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† Sunday Worship – 10:00 am †

Pastor Christopher Kruschel

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2020

Welcome to all!

Good morning! The apostle Paul wrote frequently about the obligations and duties resting upon Christians in their capacity as church members, citizens, and neighbors. These can be summarized in the law of Christian love, an ideal which, out of gratitude to God, believers strive and work for all the days of their lives.

If you have any questions regarding our Sunday services, upcoming Bible classes or various programs, please speak with the pastor or call the church office. We look forward to meeting you. Please come again and worship with us very soon!

Some notes:

☞ **Restrooms** are in the sanctuary entry way just opposite the "Quiet Room."

☞ **Quiet Room:** If you have a young child or nursing infant and need a Quiet Room, you will find it to the left as soon as you exit the sanctuary. A speaker there allows you to hear the service.

📞 **Cell Phones:** We ask that cell phones be turned off or silenced during the service. Thank you!

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

Page 26 in *Christian Worship*

GOD IS HERE! AS WE HIS PEOPLE

Christian Worship 532, vv. 1, 4

God is here! As we his people Meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure What it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, All our varied skills and arts
Wait the coming of his Spirit Into open minds and hearts.

Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom, In an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel; Help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, All we have to give, receive;
We who cannot live without you, We adore you! We believe!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. Text: Reprinted with permission under One License #A-712272. All rights reserved. Tune: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse...Conradansen*, Amsterdam, c. 1710. Tune: public domain.

M: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON...*EZEKIEL 33:7-11*

⁷“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ⁹But if you

do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

¹⁰ “Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’” ¹¹ Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

This is the Word of the Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia.

—*Philippians 4:4*

THE SECOND LESSON...*MATTHEW 18:15-20*

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.

¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’

¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

CHRIST, BY HEAVENLY HOSTS ADORED

Christian Worship 617, vv. 1, 3

Christ, by heav'nly hosts adored, Gracious, mighty, sov'reign Lord,
God of nations, King of kings, Head of all created things,
By the Church with joy confessed, God o'er all, forever blest—
Pleading, at your throne we stand: Save your people, bless our land.

Give us rulers who will be Known for love and honesty;
Let the pow'rs that you ordained Be in righteousness maintained.
In the people's hearts increase Love of piety and peace.
Thus united, we shall stand One wide, free, and happy land.

Text: Henry Harbaugh, 1817–67, abr., alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93. Text and Tune: public domain.

SERMON TEXT

...Sermon Text – Romans 13:1-10

¹ Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴ For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The

commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Give Thanks to God for These United States of America!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true
God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Lord of heaven and earth, we give thanks for all your goodness and mercies. Grant us faith in your power that we may ever trust you for all our daily needs and fulfill our duties without fear and anxiety for the morrow, knowing that you care for all your children and order all things in heaven and earth according to your Word.

Open our minds to understand that our most precious treasure is the unsearchable riches of Christ, our most satisfying food, the Bread of Life, and our most glorious dress.

Endow your Church and people with a spirit of humility and sympathy, that the compassion of Christ may shine forth in love and kindness toward the fallen, the wayward and the heavy laden, and strengthen your servants everywhere that they may not grow weary in well-doing.

Through all of life's short day, help our families with your divine benediction and presence. Be with them in sorrow or joy, sickness or health, disappointment or success, and preserve them with your grace.

Heavenly Father, we humbly thank and praise you that you have heeded the prayers of your servant, Steve Pfennig, and of his fellow believers. You have made his surgery successful and even now are granting him the gracious balm of healing. Daily improve his health and finally make his recovery complete. Hasten the day when he can once again take his place in this house of worship in praising you for your grace and goodness. We ask it in Jesus' precious name.

O Lord God, Lord of life and death, we thank you for all the mercies with which you have blessed our fellow believer, Dawn Tigges, mother of Linda Kruschel, now fallen asleep. We thank you especially for having brought her to the knowledge of your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray that you would comfort her family and all her mourn her death with your precious promises and cheer them with the sure hope of a blessed

reunion in heaven. Grant the lifeless body rest and at the last, together with us all, a joyful resurrection to life everlasting. Teach us all to number our days aright, that we may gain hearts of wisdom and finally be saved, through Jesus Christ, our risen and ever-living Lord.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our own private petitions.

Forgive our sins, O Lord, and teach us that you are a God of grace and mercy. And since we can do no good thing without your help, renew us daily by your Spirit that we may bring forth the works of faith, love and hope, and finally reap with all your saints the abundant joy of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: Amen.

BEFORE THE LORD WE BOW

Christian Worship 618, vv. 1, 2

Before the Lord we bow, The God who reigns above
And rules the world below In boundless pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring; In joy and praise
Our hearts we raise To heav'n's high King.

The nation you have blessed May well your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by your care.
For this fair land, For this bright day
Our thanks we pay—Gifts of your hand.

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89. Text and Tune: public domain.