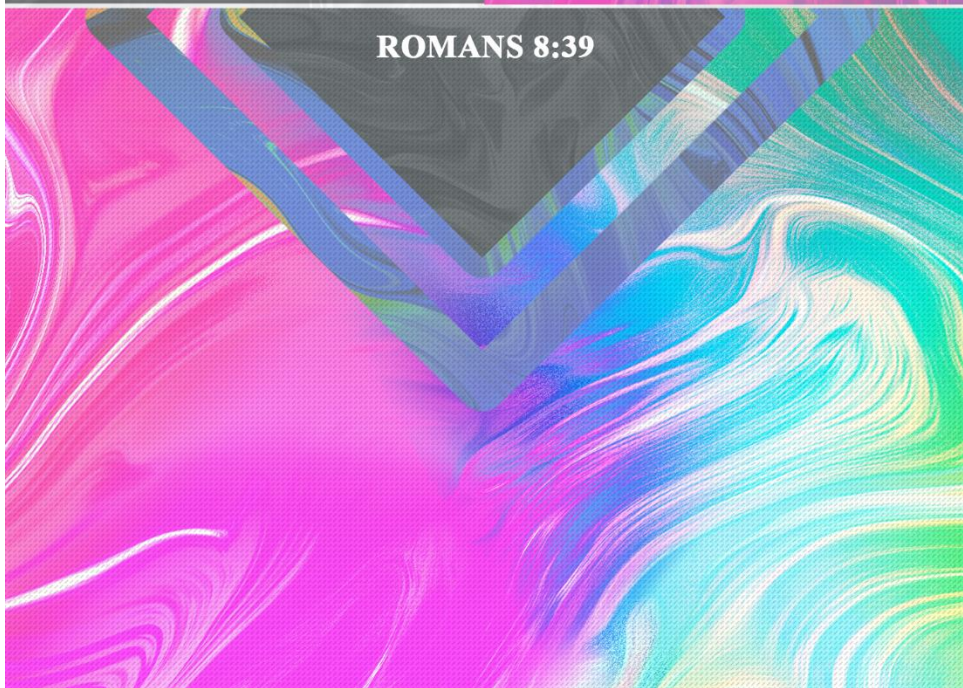


FOR I AM SURE THAT NEITHER DEATH NOR LIFE,
NOR ANGELS NOR RULERS,
NOR THINGS PRESENT NOR THINGS TO COME,
NOR POWERS, NOR HEIGHT NOR DEPTH,
NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL CREATION,
WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM
THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.

ROMANS 8:39



Zion Lutheran Church
Worship Service
July 26, 2020

WELCOME

O Worship the King

O worship the King, all-glorious above.
O gratefully sing His pow'r and His love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust and feeble as frais,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

PASTOR: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

PASTOR: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

ALL: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

PASTOR: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

PASTOR: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

INTROIT: *Psalm 105:2-6*

PASTOR: Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually! Remember the wondrous works that he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of Abraham, his servant, children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

KYRIE (spoken)

PASTOR: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

PASTOR: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

ALL: Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

PASTOR: Almighty God, by the working of Your Holy Spirit, grant that we may gladly hear Your Word proclaimed among us and follow its directing; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Deuteronomy 7:6-9*

“You are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.”

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON: *Romans 8:28-39*

We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that 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 our Lord.

PASTOR: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

PLEASE STAND FOR THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL.

PASTOR: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the thirteenth chapter.

ALL: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 13:44-52*

[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

PASTOR: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED (spoken in unison)

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, died and was 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.

I'm But a Stranger Here

I'm but a stranger here, heav'n is my home;
Earth is a desert drear, heav'n is my home.
Danger and sorrow stand round me on ev'ry hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland, heav'n is my home.

What though the tempest rage, heav'n is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage, heav'n is my home;
And time's wild wintry blast soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last, heav'n is my home.

Therefore I murmur not, heav'n is my home;
Whate'er my earthly lot, heav'n is my home;
And I shall surely stand there at my Lord's right hand;
Heav'n is my fatherland, heav'n is my home.

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER (spoken in unison)

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed by 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.

BENEDICTION

PASTOR: 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 favor and ✠ give you peace.

All: Amen.

Because He Lives

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus,
He came to love, heal, and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

And then one day I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.