and we pray, bless all earthly fathers with Your wisdom, be their example, teach them how to love and care for their children, the way You care for us, and help them to raise their children so that they would know You as their Heavenly Father.

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

O Lord, the calling of fathers is not easy, therefore we pray, forgive all fathers their mistakes and their failures, and help us to forgive them if needed, help all earthly fathers to be fathers according to Your heart, and bless them with Your Holy Spirit, so that they can walk in this calling with joy and confidence.

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

O Lord, give to us good and honest fathers for our country who will govern according to Your Word and will. Give us grace, that we may not fail to pray for those who lead us and to act as good citizens and good neighbours to one another. Give peace to the nations, and bring an end to violence and prejudice. Guide us to know and respect all life, from the infant in the womb to the aged.

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

O Lord, You send rain upon the earth and turn the seeds into plants rich with fruit for harvest. Accept our thanks and praise for Your continued goodness in providing a good harvest and food for all. Give us wisdom so that we may use Your resources wisely and extend Your care to those in need.

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

O Lord, You urge us to give special care and guidance to the young and those new to the faith. Give us grace, that we may not lead them into temptation or sin but guard their faith by making known to them the full counsel of Your Word.

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

For grace to take up the cross and follow the Lord wherever He leads; for courage in the face of challenge and adversity; and for compassion and harmony in our life together. And especially for our fellow saints Margaret Moll, Pat and Bob Taplin, pastor Darrin Kohrt and for all whom we now silently mention in our hearts... ..

Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

For all who are affected by the current pandemic, for our neighbours in Victoria, and especially for our brothers and sisters in less affluent countries, where the pressures and stresses are much higher, we pray especially for pastor Rabindra Das, for his family and for our fellow saints in Nepal, for pastor James May and his family and for our brothers and sisters in Kenya. Be their rock and don't let them be put to shame.

Lord in Your mercy, **hear our prayer!**

O Lord, teach us to forgive others as You have forgiven us and bless the fellowship of the forgiven, that we may be united in doctrine and life. Bless us as we commune together upon the body and blood of our Saviour, and help us to keep in holy lives what we will receive upon our lips in this Holy Sacrament.

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

O Lord, deliver us from pestilence, from disaster and danger, and from a sudden death, that kept in faith, we may be preserved through this mortal life and in death be received into the arms of Your mercy and into the blessed rest of everlasting life.

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

Hear us, O Lord, who cry to You in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, whom with the Spirit, You are one God and one Lord, now and forevermore. **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**