

Worship in the time of COVID-19

An order of worship for Oct 25, 2020

Reformation Sunday

Prelude by Shirley Bergman

Welcome by Pastor Kristen

Greeting

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

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Psalm: Psalm 1

1Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2Their delight is in the law of the Lord, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

3They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

4It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

Instrumental Music: Shirley Bergman

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments.

34When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” 37He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38This is the greatest and first commandment. 39And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Instrumental Music by Shirley Bergman

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, using waves or peace signs.

Prayers of Intercession

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Renew and inspire the church in the freedom of the gospel, O God. Where the church is in error, reform it. Where the church speaks your truth, strengthen it. Where the church is divided, unify it. Ignite in us the working of the Holy Spirit, especially during this time of pandemic, when church needs to look so different than what we are used to. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the earth changes, as mountains shake and the waters roar, may we care for this planet as a holy habitation for all living things. Sustain all peoples and lands recovering from natural disasters of any kind, especially the Iowa derecho, the wildfires in the western United States, and the hurricanes in the southeastern United States. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guide areas of the world divided or traumatized by conflict, especially in our own land. Free all from slavery and human trafficking, and protect all in harm's way. Direct the decisions of leaders at every level of government, that they might be guided by compassion. As we near an election in the USA, grant wisdom to all voters, that we might choose candidates who will make decisions for the good of all people, and help us to find unity in a time of division. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Release those living in bondage to debts, chronic pain, or addiction. Grant healing to those who are ill. Watch over us especially as the pandemic begins to increase, and bring comfort and healing to all who are sick with Covid-19, all who mourn the loss of loved ones, all who have been dealing with the economic effects of the pandemic, and all who are growing weary of Covid-19 restrictions. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In this family of faith we give thanks for courageous voices that have remained firm in their commitment to the one who frees us from sin and death. Centered in your grace, unify us in the hope of the gospel, and in this time of change and uncertainty, help us to always be guided by your two greatest commandments: to love God and to love others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Even in death, you free us and give us a place in your house. We give thanks for our ancestors who have shown us truth and freedom, especially Martin Luther and those who work for the renewal of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession & Forgiveness

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

Friends of Jesus, receive nourishment for your journey. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Receive the body of Christ, given for you.
Receive the blood of Christ, shed for you.

All are invited to eat and drink the communion elements they brought with them. If desired, individuals from the same household may serve each other.

Prayer after Communion

God of the welcome table,
in this meal we have feasted on your goodness
and have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

Amen.

Blessing

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

And have fun doing it.

We will! Amen!

Postlude by Shirley Bergman

BY THE NUMBERS

Check Register Balance 10/21/2020

\$11,230.15

Operating Bank Loan: \$4,912.27

PPP Loan Balance: \$16,984

Offering: 10/18/2020

Current: \$1,335

Benevolence: \$52

Improvement: \$85

Homebound members: Mary Jo Sullivan is at Grand View in Oelwein

Military members: Jordan Leach is in the Air Force and is currently stationed in Sheppard AFB in TX. If you know of anyone else serving in the armed forces, please contact the church office (secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org) or (827-6626). We'd like to remember them in our prayers.

All Saints Sunday: During the worship service for All Saints Sunday, we light candles in memory of our loved ones who have died. If you have a name you would like to include, please let Pastor Kristen or Jessica know by Wednesday, October 28. Pastor Kristen can be reached at pastor@americanlutheranjesup.org or 563-212- 1366. Jessica can be reached at secretary@americanlutheranjesup.org. You can also leave a message at the church, 827-6626.

The National Lutheran Choir brings the annual All Saints program to a virtual world-wide audience on November 1, 2020. “In Memoriam (We Remember)” sees the Choir sharing music of Remembrance, Perseverance, and Hope, with memorial names submitted by listeners as backdrop to the music and message.

Sunday, November 1, 2020 – 4pm (CST) @ [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com) This online presentation is FREE for all. For a season-long Virtual Subscription to exclusive content (\$10/month), visit [NLCA.com](https://www.nlca.com)