

Sunday Worship Service – June 19, 2022

Worship words from Canadian Lutheran World Relief and World Renew Canada

Resources for World Refugee Day

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Litany for Refugee Sunday

Open our hearts, O Lord. Prepare us for worship.

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers,
for by so doing some people have shown
hospitality to angels without knowing it.” (Hebrews 13: 2)

We pray for families who have fled in fear
Seeking a safe place, a place where peace embraces the land
Where there is hope for the future.

Remind us, oh Lord, to pray.

**Remind us of the children, women, and men who have fled in
search of safety. Be with them.**

Make us aware, oh Lord, of injustice. May we be people of mercy and grace.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something
to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” (Matthew 25: 35)

Teach us, oh Lord, to be people of hospitality.

Guide us to act when we see people in need.

Help us to reflect your love in practical acts of kindness.

Open our eyes, Lord. Help us see your image in the faces
of those in need of hope and opportunity.

“This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy
and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless,
the foreigner or the poor.’” (Zechariah 7: 9-10)

Make us impatient, Lord God, for justice.

Help us to stand with the widow, the orphan.

Help us to stand with the newcomers and those who have been displaced.

Open our ears, Lord Jesus.

Help us to hear the stories of the displaced,
the frightened, and the lonely.

“Do not oppress a foreigner, you yourselves know how it feels to be
foreigners, for you were foreigners in Egypt.” (Exodus 23: 9)

**Give us wisdom, oh Lord, to understand the struggles
and challenges of new Canadians.**

Help us to welcome them in our homes and into our communities.

“Lead us to find rest and comfort in you, O Lord, and in you alone.

For those who hope upon the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary;
they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40: 31)

Gathering Hymn “God Welcomes All” #978 (All Creation Sings)

God wel - comes all, stran - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gracious and merciful God,

you sent your Son Jesus into this world to teach us your way of justice and
peace, to show us how to live with compassionate love.

Hear us as we confess our sins, the things we have done

and the things we have left undone in our thinking, speaking and acting.

Let us hear your word of forgiveness yet again

that we might be changed day by day into the image of love incarnate,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence for personal reflection.

Listen to our words and our innermost thoughts:

We confess that we haven't listened well to Jesus' commands to love you and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

We confess the times we have listened to Jesus' words but failed to respond to his command to love.

We confess our lack of understanding that you indeed know no partiality.

We confess our fear of change.

We confess our failure to build bridges and work together to challenge racism, discrimination and prejudice and to stand up for our neighbours.

We confess our ignorance for which there is no excuse.

Forgive us, merciful God.

Open our hearts to the challenge of your Son's command to love.

Open our eyes to see the plight of refugees.

Open our ears to hear their cries for help.

Open our mouths to speak for those whose voices are not being heard.

Open our hands to make a difference in their lives.

Forgive us, gracious and merciful God

so that we may love and serve you and our neighbours

as you have taught us to do through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Know this: God does not deal with us according to our sins nor seek retaliation for them. Be at peace.

In steadfast love, God forgives you all your sins through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn of Praise *"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"* #742

1. **What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear –
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!**
2. **Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness – take it to the Lord in prayer.**
3. **Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge – take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

God our creator, you call your people to love as you love without partiality, showing hospitality to the stranger, doing justice, speaking for those whose voices are not being heard and defending the rights of the poor and needy.

We give thanks for the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief on our behalf. Help us to show your love in all that we do and say. May we see the face of your Son in the faces of all whom we are called to love and serve through whom we pray, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Psalm 22:18-30 ¹

But you, Holy One, do not be far away.

O my Helper, hasten! Rescue me!

Save my life from the sword;

save your beloved from the power of the dog.

Deliver me from the lion's mouth,

from the horns of the wild ox.

You have answered me!

I will proclaim your name among my brothers and sisters.

I will praise you among the congregation.

You who revere the Holy One,

praise the Holy One!

You descendants of Jacob, honor your God!

All Israel, stand in awe of the Holy One!

For the Holy One does not scorn the downtrodden,

nor shrink in loathing from their plight.

