

**GATHERING**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

We come to God, looking for holy hope in the midst of the world's hopelessness.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

God of hope, **we confess that we often place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts, rather than relying on you. We make our own plans, instead of trusting the leading of your Spirit. We too often want to be in control, instead of having faith in your wisdom and love. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may bring your hope to everyone. Amen.**

Beloved of God, by divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus. 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. **Amen.**

**Gathering Song "O Master, Let Me Walk with You" ELW 818 (Spoken)**

1. O Master, let me walk with you in lowly paths of service true; tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love; teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.
3. Teach me your patience; share with me a closer, dearer company, in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong,
4. In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broad'ning way, in peace that only you can give; with you, O Master, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt. Public Domain

**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray...**God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**WORD First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8**

<sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

<sup>6</sup>And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant—

<sup>7</sup>these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

<sup>8</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, I will gather others to them besides those already gathered. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 67 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup>May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.

<sup>2</sup>**Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.**

<sup>3</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup>**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.**

<sup>5</sup>Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup>**The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.**

<sup>7</sup>May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

**Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32**

[Paul writes:] <sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2a</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup>For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup>Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup>so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. <sup>32</sup>For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28**

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

[<sup>10</sup>[Jesus] called the crowd to him and said to them, "Listen and understand:<sup>11</sup>it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles." <sup>12</sup>Then the disciples approached and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?" <sup>13</sup>He answered, "Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. <sup>14</sup>Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit." <sup>15</sup>But Peter said to him, "Explain this parable to us." <sup>16</sup>Then he said, "Are you also still without understanding? <sup>17</sup>Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? <sup>18</sup>But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. <sup>19</sup>For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. <sup>20</sup>These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile."]

<sup>21</sup>Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup>Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." <sup>23</sup>But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." <sup>24</sup>He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." <sup>25</sup>But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." <sup>26</sup>He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." <sup>27</sup>She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup>Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

## **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.**

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## **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.

L: Lord, you gather the church to be part of your mission as ambassadors of Jesus Christ. As Jesus acknowledged the great faith of a woman from outside his people, help your church discover and find blessing in the faith of people we might reject. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

#1. You have blessed us with the bounty of the earth. Grant your grace to all your creatures, that the earth will flourish. Relieve waters choked by garbage, renew soils stripped of nutrients, and refresh the air all creatures need to live. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

#2. You call the nations to be glad and sing for joy. Let your way be known among all the nations of the world, now divided by competing interests, contending alliances, and consumed by enormous worry. Bless us and make your face shine upon all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

#3. In you we live and move and have our being. Grant our congregations grace to find our life refreshed in you. Accompany us in the rhythms of late summer. Give us rest and renewal, and strengthen us for mission in your name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

#4. God of hope, give good courage to all the people of Northwoods STaR Ministries, that we may go wherever you call us, to be the people you created us to be. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

L: You show unexpected mercy, kindness, and generosity. We pray for those who do not have enough, for outcasts in villages, cities, and towns, and for those who need your healing. We especially pray for all those on the prayer list — Arland, Phil & Janice, Dorothy, Ben M., Evelina, Renee, Joe, Isaiah, Gerald, Jason, Dusty, Kay, everyone with COVID-19 \_\_\_\_\_ and all those we name before you now, out loud or in our hearts. *(pause)*

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

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## **THANKSGIVING**

**Offering** (The offering plates will be placed near the sanctuary entrances. Please place your offerings in those containers as you exit the worship service today. Thank you.)

### **Offering prayer**

Let us pray...**God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **SENDING**

### **Announcements**

### **Blessing**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn "I Love to Tell the Story" ELW 661**

1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

#### Refrain:

1 love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God's own holy word. *Refrain*

3. I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain*

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911 Public Domain

## **Mission Statements**

### **Northwoods STaR Ministries**

*"United in Christ, Sharing God's Love"*

### **Zion Brantwood**

*"We are disciples of Christ: Growing in faith, sharing our faith stories, serving others."*

### **First Prentice**

*"We are Jesus' disciples: Welcoming every sinner, sharing Jesus' love and teachings, encouraging all to live Christ-centered lives."*

### **First Ogema**

*"We are called and gathered to share Christ as we minister to all, bringing an unchanging God to a changing world."*

### **First Westboro**

*"Feeding bodies, minds and spirits through Christ."*

## **Dismissal**

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