



**The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
Sunday, June 28, 2020**

*The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.*

**Welcome! Let us join with the psalmist who declares: “I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever” (Psalm 89:1, ESV).**

The welcome of baptism is for all God’s children. This baptismal gift sets us free from the power of sin and death. In today’s gospel, Christ promises that the disciple who gives a cup of cold water to the little ones serves Christ himself. From worship we are sent on our baptismal mission: to serve the little ones of this world and to be a sign of God’s merciful welcome.

**Hymn “This is My Father’s World” (verses 1 & 3) ELW 824**

- 1 This is my Father's world,  
and to my list'ning ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;  
his hand the wonders wrought.
  
- 3 This is my Father's world;  
oh, let me not forget  
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world;  
why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

**The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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.**

## Let us pray:

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## First Reading      Jeremiah 28:5-9



*Through a symbolic action Jeremiah insisted that Judah and all the surrounding nations should submit to the king of Babylon (Jer. 27). Hananiah contradicted the word of Jeremiah, who in reply insisted that Hananiah's rosy prediction should not be believed until it came true. God confirmed the word of Jeremiah and sentenced the false prophet Hananiah to death (vv. 16-17).*

<sup>5</sup>The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD; <sup>6</sup>and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. <sup>7</sup>But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. <sup>8</sup>The prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup>As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

## Romans 6:12-23



*Sin is an enslaving power which motivates us to live self-serving, disobedient lives. Sin's final payoff is death. We, however, have been set free from sin's slavery to live obediently under God's grace, whose end is the free gift of eternal life.*

<sup>12</sup>Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. <sup>13</sup>No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup>What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup>Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup>But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, <sup>18</sup>and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup>I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

<sup>20</sup>When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup>So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup>But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. <sup>23</sup>For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42**



The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*When Jesus sends his disciples out as missionaries, he warns them of persecution and hardships they will face. He also promises to reward any who aid his followers and support their ministry.*

[Jesus said to the twelve:] <sup>40</sup>“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. <sup>41</sup>Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; <sup>42</sup>and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Reflection**

“War, famine, and pestilence,” prophesied by the ancient prophets, are all around us today. We may wish to listen to people who speak of peace instead. We may long to say “amen” to their promises. But false comfort is worse than no comfort at all. Instead, in a hard time, we who have been baptized into Christ should offer welcome to people who speak the truth and we should offer comfort — “a cup of cold water” — to the least and littlest ones, the ones hurt by these times. The truth-speakers are the very emissaries of God. And the little ones, the vulnerable and un-justly treated ones, are the very presence of Jesus Christ to us. The truth in Christ saves us, turning our bodies from sin to real righteousness, from death to real life, from despair to hope, from lies to love.

**Homily** The Rev. Kurt Strause

**Prayers of Intercession**

Each petition ends “Lord, in your mercy,” and the response is “**Hear our prayer.**”

## **Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

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;

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

**Amen.**

**Hymn** "Give to Our God Immortal Praise" (Verses 1 & 3) ELW 848

- 1 Give to our God immortal praise!  
Mercy and truth are all his ways.  
Wonders of grace to God belong;  
repeat his mercies in your song.
  
- 3 Give to the Lord of lords renown;  
the King of kings with glory crown.  
His mercies ever shall endure  
when lords and kings are known no more!

## **DISMISSAL**

Go forth into the world bearing the Good News of Christ in word and deed.

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Sanctuary Candle** for June 21, Father's Day, was presented in memory of their father, Ray Long, her father, Horace Becker, and father-in-law, Raymond Long by Joan Long and family

**The Sanctuary Candle** today is presented in memory of her father, William Hertzog by Josie Reitz.

### **In Person Worship Resumes July 5**

We will gather together in worship at the church on Sunday, July 5. There will be one service on Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. A letter along with guidelines for worship adopted by the church council was mailed to all households.



We have lost the feet to the wheelchair that we have in the coat room for anyone to use. If anyone has information on the lost item please contact the church office.



Bible Study – Monday 7 p.m. on Zoom. Send an email to [pastor@swamplutheran.org](mailto:pastor@swamplutheran.org) to request a link to the study.

Office closed – July 3 and 4, 2020



Fonda Miller – Well-Span Ephrata, ICU  
John Nicholas  
Jean Wolf  
Nancy Frantz – Sister of John Frantz  
Jennifer “Moyer” Thomas and Benjamin Thomas  
Ray Fox – Friend of Connie Taylor  
Nolan Weitzel – Son of Andy and Nichole Weitzel  
Doris Kopp  
Don Risser  
Susan Levan  
Earl and Irene Myers  
Barbara Mizdail  
Ray Showalter  
Jim and Mary Jane Miller  
Dawna Meese – Friend of the Templin’s  
Nancy Kulp  
Elmo Lorah – Friend of Connie Taylor  
Lisa Buckles – Friend of Sue Knauer  
Mary Kring – Aunt of Linda Ream  
Chester Peachy – Neighbor of Sue Kreitz  
Bill Sweigart – Neighbor of Sue Kreitz  
Kyle Lord – Cousin of Kim Houck  
Andy Etman  
Bryand Rincher - Nephew of Connie and Tony Malafarina  
Ivy Erb-Willard – Friend of Kim Houck  
Christina Ayala – Brain Tumor – Friend of Kim Houck  
Sandy Heisey – Sister-in-law of Jenn Weitzel  
Tracey Pajski – Daughter of Andrew Kelly  
Cheryl Black – Friend of the Gockleys  
Tom Schalata – Stepfather of Katie Koehle  
Judith Esterly – Friend of Janice Kelly  
Kristen Ramsey (kidney transplant) Fiancé of Eric Long  
Bryan Miller – Friend of the Reedys

**Please let us know when we can remove people from the sick and shut-in list.**



Michael Crowther  
Clarice Haws  
Betty Hornberger  
Charles Moyer  
Henry Rehlich  
Ella Shirk  
Alverta Showalter  
Clyde Showalter  
Mary Ann Weitzel