

2020 12 06 Service of the Word.

IN THE NAME

P: "Since you are waiting for the Lord,

C: Be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace."

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 85:1-2, 8-13

P: LORD, You were favorable to Your land;
You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**C: You forgave the iniquity of Your people;
You covered all their sin.**

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.

**Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
that glory may dwell in our land.**

Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

**Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

**Righteousness will go before Him
and make His footsteps a way.**

**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: Stir up our hearts, Lord, to prepare the way for Your only Son. Help us by His coming to serve You with pure hearts and minds. 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.

READING

P: Our Scripture reading for today comes from 2 Peter 3:8-14:

“But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.”

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 **2 Peter 3:8-14**

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

Sermon “Divine patience.”

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 for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Almighty God, in Your blessed patience, You send Your prophets and apostles, pastors and teachers in all times, that sinners would not perish but rather reach repentance and find comfort in Your Word, which alone will stand forever. Preserve the servants of Your Church. Give to our congregation an increase of hope, that we may await the revealing of the new heavens and new earth in lives of holiness and godliness, diligent to be found without spot or blemish and at peace.

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

Holy Lord, preserve Your gift of marriage against the ravages of sin, the schemes of the devil and the raging of the world. Bless the couples and families of our congregation. Strengthen them in love and care for one another, and establish them on the foundation of Your Word.

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

God of all comfort, Your Word alone endures forever. The nations of the world come and go before You. Even kings and rulers are like grass before Your breath. Preserve us from placing our trust in princes and mortal men. Give us leaders who will rule after Your good pleasure, keeping order and protecting life, that we may live in godly quietness and honesty.

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

Lord of hosts, graciously regard all for whom we pray especially hear us on behalf of our brothers and sisters – Colin Krause, Eileen Kuhlmann, Betty and Eric Lange, Elaine Leditschke, Jeff and Judy Liersch, Elm and Lynne Lindner, Jan and Malcolm Linke, and Dianne Litterini.

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

Give to the sick healing, to the suffering relief, to the grieving hope and to the dying peace. Hear us especially on behalf of those who have requested our prayers, and especially today we pray for Nigel and his family, for Bob and Pat Taplin and for Margaret Moll and also for Ian Pfeiffer in his health afflictions. Sustain us in the day of trial, deliver us from all our enemies of body and soul, and keep us steadfast in the day of trouble.

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

Heavenly Father, You once prepared the way of Your only begotten Son through the preaching and baptism of John. Prepare now Your baptized Christians with true repentance and faith that seeks the forgiveness of sins, that they would worthily eat and drink Christ's true body and blood in the blessed Sacrament.

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

Into Your hands, Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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.