

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

This Sunday, we continue to read Matthew's instructions for the church. Today we hear about the importance of reconciliation, mutual forgiveness and love. Even more, we hear the promise of the risen Christ to be with us. If you are able, join the congregation by your own prayer at home **at 10am on Sunday**.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 2020**

Our Common Prayer at Home

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip-based worship videos, or by engaging the entire worship video.

Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

A reading from Ezekiel:

⁷So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading:

Music may be found at:

<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200906/playlist>

PSALM 119:33-40

³³Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes,
and I shall keep it | to the end.

³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with | all my heart.

³⁵Lead me in the path of | your commandments,
for that is | my desire.

³⁶Incline my heart to | your decrees
and not to | unjust gain.

³⁷Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;
give me life | in your way.

³⁸Fulfill your promise | to your servant,
which is for | those who fear you.

³⁹Turn away the reproach | that I dread,
because your judg- | ments are good.

⁴⁰Behold, I long for | your commandments;
by your righteousness en- | liven me.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

A reading from Romans:

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

Let Ezekiel the prophet speak to us today, in the name of God. If we do not turn from our own sins toward the mercy of God, we will waste away and die. And we are such sinners. But in Matthew, Jesus gives us a way of mutual forgiveness. The “keys” that he gave to Peter two Sundays ago, he gives now to the whole church. When someone has offended us, we should not respond with gossip nor with announcing a grievance on social media, but with direct contact and mutual reconciliation. And in the midst of our common life, especially as we are gathered in prayer but even when we are isolated from each other, the risen Christ dwells, as he promised. He is the source of all forgiveness, the grounds of reconciliation. He dawns for us like the day. Baptized in his Spirit, we may put on Christ like clothing, which is: we may put on love for our neighbor.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman’s Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200906/playlist>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200906/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #470

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
 2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
 3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
 Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
 ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,

you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
 Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
 Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936, alt.
 Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905-1958
 Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition, © Oxford University Press 1931.
 Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

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Then pray these intercessions:

Drawn together by the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding to each petition with the words “Hear us and help us.”

Unite your church, O God. Give to all the baptized the gifts of repentance and reconciliation. Strengthen ecumenical partnerships and interracial cooperation among the churches. Guide the work of the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

A brief silence.

O God, Leader of the church, in your mercy,
hear us and help us.

Protect your creation, O God. Teach us ways to live that do not harm what you have entrusted to our care. Give to the animals the habitat they need for life. Renew and enliven places suffering from drought, flood, storms, or pollution.

A brief silence.

O God, Creator of the earth, in your mercy,
hear us and help us.

Bless the nations, O God. Frustrate the designs of dictators. Give to the military a clear and moral purpose. Guide legislators, civil servants, judges, and police toward the well-being of all. Infuse the coming election season with honesty and integrity.

A brief silence.

O God, Governor of the world, in your mercy,
hear us and help us.

Sustain us in our work, O God, and give employment to those who need it. Shape societies to ensure fair treatment for all who labor. Help us to love our neighbors in and through our work.

A brief silence.

O God, Guardian of all peoples, in your mercy,
hear us and help us.

Guide our civil discourse, O God. Alert us to social evils, and show our nation how to end the patterns of racial injustice. Accompany all are endeavoring to bring about a renewed society. Curb the violence in our cities.

A brief silence.

O God, Haven of righteousness, in your mercy,
hear us and help us.

Tend to all in need, O God. Assist all friends and family members who are seeking restored relationships. Give community to the lonely and welcome to the outcast. Shelter all who are vulnerable in body, mind, or spirit, especially Don Hanson, Karen Huff, Barb Jensen, Lyle Kubly, Jack Mulloy, and Gretchen Zeltner.

A brief silence.

O God, Physician of the sick, in your mercy,
hear us and help us.

Receive once again, O God, our plea for the end of the coronavirus. Comfort those afflicted with Covid-19, and uphold our medical workers. Give youth a sense of responsibility for others, and provide the world a vaccine.

A brief silence.

O God, Healer in times of plague, in your mercy,
hear us and help us.

Hear each one of us, O God, as we pray now for ourselves.

A longer period of silence.

O God, Lover of us all, in your mercy,
hear us and help us.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died in faith. As you equipped them, equip us with your protection and power, until with them we see your salvation.

A brief silence.

O God, Eternal One, in your mercy,
hear us and help us.

