

The Sunday Messenger

Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada Iowa ♦ July 26, 2020

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation
to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

**By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;**

**and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life.**

Amen.

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy
we have peace with God through +Christ Jesus,
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

First Lesson *1 Kings 3:5-12*

⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne to-day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalm

Second Lesson *Romans 8:26-39*

²⁶The 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. ²⁷And 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.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He 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? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who 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. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor 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.

Gospel *Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43*

³¹[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.



⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends with:

Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

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.
God, the creator, . Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be Part of Online Fellowship After Worship Each Sunday.
We will use Zoom as a way to connect with each other after worship. The same link will be used each week:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83367838198>

Good Samaritan Fund Fundraiser. Kim Stieler and Kevin and Kathy Jo Johnson joined others in the community to sponsor a Good Samaritan Fund fundraiser. They had hoped to have the annual BBQ, but plans for that are postponed. Meanwhile, you are invited to make a donation to the Good Samaritan Fund in July through Memorial. Thank you for caring for our neighbors.

Facebook Poll About Re-Opening. Please visit Memorial's Facebook page and take part in a poll around re-opening for in-person worship. The poll will close in a little less than two weeks. Your input is important.

Beer and Theology Meets on Monday over Zoom. Join the conversation on Monday, July 27, at 7:00 pm from the comfort of your own home. Here is the link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81217799302>

Food at First Coordinator(s) Needed. Phyllis Fevold and Heidi Merfeld are stepping down. We thank them for their service. A new coordinator or team is needed beginning in September. Contact Deacon Jodi if you are interested.

FAITH AND LIFE TOGETHER

For Those Hospitalized

Park Center, Newton

Janeen Driscoll

Rolling Green Skilled Care

Doris Andresen

Mary Greeley Medical Center

Darren Kluever

Prayers for Healing

Gary Kluever, Betty Runge, Larry Christian, Julie Sutherland, Kathy Lynn Johnson. Sheila Collingwood *Lyndsey De Vos' mother*, Lynn Harris, George Forsyth, Mary Pappas, Jim Pappas, Cassie Harrell, Nancy Skaar, Jaylee Bartleson, Jeff Sebring *son-in-law of Ernie and Marlene Ruhde*, Norma Gandrup, Linda Horn, Tom Nervig, Glenda Day, Ginny Hausner, Ken Johnson, Camden Kelsey, Cooper Leeman, Jan Cook, Margie Nahnsen

For Those Who Mourn

+Kenneth Alderson died in Edmonton, Kentucky. His funeral service will be held on Sunday, July 26. We extend Christian sympathy to his son, Fred, and all the family.

Giving Options During Online Worship. For those that normally put an envelope, check or cash in the offering plate, you are welcome to mail or drop off your offering. You may also use the Text to Give option. Use your Smart Phone and Credit or Debit Card as way to support the General Fund. The number to text to is: **515-808-5325**
Simply place a dollar sign (\$) and an amount in the body of the text to get started.