



**Worship for Sunday, August 30, 2020 - 13th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church**  
**Greendale, WI [www.ssmelca.org](http://www.ssmelca.org)**

### **Introduction to the day**

*The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

**PRELUDE - Prelude in C Minor by J. S. Bach**

**Harpsichord: Kipp Zimmermann**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Reconciling God,

**C: We confess that we do not trust your abundance,  
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves  
and rely on our own efforts.**

**We fail to believe that you provide enough for all,**

**We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.**

**We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us.**

**We sin in thought, word, and deed.**

**By your grace, forgive us;**

**through your love, renew us;**

**and in your Spirit, lead us;**

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

**P:** Beloved of God,  
by the radical abundance of divine mercy  
we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,  
through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts  
through the Holy Spirit.

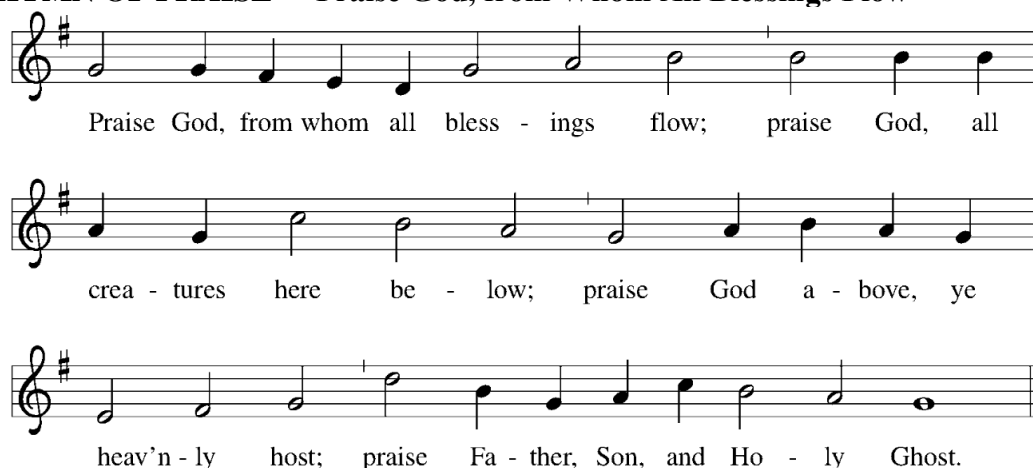
**C: Amen**

## GREETING

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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE - "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all  
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.  
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: **O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Reader: Bonnie Zimmermann

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;  
remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;

for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,

refusing to be healed?  
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,  
you shall serve as my mouth.  
It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

<sup>20</sup>And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.

<sup>21</sup>I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21**

*Reader: Bonnie Zimmermann*

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

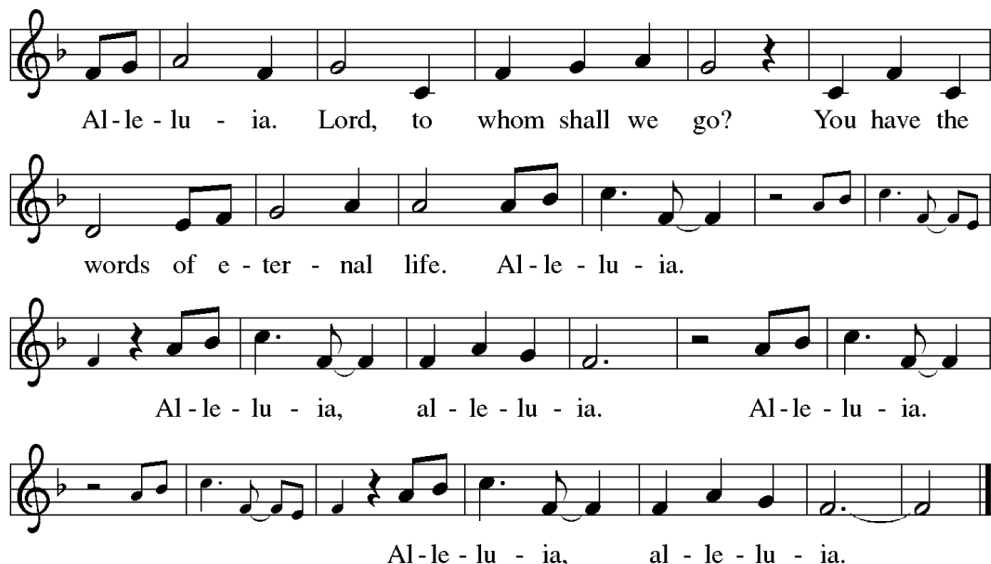
<sup>9</sup>Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

