



**Worship Plan for Sunday, September 27, 2020 - 17th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church**  
**Greendale, WI [www.ssmelca.org](http://www.ssmelca.org)**

**Introduction to the day**

*Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.*

**PRELUDE - Simple Gifts arr. Patricia Sanders Cota**      **Handbells: Sandra Wesolowski,**  
**Teri Peterson, Denise Sanders**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Faithful God,

C: **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world.

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 - "Holy God" *Trisagion*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,  
ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**C:** **God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 (Read by Ruth Urdahl)

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? <sup>3</sup>As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? <sup>26</sup>When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>27</sup>Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not

die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

<sup>31</sup>Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13** (Read by Ruth Urdahl)

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

<sup>1</sup>If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup>he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup>for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community  
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## GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

**P:** The holy gospel according to Matthew. **C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

<sup>23</sup>When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" <sup>24</sup>Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup>Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' <sup>26</sup>But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." <sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' <sup>29</sup>He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go.

<sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

<sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE - "Generational" Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY - "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding to each petition with the words “**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**”

Throughout the globe is the church: many assemblies are postponed by the virus, our songs quieted, our leaders searching for new ways forward. *A brief silence.* That you will continue to inspire all the baptized with the mind of Christ, we pray to you, faithful God.

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Around us nature is strained: polar ice is melting, excessive rains ravage the land, fires consume forests, fields, and homes, and animals are deprived of habitat. *A brief silence.* That you will preserve and protect the earth, we pray to you, mighty God:

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Around us is a needy world: governments allow injustice, violence threatens stability, people experience prejudice, reforms are thwarted, workers are unemployed, medical facilities are strained, children are abused. *A brief silence.* That you will save the people in all the nations of the world, we pray to you, compassionate God:

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

In our nation's courts, we see justice delayed and justice denied. Yet we thank you for the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and for her passion for equality under the law. *A brief silence.* That you will uphold honest judges and insightful juries throughout our criminal justice system, and that you will assist our nation in its task of filling the Supreme Court, we pray to you, righteous God:

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

We give thanks for our partners in ministry with the Diocese of Meru. Empower to grow in our work together, guide us to a greater understanding and warm our hearts in mutual love. We pray:  
**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Around us are the sick: there is starvation, the virus continues, many persons receive no medical attention, our neighbors and dear ones are ill. *A brief silence.* That you will bless all ministries of care and will relieve the suffering of those who are ill in body, mind, or spirit, we pray to you, merciful God.

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Nearby are needs of which we are unaware. *A brief silence.* That you will send your holy angels to uphold all who face personal troubles, we pray to you, benevolent God:

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

Before us lived countless of the faithful — the famous and the forgotten, our relatives and strangers. We lament their deaths, and we praise their witness. *A brief silence.* That we may confess Jesus Christ as Lord through our life and at our death, we pray to you, eternal God.

**Hear our laments, and receive our prayers.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Savior and Lord.

**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](http://ssmelca.org) or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.*)

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

**L:** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

**P:** Mothering God,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**C:** **Amen**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE - Toccata *by Eugene Gigout***

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## **KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER**

Joyce Gagliano, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Vic & Sandy Peterson,  
Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, 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	