

# **Rally Day, Bible Presentations Outdoor Worship**

September 13, 2020, 9:30 am at Lutheran Church of Martha and Mary in Mt. Prospect, IL

## **Gathering**

## **Announcements**

## **Centering and Quieting Time**

Let's take a deep breath and move ourselves into a worshipful space while we listen to the prelude.

## **Prelude**

Instrumental Music

## **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.**

## **Opening Hymn: Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.

Open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see you, I want to see you. (*Repeat this section*)

To see you high and lifted up,  
Shining in the light of your glory;  
Pour out your pow'r and love  
As we sing "Holy, holy, holy."

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord.

Open the eyes of my heart.

I want to see you, I want to see you. (*Repeat this section*)

### **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**

A: Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen**

### **First Reading: Psalm 103:[1 - 7] 8 - 13**

A: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

**C: Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—**

A: who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;

**C: who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

A: who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**C: O Lord, you provide vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

A: You made known your ways to Moses  
and your works to the children of Israel.

**C: Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;**

A: you will not always accuse us,  
nor will you keep your anger forever.

**C: You have not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.**

A: For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.

**C: As far as the east is from the west,  
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.**

A: As a parent has compassion for their children,  
so you have compassion for those who fear you, O Lord.

### **Second Reading: Romans 14:1 - 12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those

who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

**Music: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (ELW #172)**

Halle, halle, halle-lujah,  
Halle, halle, halle-lujah,  
Halle, halle, halle-lujah,  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**Gospel: Matthew 18:21 - 35**

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th Chapter.

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

Peter came and said to [Jesus], "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

**Children's Time and Presentation of Bibles**

**Sermon by Pastor Jess Harren**

## **Hymn of the Day: I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me**

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad Jesus lifted me.  
Singing, "Glory, hallelujah!"  
Jesus lifted me.

I'm full of joy, (Yippee!) Jesus lifted me.  
I'm full of joy, (Yippee!) Jesus lifted me.  
I'm full of joy, (Yippee!) Jesus lifted me.  
Singing, "Glory, hallelujah!"  
Jesus lifted me

Ha, ha, ha, hallelujah! Ha, ha, ha, hallelujah!  
Ha, ha, ha, hallelujah! Ha, ha, ha, hallelujah!  
Ha, ha, ha, hallelujah! Ha, ha, ha, hallelujah!  
Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha ha!

When I was in trouble, (Oh no!) Jesus lifted  
me.  
When I was in trouble, (Oh no!) Jesus lifted  
me.  
When I was in trouble, (Oh no!) Jesus lifted  
me.  
Singing, "Glory, hallelujah!"  
Jesus lifted me.

I'm so glad (ha, ha, ha!) Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad (ha, ha, ha!) Jesus lifted me.  
I'm so glad (ha, ha, ha!) Jesus lifted me.  
Singing, "Glory, hallelujah!"  
Jesus lifted me.

## **Welcoming a New Member**

### **Presentation of New Members**

P: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for this person, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as a new member into the life and ministry of this congregation.  
Jennie Dalesandro has come to our congregation from St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, IL.

### **Apostles' Creed**

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: 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.**

### **Address and Questions**

*Pastor Jess asks Jennie if she'll commit to living her discipleship through this congregation.*

P: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ? **C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

### **Welcome**

A: Let us welcome this sister in Christ to this community of faith.

**C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

### **Hymn: Build Us Up (ELW #670)**

- 1 Build us up, Lord, build us up;  
set in us a strong foundation.  
Lead us to do your holy will;  
form and shape your new creation.  
Build us up, Lord, build us up;  
as we guide and teach each other,  
help us to share your love with the world:  
ev'ry sibling, ev'ry person. *Refrain*

#### *Refrain*

Growing in Christ, we plant seeds for the kingdom;  
we follow in faith what's begun!  
Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your word  
to spread the news of your Son!

- 2 Build us up, Lord, build us up;  
let our lives reflect your glory.  
Cast away all our doubts and fears;  
help us tell the world your story.  
Build us up, Lord, build us up;  
help us bear good fruit for you,  
Lord, give us vision and keep us sure.  
Grant us faith that's steadfast and true. *Refrain*

## **Prayers**

A: Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. (*A brief silence.*)

A: You welcome us when we are weak in faith. Uphold your church throughout the world; make it a place of welcome. Strengthen faith through Bible studies and Sunday schools, confirmation classes and youth ministries. Nurture new ministries of education and growth especially our outdoor and Zoom Sunday School. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: The heights of the heavens show us the vastness of your steadfast love. Have compassion on your creation. Where human selfishness has brought ruin and destruction, we look to you to heal, renew, and redeem your world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Make your ways known to the nations. Speak kindness to our bitter grudges. Settle our hearts when we want to settle accounts with violence. Bless our leaders with patience and wisdom (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Bring healing and justice wherever harm is dealt. Provide vindication for all who are oppressed. Free victims of human trafficking and forced labor; deliver all who are bound by debt. Feed all who hunger, and guard refugees fleeing famine, poverty, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Teach us to forgive. Remind us that you do not always accuse us. Still our tongues when we are tempted to pass judgment and argue over opinions. Make this congregation a community of mercy for one another and for all our neighbors. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: We give you thanks for our new member, Jennie Dalesandro, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours. We thank you for those who have showed us faithfulness, for the knees that taught us how to bow to you and the tongues that taught us to praise you (*especially John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, whom we commemorate today*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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

**C: Amen.**

## Sharing of Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## Moment of Generosity

### Hymn: Peace Like a River

I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river in my soul  
I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river  
I've got peace like a river in my soul

I've got love like an ocean  
I've got love like an ocean  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul  
I've got love like an ocean  
I've got love like an ocean  
I've got love like an ocean in my soul

I've got joy like a fountain  
I've got joy like a fountain  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul  
I've got joy like a fountain  
I've got joy like a fountain  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul

I've got peace like a river  
I've got love like an ocean  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul  
I've got peace like a river  
I've got love like an ocean  
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul

## Communion

### Welcome to Communion

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### Preface

P: It is indeed . . . . unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

### Invitation to the Table

P: Enjoy the banquet where Christ gives himself as food and drink. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## Communion Music

### Post Communion Prayer

A: We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

### Blessing

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

### Sending Hymn: This Little Light of Mine (ELW #677)

- |      |   |   |
|------|---|---|
| 1, 4 | This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;<br>this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;<br>this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,<br>let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. | ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,<br>let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.   |
| 2    | Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;<br>ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;  | 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;<br>Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;<br>Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,<br>let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. |

### Dismissal

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

## Postlude

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