

*Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Prescott Valley, AZ
“to serve God and share the good news of Jesus Christ”
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 26, 2020 Traditional Worship Service*

Prelude

Gene Fougner

“Lord Here I Am” Humber/Carnes/Beck

Welcome

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

GATHERING

Opening Litany

Psalm 119:129-136

L: Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

C: When your word is opened it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.

L: I open my mouth and pant because I long for your commandments.

C: Turn to me and be gracious to me, as you always do to those who love your name.

L: Order my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

C: Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.

L: Let your face shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

C: My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your teaching.

Confession & Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

L: Gracious God,

C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn

Hymn #771

“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens” (vs. 1 & 3)

God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space:
we, your children in your likeness, share inventive pow’rs with you;
great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us a-new:
children of creative purpose, serving others, hon’ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise; each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

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.

Prayer of the Day

L: Beloved and sovereign God,

C: through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children’s Message

Special Music

Andrea Worthington

“On My Knees” by Jaci Velasquez

WORD

A Scripture Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

First Reading Introduction

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” ⁶ And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today.” ⁷ And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸ And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹ Give your servant

therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?"

¹⁰ It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹ God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹² I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

A Scripture Reading

Romans 8:26-39

Second Reading Introduction

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

³¹ He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³² it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

³³ He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶ on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹ “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

“The Goodness of God”

Pastor Tricia Lowe

Hymn of the Day

Hymn #603

“God, When Human Bonds are Broken” (vs. 1, 3 & 4)

God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill
to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.

You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release
from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.

Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life.
Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven & 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

L: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

L: Merciful God, your reign is revealed to us in common things: a mustard shrub, a woman baking bread, a fishing net. Help your church witness to the surprising yet common ways you encounter us in daily life. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: As the birds of the air nest in branches of trees, gather the nations of the world into the welcoming shade of your merciful reign. Direct leaders of nations to build trust with each other and walk in the way of peace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Your Spirit helps us in our weakness and intercedes for the saints according to your will. Help us when we do not know how to pray. Give comfort to the dying, refuge to the weary, justice to those who are oppressed, and healing to the sick, especially those affected by the coronavirus. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Please take this time to offer any other intercessions, either aloud or in your heart.

L: In you our lives are never lost. Strengthen us by the inspiring witness of your people in all times and places. Embolden our witness now and one day gather us with all your saints in light. In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

P: Gathered together as God's people, we share the words Jesus taught us.

The 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.

Offering:

P: At this time I would like to offer thanks for the offerings that we have received both in the mail, online and in person. These gifts make it possible for us to continue to be the church in the world even when we can't meet face to face. If you are worshiping with us today and would like to make a donation, please go to our website homepage and click the online giving link.

Let us pray: 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, to show the world your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

The Benediction

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Hymn #547

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" (vs. 1)

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended. Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls
reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all.

Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God.



As a congregation, we pray for God's guidance on our journey of service to our membership, our community and our world. Pray for Pastor Tricia, the Church Council, and the Ministry Leadership. The church office reviews this list monthly. Please call if your prayer concern is removed earlier than you wish.

Please keep the following in your prayers during this week:

Members

*Alis Seim
Arlene Meder
Barbara Carroll
Barbara Stockbridge
Ben Stricker
Carol Hotten
Chuck Lynch
Clara Farmer
Cris Spahr
David Ramirez*

*Deanna McDaniel
Geri Cottrell
Gwen Savage
Helen Morton
Jeanne Currie Tomlinson
Judy Nielsen
Julie Schifferli
Karen Roush
Kyle Smith
Len Warne*

*Linda Walkoff
Marilyn & Leo Murphy
Marty Watkins
Mary Austin
Nancy Nimocks
Ramona Walker
Ron Kovara
Ruth Martindale
Schifferli family
Wayne Theobald*

Our Family Members in Military and Deployed

Meg Northrup Jim VanScoy

Family Members and Friends

*Adam & Liz Crowley – daughter & son-in-law of
Barbie Harlib
Anita Vasser – daughter of Mida Jordan
Baby Aurora & Baby Dale – Worthington's foster
children
Becky Bodnarczuk – niece of Nancy Clark
Bill Deffenbaugh – stepfather of Kimberly Goats
Bob Hermann – cousin of Willie & Betty Hermann
Buel McCoy – father of Wendy Woolley
Cheryle – friend of Kathy & Bert Austin
Cheryl Midel – aunt of Wendy Woolley
Chris Vettore – daughter of Ron Kovara
Connie Miller & son Trevor – friends of Carl
Schulze
Cris & Susie – brother & sister of Clara Farmer
Debra Jones – mother-in-law of Kimberly Goats
Don Jones – friend of Jim & Carole Rebholz
Donald Wayman – husband of Bobbe Serena
Wayman
Doug Bayle – nephew of Phyllis Pohlman
Doug Becker – friend of Jim McIntyre
Edie Hales – mother of Cheryl Miller
Edward Kelly – friend of Mark & Mary Austin
Grant – grandson of Dan & Carol Cwach
Jack Gregory – friend of Ellen Rosfeld
Joann Harlib – mother of Scott Harlib
Joshua Diebel – stepbrother of Tawnya
Worthington
Julie – daughter of Chuck & Kathy Guenther
Julie Ward – daughter of Keith & Cathy Namock*

