6th Sunday After Epiphany July 17, 2022 9:45am Online Service





1812 North Highland Avenue Clearwater, Florida 33755

Ministers: The People of Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

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Welcome! Perhaps the church, at its best, is "all ears." God urges the faithful, again and again, to "listen up!"—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

Welcome! Some practical things for you to know:

Children: All children, even those who are noisy, upset, or otherwise discombobulated, are always welcome here!

Restrooms are located to the left out of the doors you entered in to the narthex or lobby; ushers can further direct you.

Holy Communion: All baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's Table. Our ushers will guide you.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love endures forever. **Congregation: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

Congregation: we confess that we have not followed your path but have chosen our own way. Instead of putting others before ourselves, we long to take the best seats at the table. When met by those in need, we have too often passed by on the other side. Set us again on the path of life. Save us from ourselves and free us to love our neighbors. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news! God does not deal with us according to our sins but delights in granting pardon and mercy. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are free to love as God loves.

Congregation: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Day by Day

ELW 790





Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882 Text © 1992 Augsburg Fortress

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Congregation: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Worship Leader: Let us pray. O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Congregation: Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:1-10a

The Lord visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.

Reader: ¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ^{10a}Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

The reading is concluded:

The word of the Lord. Congregation: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:15-28

This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is "Christ in you." Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.

Reader: ¹⁵[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—²³provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

The reading is concluded: Reader: The word of the Lord. **Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Luke 10:38-42

During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke in the 10th chapter.

Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.

Worship Leader: ³⁸Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

After the reading...

The gospel of the Lord. Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

We Sit SERMON

We Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

Earth and All Stars!

ELW 731 vs. 1, 4, & 5





Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987 Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: United in Christ and guided by the Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Prayer Leader: Ever-present God, in Christ you fill all things. As your church gathers to hear your word, share your meal, and receive your blessing, teach us to welcome strangers as we have been welcomed by you. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: Through Christ you created all things, visible and invisible. Teach humankind to honor and protect all creation, including living things that remain hidden from our eyes such as air, atmosphere, molecules, and microscopic creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: Through Christ you reconcile all things. Motivate those in power to end enslavement, dehumanization, or brutality of any kind in the spirit of Bartolomé de Las Casas, whom we commemorate today, and to protect and improve the lives of Indigenous peoples. Lord, in your mercy,

Congregation: hear our prayer.

Prayer Leader: Through Christ you bring peace. Assure all who are worried and distracted by many things of your constant presence. Soothe those suffering in mind, body, or spirit. Sustain all who are afflicted and those who serve as caregivers. We pray *especially* for those on the prayer list of our congregation, those suffering from violence and terror such as the people of Ukraine, Buffalo, Uvalde, and Highland Park, those suffering from natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, and COVID-19, and those we name now with our lips or in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: In Christ you make your word fully known. Inspire this worshiping community (congregation may be named) to abide fully in your word as we sit at the feet of Jesus. Bless the ministry of teachers and Bible study leaders. Lord, in your mercy, **Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Prayer Leader: In Christ you brought forth the firstborn from the dead. We give thanks for the saints you have gathered at your table, especially George Smith, Pat Falco, and those resting in our Memorial Garden. Gather us with them in your eternal glory. Lord, in your mercy, **Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Worship Leader: God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with your Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Congregation: Amen.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY





Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text and music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Prayer Leader: Let us pray. God of abundance: you have set before us a plentiful harvest. As we feast on your goodness, strengthen us to labor in your field, and equip us to bear fruit for the good of all, in the name of Jesus.

Congregation: Amen.

DIALOGUE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. **Congregation: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Worship Leader: O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Congregation: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in whichever language is closest to our hearts.

Congregation: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Worship Leader: The God of peace, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Congregation: Amen.**



Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt. Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

DISMISSAL

Worship Leader: Together we have heard God's Word and joined in prayer, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. Tell what God has done.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE