



Faith Lutheran Church

***Faithfully Growing, Welcoming,
and Caring through Christ***

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 30, 2018

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Temple Talk

Special Guest - John Stadel
The Gideons International

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the + Holy Trinity,
the one who fashions us, the
one who heals us, the one who
reforms us again and again.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power. *(A brief silence.)*

Source of all life,

C: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough.

We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

P: God hears our cry and send the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven + God's love is unconditional. And we are raised up as God's people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG

“Word of God, Come Down on Earth”

Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

**Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring,
speak to us, your love outpouring.**

**Word that speaks God's tender love,
one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.**

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

C: And also with you.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

P: Our hymns and scriptures today teach the importance of the Word of God. We sing about the Word coming down to earth, that we keep steadfast in God's Word, and that it is the Wisdom from on high. Jeremiah proclaims that it is the one true God who has created all things.

In the reading from James we hear that Christians, need to pray for one another. And in our Gospel today, Jesus explains that when our hearts are “good soil”, we will yield good fruit in His name. As the Bible proclaims today, “Let anyone with ears to hear, listen!”

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. (*A brief silence.*)

Generous God,

C: your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 10:11-16

A reading from Jeremiah, the 10th chapter.

Thus shall you say to them: The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens. It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.

When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightnings for the rain, and he brings out the wind from his storehouses. Everyone is stupid and without knowledge; goldsmiths are all put to shame by their idols; for their images are false, and there is no breath in them.

They are worthless, a work of delusion; at the time of their punishment they shall perish. Not like these is the LORD, the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A Responsive Reading From Psalm 19

R: The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

C: The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

R: The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

C: *More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.*

R: By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

C: Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

R: Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

C: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING: James 5:13-20

A reading from James, the 5th chapter.

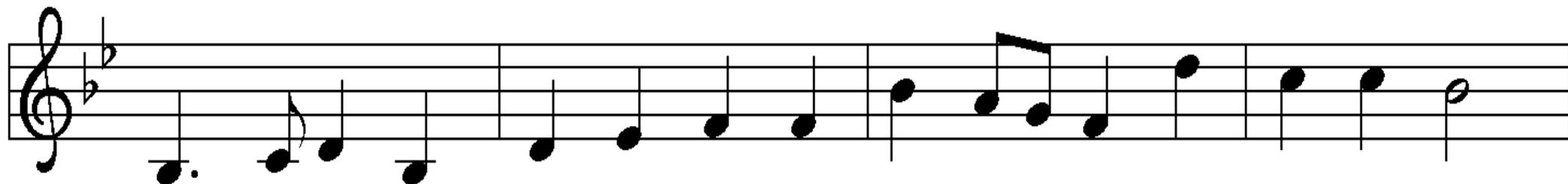
Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up;

and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

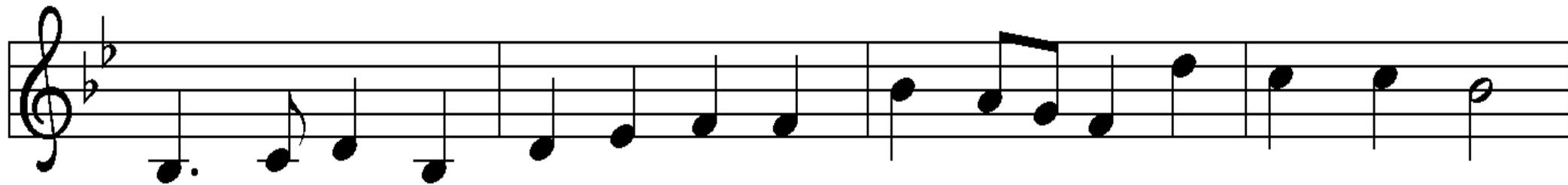
Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:1-9

P: The holy gospel according to Mark,
the 4th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.

He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away.

Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

"Tending to the Soil of My Heart"

Mr. John Stadel

from The Gideons International

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

**Lord, keep us steadfast in your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from your Son
and bring to naught all he has done.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
for you are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing your praise eternally.**

**O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.**

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.**

(*word meaning “universal”;
you may substitute “Christian” if you wish.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Freed by God in Christ to live and love and serve, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's beloved creation. *(A brief silence.)* Gracious God, you gather together people of faith in every time and every place to be the risen body of Christ in the world. Enliven the church to nourish its members, to love the earth, and to serve its neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Creative God, you weave together the fabric of the universe. Forests and fields bear the banner of your abundance. Give us wisdom and discernment to be good stewards of our resources. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Sovereign God, you bless people with intelligence and compassion. Inspire citizens to raise up good leaders who seek peace and reconciliation among nations and who long to repair the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Loving God, you house the homeless,
free the captive, and heal the sick.
Make our hands your hands in service
to strangers and friends. We pray
especially for... Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Welcoming God, you have given us to each other in this congregation. Make us glad to receive those you send to us and ready to receive their unique gifts and perspectives.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: In every time and place you raise up witnesses who testify to your love and tender mercy. We remember with thanksgiving all who made your word known in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Into your wide embrace,
gracious God, we commend all
for whom we pray, trusting in
your boundless mercy through
Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

C: Amen.

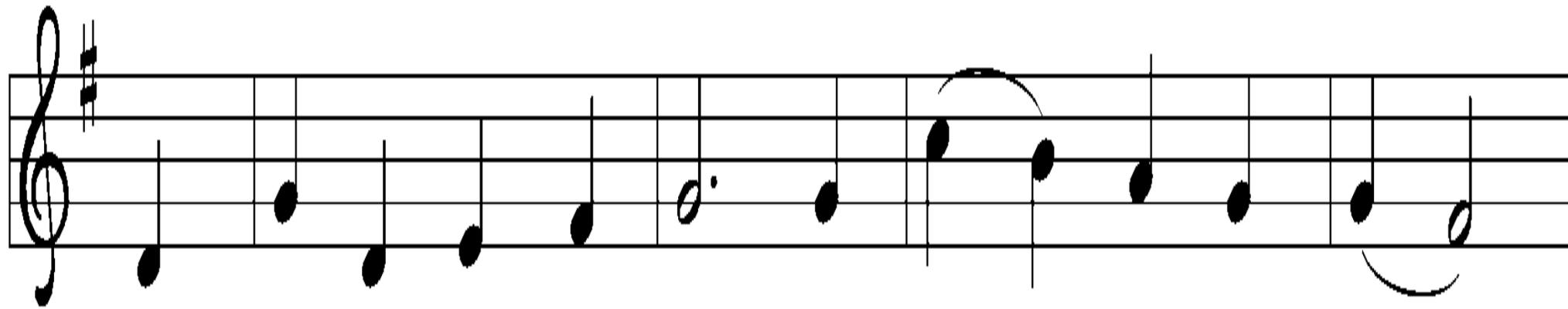
SHARING THE PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

~ VIDEO DURING OFFERTORY ~

“Just Another Rainy Day”
by The Collingsworth Family



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;

2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our savior and Light.

C: Amen.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

**P: Let us give thanks and praise
to the Lord our God.**

**C: It is right to give God thanks
and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Holy and compassionate God, in bread and wine you give us gifts that form us to be humble and courageous. May your words come to life in our serving and in our witness, that we might speak a living voice of healing and justice to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN SONG

“O Word of God Incarnate”

**O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.**

**The church from you, dear Master,
received the gift divine;
and still that light is lifted
o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
that, all life's voyage through,
mid mists and rocks and quicksands
still guides, O Christ, to you.**

**Oh, make your church, dear Savior,
a lamp of burnished gold
to bear before the nations
your true light, as of old;
oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims
by this their path to trace,
till, clouds and darkness ended,
they see you face to face.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

