

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

We strive to live to follow God's commandments but we fall short. In this time of confession we will bring before God our shortcoming and ask God for forgiveness. Martin Luther wrote in the Small Catechism that in Confession "[you] reflect on your walk of life in light of the Ten Commandments: whether you are father, mother, son, daughter, master, mistress, servant; whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, lazy, whether you have harmed anyone by word or deed; whether you have stolen, neglected, wasted, or injured anything." (ELW page 1165)

This morning we confess to God in silence.

You may read the Ten Commandments to help you reflect last week.

1. You shall have no other gods.
2. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God.
3. Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not murder.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

P: Apostle Paul reminds us 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. (Romans 8: 38-39) God forgives all our sins. Let us live in new life in Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn **“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”** ELW# 834

Hymn will be played. You may hum along.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Scripture Reading **Matthew 18:21-35**

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹Peter came and said to [Jesus], “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²²Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.” ²³“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

L: Word of God, word of life. **C:** **Thanks be to God.**

Message

Hymn **“Where Charity and Love Prevail”** ELW# 359

Hymn will be played. You may hum along.

Prayer

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others.

We especially pray

for the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel;

for the well-being of creation;

for peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, and our community;

for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, and lonely;

for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

Additional prayer will be lifted here.

L: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen**

Prayer will conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

Leader will lead the Lord's Prayer and you may pray in silence .

Sending

God bless us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing and Dismissal

P: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine on us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. **Amen.**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with us. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Go, My Children with My Blessing" ELW# 543