God does not hide from them,

but answers when they call for help. (Refrain)

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From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will fulfill before those who revere the Holy One.

The poor will eat and be satisfied.

Those who seek our God will offer their praises.

May their hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember, and return to the Holy One.

All families of the nations shall bow down before God.

Surely sovereignty belongs to the Holy One,
 who rules among the nations.

All at death's door shall bow down to God alone.

All going down to the dust
 shall kneel to the Divine Majesty.

I shall live for the Holy One.

Posterity will worship the Holy One;

generations to come shall be told of the Holy One.

They will come and proclaim divine justice.

To people yet unborn they will proclaim

what God has done. (Refrain)

Scripture Reading: Galatians 3:23-29

Before faith came, we were guarded under the Law, locked up until faith that was coming would be revealed, so that the Law became our custodian until Christ so that we might be made righteous by faith.

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian.

You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Now if you belong to Christ, then indeed you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to the promise.

Here ends the reading.

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation "Voice of Creation"

Voice of creation, open our ears to hear your word.

Source of salvation, open our hearts to hold your love.

Soul's inspiration, open our minds to know your grace.

Three in relation, transform our lives with your embrace. (repeat)

Gospel Reading: Luke 8:26-39

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 8th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus and his disciples sailed to the Gerasenes' land, which is across the lake from Galilee. As soon as Jesus got out of the boat, a certain man met him. The man was from the city and was possessed by demons. For a long time, he had lived among the tombs, naked and homeless. When he saw Jesus, he shrieked and fell down before him. Then he shouted, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!" He said this because Jesus had already commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had taken possession of him, so he would be bound with leg irons and chains and placed under guard. But he would break his restraints, and the demon would force him into the wilderness.

Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"Legion," he replied, because many demons had entered him. They pleaded with him not to order them to go back into the abyss. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs. Jesus gave them permission, and the demons left the man and entered the pigs. The herd rushed down the cliff into the lake and drowned.

When those who tended the pigs saw what happened, they ran away and told the story in the city and in the countryside. People came to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone. He was sitting at Jesus' feet, fully dressed and completely sane. They were filled with awe. Those people who had actually seen what had happened told them how the demon-possessed man had been delivered.

Then everyone gathered from the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave their area because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and returned across the lake. The man from whom the demons had gone begged to come along with Jesus as one of his disciples. Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return home and tell the story of what God has done for you." So he went throughout the city proclaiming what Jesus had done for him.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Connected Through Christ

Hymn of the Day *"In Christ These Is No East or West"* #650

1. **In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.**
2. **In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.**
3. **Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.**
4. **In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the world; all refugees seeking safety and peace; the work of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, resettlement teams and sponsoring communities; and our own needs. Each petition will end with "God who executes justice and loves the stranger" and the response **"Hear the prayers of your people."**

The petitions are shared.

All these petitions we bring before you, asking that we may be faithful people who do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you, through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

We pray as Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

**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.

Offertory Prayer ²

Generous God, you are always with us, always caring for us, always drawing us together. We are so grateful for your loving presence. We bring our gifts before you today, that this offering may reach out in love to your people everywhere. Amen.

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Closing Song “Oh, Praise the Gracious Power” #651 (verses 1-3,5,7)

1. **Oh, praise the gracious pow’r that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith all strangers far and near:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**
2. **Oh, praise persistent truth that opens fisted minds
and eases from their anxious clutch the prejudice that blinds:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**
3. **Oh, praise inclusive love, encircling ev’ry race,
oblivious to gender, wealth, to social rank or place:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**
5. **Oh, praise the tide of grace that laps at ev’ry shore
with visions of a world at peace, no longer bled by war:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**
7. **Oh, praise the living Christ with faith’s bright songful voice!
Announce the gospel to the world and with these words rejoice:
We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!**

Blessing

Out of our faith, may we be warm-hearted and loving;
Out of our abundance, may we be generous;
Out of our humanity, may we be bearers of justice and peace in our world.
And may God our Creator bless us with steadfast love and mercy,
Christ Jesus show us how to love with compassion,
and the Holy Spirit work in us and accompany us always. **Amen.**

Sending

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve!
Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Joshua Hendricksen