<sup>14</sup>Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup>Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup>Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup>Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup>If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. <sup>19</sup>Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." <sup>20</sup>No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." <sup>21</sup>Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”*

<sup>21</sup>From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. <sup>22</sup>And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE - “Losing”

Rev. Brian Hooper

## HYMN OF THE DAY - "Let Streams of Living Justice"



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934  
Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God, who with Wisdom created life,  
and continues to work in all of Creation.**

**We believe in God who is Alpha and Omega,  
the beginning and end of all that is, was and is to come.**

**We believe in God who liberates us from sin and death,  
claiming us in baptism as God's own.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ, born of Mary,  
who lives and listens to women, men, and children--healing them,  
making them whole and leading them into relationship with God.**

**We believe in Jesus who was both human and divine,  
chose to live a life of justice over indifference,  
that led to his suffering on the cross.**

**We believe Jesus died, was resurrected and offers this same promise**

**of eternal life to all who are baptized.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit; Healer, Sustainer, Breath of God,  
who works in each one of us to make God's reign a reality  
for all humankind.**

**We believe he abides in us, helping us to see beyond ourselves,  
to live an abundant life. Trusting in the promise, presence and  
mystery of our Triune God, we are bold to confess our faith  
and live as God's chosen children. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: As we gather in different places, but as one faith community, let us pray for the needs of the world, responding to each petition with the words, "Hear our prayer."

*A brief silence.*

L: Caring for the church around the world, we pray -- for a spirit of ecumenical cooperation, for the health of congregations during this difficult time, for congregational leaders. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Seeing before us your good creation, we pray-- for the repair of what we have harmed, for polar ice, for lands dealing with oppressive heat, for fields ravaged by storms and fires. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Facing so many international and local problems we pray-- for the strengthening of democracies, for peaceful resolutions to conflicts, for researchers seeking a vaccine, for racial justice within our nation, for our legislators to assist the lives of the poor, for an ethical election campaign. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Surrounded by people with great and hidden need we pray-- for families frightened by the uncertain future, for those whose homes have burned down, for students deprived of effective education, for refugees and for prisoners. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Aware of all who are sick and suffering we pray-- for all who are facing the coronavirus, for those without medical care, for those we remember here before you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: Mindful of all who have gone before us in the faith, we offer our thanks-- for all the saints famous and forgotten, for medical workers who have died of the virus, for friends and family we have loved, for the promise of everlasting life with you. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**C:** 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.

## SHARING THE PEACE

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C:** And also with you.

**OFFERTORY** *(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app found on the resource tab at ssmelca.org or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.)*

## OFFERING PRAYER

**L:** God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use us and the gifts we offer in service in the world.  
**C:** Amen.

## BLESSING

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord Look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**C:** Amen

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISMISSAL

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

## POSTLUDE - "Be Still, My Soul" arr. Greg Howlett

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Men's Bible Study will begin on Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30am. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the first and third Thursdays of the month and will focus on the Old Testament book of Genesis. The first several meetings will be held in the Prayer Garden, weather permitting. To promote social distancing, everyone should bring their own chair, mask, and beverage.

For additional information please contact El Schneider 414-762-4823, [elschneider1@hotmail.com](mailto:elschneider1@hotmail.com)

### KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Joyce Gagliano, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Shirley Lieske, Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Ron Ropel, Rob Rutzen, Karl Simley, John Winter.

### PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff	Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM	Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan	Tinsley Marie, great granddaughter of Sue Herman
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family	Cameo Abifarin, friend of Julie Herman
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff	Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda Johnson
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother in law of Barbara & Dan Davies	Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend of the Homeless
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman	Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Linda Radike, friend of Julie Herman	Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman	Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan Kowalewski
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob Lieske	Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas	Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese
Mike Derrick, nephew of Ron & Carole Ropel	Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann	Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb Davies	Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson	Steve, son of Louise Becker
Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus	Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan	Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau	Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant	Diane Schauer, friend of Carol Manning
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant	Louie Baumgartner, son-in-law of Bob Lieske
Ashton Miller, nephew of Jenny & Kurt Koeff	Richard Kurcharski, father of Jenny Resterhouse
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese	Robert Goist, friend of Denise Sanders
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt	Sharon Maschke, sister in law of Pam Maschke
Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly Rosenstock	Finn Morgan, great-grandson of Shirley & Bob Lieske
The Lynn Gillen Family, granddaughter to Fred & Carol Mueller	