

East St. Olaf Lutheran Church

6200 County Road 3 SW - Byron, MN

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 9, 2017

Pastor Paul Thompson Organist: Pat Nelson



INTRODUCTION

The mystery of God's ways is sometimes hidden from the wise and intelligent. Jesus associates with the lowly and outcast. Like Paul, we struggle with our own selfish desires and seek God's mercy and forgiveness. We gather to be refreshed by Christ's invitation: "Come to me, all you that are weary." Gathered around word, water, and meal, we find rest for our souls.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ? Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may

perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ? Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG *Lord of All Hopefulness* (ELW 765)

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE (ELW p. 184)

*Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.
For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.
That we may live out your impassioned response*

*to the hungry and the poor;
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.
For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes,
for friends and family;
for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.
For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives
in the water and the Word;
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord
Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.*

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 185)

*Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,*

*Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.*

Amen. Amen. Amen.

*Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

*Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from Zechariah.

The coming messianic king will inaugurate an era of disarmament and prosperity. Because of God's covenant with Israel, they are designated as "prisoners of hope."

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰ He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war-horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-14

⁸The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.

¹⁰All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

¹¹They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

¹²that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

¹⁴The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from Romans.

Life enslaved under sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be bad. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 188)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Have No Fear, Little Flock (ELW 764)*

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.

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING *Create in Me a Clean Heart
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth
food from the earth and nourish your whole creation.
Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way,
that all may know your care; and prepare us now to
feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together in the Spirit's embrace, let us pray for the
mending of God's world.

Humble God, lead your church in the way of service. Prosper the
work of campus ministries and Young Adults in Global Mission
as they raise up leaders to serve the world. Today we pray
especially for these synod churches: Trinity Lutheran Church,
Albert Lea ~ First Lutheran Church, Red Wing ~ Trinity Lutheran
Church, Owatonna ~ Mazoezi Maluga Lutheran Church, Tanzania
~ Isanzu Lutheran Church, Tanzania. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Cultivating God, bless and encourage all who work the land to
feed your people. Give them joy in their vocation. Shower rain on
crops and health on livestock. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Holy One, you command peace to the nations. Give peaceful
hearts and discerning minds to world leaders and citizens alike,
that all who suffer violence and hunger come to know the fullness
of life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, you bid the weary come to you for rest. Renew
energy for bone-tired people. Support our brothers and sisters
who are burdened by grief, loneliness, and illness especially...
West Prayers: Al E., Joanne L., Joann, Gene H., Ginny, Robert,
Orin, Inez, Dale, Danny, Veronica, Philip, and Matt Miller.
East Prayers: Rhonda, Heidi G., Dianne, Sharon, Cecelia, Dale,
Vern, Kevin, Bill, David, Patricia, Sally, Roland, Merry Lea, Carol,
John, and Harris. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of everything, you have compassion for all that you have
made. Show our congregation what mercy looks like in our own
community, that we become faithful partners in your ministry.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of life, we give you thanks and praise for all the people who have blessed our lives, for saints among us whose steadfast faith has strengthened ours (especially). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your care through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (WOV 731)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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WELCOME TO THOSE VISITING

If you are visiting today, we're glad you chose to worship with us. Please sign our guestbook in the narthex. Times for early/late services rotate monthly between East & West St. Olaf.

JULY WORSHIP HOURS

EAST: Early at 8:30 am...WEST: Late at 10:00 am

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING US

EAST ALTAR GUILD: Anyone interested may join Altar Guild

July: Rita Distad

August: Dawn Evjen & Amy Jorgenson

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Us this Saturday Evening, July 15, for Our Joint East & West St. Olaf Outdoor Worship Service at 7:00 pm at West!

Everyone from East AND West is invited to this special joint worship service at West... and we'll enjoy a movie and some activities afterward. How special to worship together right in the great outdoors which God himself created! And you just know it's going to be a great time of fellowship too. Hope to see you there!

Repair Needed to Our Church Windows

The stained glass windows around the church are in need of repair. The congregation council has some resources to repair the south windows, which are in the greatest need, but we will need to raise money to repair the rest of the windows. The council is asking for all members to prayerfully consider contributing to the church for this purpose. We have done very well raising money for other projects over the years, and hope you will support this project as well. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE!

Ice Cream Social put on by St. Olaf Heritage Association

This event will be on Sun., August 20... so mark your calendar now for a great afternoon of fun. Watch bulletins and the August newsletter for more details.