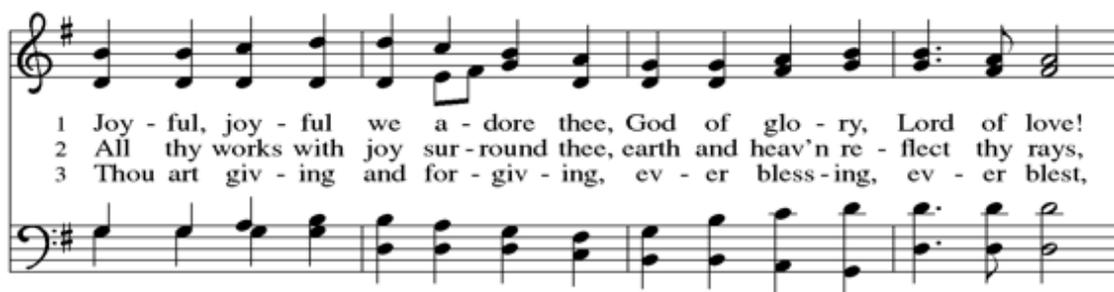
All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

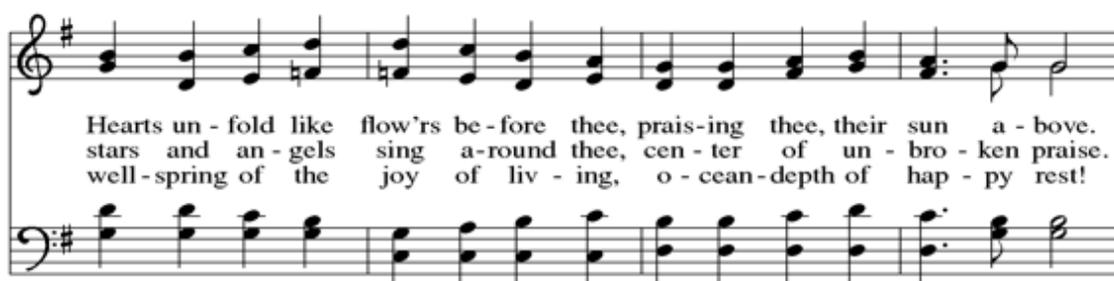
Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20200906/playlist>

HYMN # 836

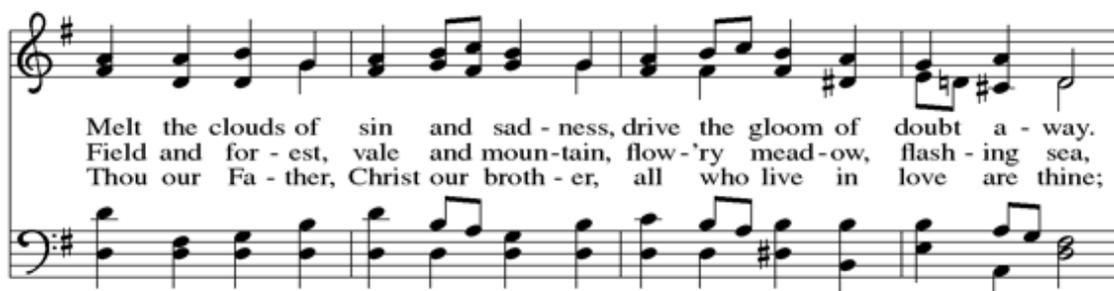
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving word,
for calling creation into being,
declaring forgiveness from the cross,
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.

We praise you, O God, for your word:
we praise you, O God, for your word.

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,
a mirror reflecting our selves,
a shield providing us refuge,
a fire burning for justice and truth.

Your word is sweeter than honey:
it nourishes our bodies like milk,
it sustains your people like bread.

We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.
We bless you, O God, for your word:
we bless you, O God, for your word.

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,
and to all the cries of the needy.

Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,
that heeding your voice of beauty and power
we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath --
we offer our thanks for your life-giving word:
we offer our thanks for your life-giving word.

Amen.

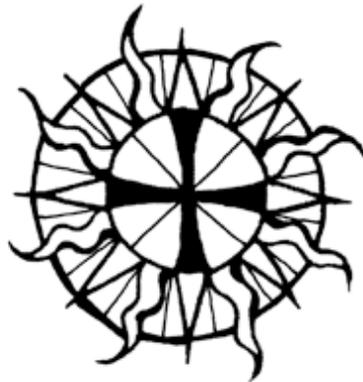
Amen.

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

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
And deliver us from evil,
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.



We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let this food to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 119:65-72. **Tuesday** Romans 13:1-7. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654) Matthew 21:18-22.

Thursday Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13. **Friday** Genesis 41:53—42:17. **Saturday** Matthew 6:7-15. **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost** (commemoration of John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407) Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35.

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