

The Sunday Messenger

Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada Iowa ♦ February 7, 2021

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
you search us and know us.
You are acquainted with all our ways.

We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.

We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.

We distrust those who are not like us.

We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.

Forgive us, gracious God,

for all we have done and left undone.

Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;

receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen.

How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of + Christ Jesus,

our sins are washed away

and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,

we are called to be the beloved community

living out Christ's justice

and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

First Lesson *Isaiah 40:21-31*

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,
calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
"My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God"?

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

¹Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!

²The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.

³The LORD heals the | brokenhearted
and binds | up their wounds.

⁴The LORD counts the number | of the stars
and calls them all | by their names. R

⁵Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts | up the lowly,
but casts the wicked | to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp | to our God,

⁸who covers the heav- | ens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to
grow up- | on the mountains. R

⁹God provides food | for the cattle
and for the young ravens | when they cry.

¹⁰God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} | Hallelujah! R

Second Reading *1 Corinthians 9:16-23*

¹⁶If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.



Gospel Mark 1:29-39

²⁹As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³²That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

Lord's Prayer

Blessing

God the creator strengthen you;
Jesus the beloved fill you;
and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.
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> For those interested in the Book of Faith adult study, a break out room will be created after a little time of fellowship.

Devotions With Holy Communion Continue in 2021. Beginning January 14 Pastor Duane offers weekly devotions with Holy Communion during the daytime hours on Thursdays and at 10:15 am on Saturday mornings. Call the church office at 382-6509 to reserve a slot or use the new Sign Up Genius:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CA8AC2EA20-weekly>

Congregational Meeting Announcement
The Church Council calls a congregational meeting on Sunday, February, 21, at 10:00 am for the purpose of calling a pastor to Memorial Lutheran Church, Nevada, Iowa.

The discussion portion of the meeting will take place online using Zoom. Paper balloting will take place at Memorial Lutheran Church.

A mailing with all meeting details has been sent to all voting member households.

FAITH AND LIFE TOGETHER

For Those Hospitalized

Fred Samuelson, *Mary Greeley rehab care*

Prayers for Healing

Don Hackbarth, Gary Kluever, Harlen Johnsen, Jim Pappas, Janeen Driscoll, Darren Kluever, Jaylee Bartleson, Larry Christian, Julie Sutherland, Sheila Collingwood *Lyndsey De Vos' mother*, Lynn Harris, George Forsyth, Cassie Harrell, 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

+Warren Johnson died Thursday, February 4, in Omaha, Nebraska. Arrangements are pending. We offer our Christian sympathy to his twin brother, Wayne, and all the family.