Next Week's Readings: Isaiah 55:10-13, Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13, Romans 8:1-11 and Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

HAPPENING TODAY & THIS WEEK

7/9	8:30 am	East worship
	10:00 am	West worship with New Member Welcome of Pastor Paul & Jana Thompson

Mon. 10:00-noon Pastor Paul at office
Tue. 10:00 am East quilting/sack lunch
 7:00 pm East church council meeting (need to verify)
Wed. 10:00-noon Pastor Paul at office
Thur. 10:00-Noon Pastor Paul at office
Fri. ----- Pastor Paul's day off-work
Sat. Tonight: Joint East/West Outdoor Service - 7 pm at West
 ----- East WELCA supplies cookies to Season's
 Hospice
 7:00 pm BOTH: SPECIAL JOINT-OUTDOOR
 SERVICE for BOTH churches - takes place
 at West St. Olaf 7:00 pm - we will enjoy a
 joint-outdoor evening worship at West
 church - with a movie shown afterward
 and some activities too. ALL welcome!

7/16 NO church service at either East or West St. Olaf

COMING UP AT EAST & WEST

THE MONTH OF JULY

>>>NO council meeting at West during July (Aug. 14 is next mtg.)

July 18 (Tue.): East Circle 4 meeting/quilting/sack lunch

July 20 (Thur.): DEADLINE to submit info for Aug. newsletter

July 23 (Sun.): Communion at West church - BOTH churches
 have a pulpit supply pastor

July 25 (Tue.): East quilting/sack lunch

July 27 (Thur.): NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER DAY (9:10-print,
 9:30-fold and 10:00 tape/collate for the August issue)

LOCAL AREA & SYNOD: UPCOMING EVENTS

****See bulletin board/information table for any posters****

July 11 (Tue.): Summer Salad Luncheon at Sacred Heart Catholic
 Church in Hayfield. *See poster for more info.*

July 15 (Sat.): Hayfield Fire Department's parade at 2:00 pm,
 followed by their fundraiser chicken fry supper & street dance.

Living Well with Diabetes Workshops by Elder Network: Meets
 every Tuesday for 6 weeks (*September 5-October 10*). No cost to
 attend. You may borrow the book if you don't write in it... or you
 may purchase the book for \$25. See poster on bulletin board.

Held at Elder Network: 1130 - 1/2 7th St. NW, Suite 205, Rochester.
 CALL TO REGISTER 507-285-5272.

Berne Wood-Fire Pizza and Summer Concert Series: At Zwingli
 United Church of Christ on Wednesday nights throughout the
 summer. No entrance fee. See poster on bulletin board for
 schedule of musicians.

TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

West Prayers: Al Eastlee, Joanne Larsen (*mother of Dan Larsen*),
 Joann Tiegen, Gene Hyland, Ginny Hyland, Robert Beaver, Orin
 Holtan (*brother of Gloria Pew*), Inez Hauglum, Dale Tiegen, Danny
 Linbo, Veronica Riniker (*mother of Donna Larsen*), and Philip
 Senjem. **Long Term Need for Prayers:** Matt Miller (*nephew of
 Carma Bjornson and Julie Boyum*).

East Prayers: Rhonda Leighty, Heidi Guenius (*cousin of Becky
 Brakke*), Dianne Kearns, Sharon Boelter, Cecelia Miller (*cousin of
 Yvette Dulohery*), Dale Boelter, Vern Exe (*Pete's Dad*), Kevin Kubly
 (*friend of Yvette Dulohery*), Bill Fritts, David Distad, Patricia Lee,
 Sally Iverson, Roland Rivera, Merry Lea Brandt-MacFann
 (*daughter of Beverly Brant/sister of Mark Brandt*), Carol Severson,
 John Heydt (*Pat Nelson's brother*), and Harris Nelson (*Jerry Nelson's
 cousin*).

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

PASTOR Paul Thompson (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

Phone: 507-273-8504 **Email:** pthomp821@gmail.com

Office hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
 (10:00 am-Noon... OR by appointment)

SECRETARY Gina Moser: (*Please call before driving to the office.*)

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Please send all emails for Gina to both of her email addresses.

Office Hours: Tues. & Thursdays 10:00 am-Noon

OUR WEBSITES: eaststolaf.org OR weststolaf.org