*Kaitlin Colmenero – granddaughter of Inge Scholl
Kelly Smith – daughter of Bobbe Serena Wayman
Kenneth Lindsay deployed Kuwait – friend of Carl
Schulze
Kevin Marsh – son of Becky McIntyre
Kim Schifferli – sister-in-law of Julie Schifferli
Kris Franklin – friend of Wendy Woolley
Leroy Goats – father-in-law of Kimberly Goats
Linda Vallner – sister of Ron Kovara
Marie – Clara Farmer's son's mother-in-law
Marilyn Bostin – cousin of Tom Smith
Mark Kovara – son of Ron Kovara
Merle MacCleary – father of Pam MacCleary
Miranda & Brad Rebholz – granddaughter and
grandson of Jim & Carole Rebholz
Rev. Paul Meier – former pastor of Larry & Sonya
Mahler
Rich, Carol, daughter Rachel & grand daughter
Audrey – friends of Larry & Sonya Mahler
Rosemary – neighbor of Mary Wakimoto
Sam Crifasi – friend of Larry Mahler
Sarah Mulligan – daughter of Carol Wade
Star Campbell – friend of Bob Saul
Stefanie O'Donnell – daughter of Shelby & Carol
Tate
Susie Soto – sister of Clara Farmer
Wayne Wallingford – brother of Sheila Smilgis
Wendy Spencer – daughter of Kat Harley Mays*

Please pray for the Schifferli family. Julie has been diagnosed with COVID-19; Serena and Naomi are also experiencing symptoms. We will stay in touch with Julie and keep you all up to date.

Mary's Vacation Time - Mary continues to take vacation time on Mondays. If you would like to volunteer to be in the office and answer the phone from 9:00am to 1:00 pm, the staff would be very appreciative! There is very little traffic on Mondays and very few phone messages.

Someone will be in the church office weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. but the church doors will be locked. Please knock upon arriving or call first. Please note that we are now requesting that everyone wear a mask when entering the church building. Don't be surprised when Mary and Pastor Tricia put theirs on when you come in! With the rise in cases of the virus in our community, we want to make sure we practice all safety precautions to protect the most vulnerable among us.

MISSION OUTREACH for the month of **July** is **Project Aware**. Project Aware provides an opportunity for the homeless to improve their lives and progress to self-sufficiency and independent living. They provide temporary shelter, affordable housing, and services to help the homeless achieve and maintain residential stability. They increase public awareness and understanding of the problem of homelessness and advocate for the homeless, many of whom have little or no voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES Sunday is now August 2 – This year, as in the past, Emmanuel is collecting backpacks and school supplies for the Family Resource Center for Humboldt Unified School District. School may look a little different in August, but backpacks and supplies will still be needed, maybe even more so than in past years. Please have any items that you purchase to the church by **Friday, July 31**.

Food Pantry – At this time, the food pantry prefers monetary donations so they can purchase the needed items. Donations can be mailed to the church and we will make sure the Food Pantry receives them in a timely manner. We will have a food bag drive, with a drop off at church, later.

Interfaith Meal: Did you know that our church feeds about 120 community members each month during our Interfaith Meal? Even if you aren't available on a Thursday (during prep) or Friday (during the meal), check with Outreach to see how you can help! With meals discontinued at Trinity and postponed at St. Germaine's during this social distancing time, Emmanuel is hosting a second meal each month. Our next **take-out only meal** is **Friday, August 14, at 11:00 a.m.** Community members who have attended in the past will be notified.

The following events at the church are postponed until further notice: Worship Services, Sunday School, Youth Nite, Cottage Meetings, Clothing Exchange, Grief Group, Wellness Group, Quilters, Ministry Meeting, Young @ Heart, Bells, Jubilate, Chancel Choir, Bible Studies, Saturday Worship, Craft Show and all outside events. Our worship services are pre-recorded and can be found on YouTube, many of our Bible Studies and Youth meetings are happening via Zoom. Contact the office or visit our website for more information.

Offerings – Even though we are not meeting face to face, our church keeps the lights on! We are paying our staff, our bills and our benevolence commitment to the synod, and that is only possible if our members continue to give. There are several ways to give your offering; the simplest of course is to mail it. You can leave your offering, at any time, in our secure lockbox next to the front door of the church building. It might be a nice way to get out of the house for a little drive if you have cabin fever! You can also use Vanco or even better, Bill Pay online through your bank: there is no cost to you to use Bill Pay and no cost to the church. (Vanco does take a small percentage in fees). While you are here, pick up the latest **Christ In Our Home** devotional in the bin right by the front door!