

# DIVINE SERVICE I

THE SIXTHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Our Brother's Keeper*



Christ Lutheran Church  
North St. Paul & Hugo, Minnesota  
September 20, 2020

**About the service...**“Divine Service I” is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church. It became the service commonly used by English-speaking Lutherans in America and appeared as “The Order of the Holy Communion” in The Lutheran Hymnal.

**About the theme...**The Church fulfills her role as her brother’s keeper. The privilege, responsibility and importance of this task all rest in the words from our Gospel lesson that follow Jesus’ divine directive, “I tell you the truth...” The keys of the kingdom have been placed in our hands. It is our privilege and responsibility to bind and to loose—to be our brother’s keeper—because Christ has appointed the Church to carry out that task on his behalf. *God bless your worship!*

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### PRE SERVICE MUSIC *(Hugo—Harpist Elaine Stindt)*

### OPENING HYMN

*Love In Christ Is Strong and Living*  
CW #490



1 Love in Christ is strong and liv - ing,  
2 Love is pa - tient and for - bear - ing,  
3 Love in Christ a - bides for - ev - er,



Bind - ing faith - ful hearts in one;  
Clothed in Christ's hu - mil - i - ty,  
Faint - ing not when ills at - tend;



Love in Christ is true and giv - ing—  
Gen - tle, self - less, kind, and car - ing,  
Love, for - giv - ing and for - giv - en,



May his will in us be done!  
Reach - ing out in char - i - ty.  
Shall en - dure un - til life's end.

## INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For all this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us, and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 33:7-11

*God gives us the heavy message of being a watchman for our brother, warning him of sin that may lead him to eternal ruin.*

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup> When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. <sup>9</sup> But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved. <sup>10</sup> “Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’” <sup>11</sup> Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

**SONG** (NSP)

*Way Maker*  
Soloist

## **SECOND LESSON**

Romans 13:1-10

*Paul speaks of our ongoing debt of love we have as God's people toward our government and our neighbor.*

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup> Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup> For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup> For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup> Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. <sup>6</sup> This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. <sup>8</sup> Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

## **VERSE OF THE DAY**

Philippians 4:4

*Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 18:15-20

*Jesus has given his Church great power to forgive or not forgive sins. However, this privilege and responsibility is used properly when carried out in love for the eternal welfare of an erring brother and reliance on the Savior in our midst.*

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. <sup>16</sup> But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ <sup>17</sup> If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,**

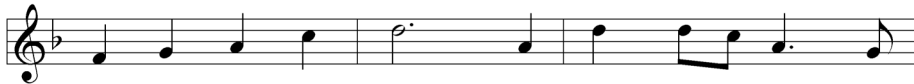
who has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*  
 CW #493



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," You  
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless The  
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals The  
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And



taught us, Lord, to pray, But you a - lone can  
 un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and  
 truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are  
 bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.  
 will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
 owed to us; How great our debt to you!  
 bonds of love Our lives will spread your peace.

**MESSAGE**

**OFFERING**

*The Offering will be received as you leave*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** C: **Bold print**

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

For all who serve in the Lord's Kingdom, that God would keep His own ever mindful that it is only by grace we are included in His Kingdom and privileged to serve in it, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the nurturing of children, that God would allow all to see children as blessings from Him, that they might be brought to the waters of Holy Baptism, loved, well cared for and nourished daily with God's Word, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For faithful parents, that God would grant them patience and wisdom and give them the fortitude to train up their children in the way they should go, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who receive the Lord's Supper this day, that by God's grace and power they would forsake sinful ways and thoughts, returning to the Lord, and that in receiving Christ's body and blood, they would taste with joy God's abundant pardon, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

*Special prayers may be added here*

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## THE SACRAMENT

*We are a “sacramental” church. We believe that in Baptism and the Lord’s supper, God comes to us with forgiveness in very tangible means. Because the Bible has convinced us that Jesus’ body and blood are present in the sacrament and that receiving the sacrament together is a public statement of oneness in our beliefs and commitment, we ask our guests to speak with the pastor before communing. We do not want to be presumptuous and put you in a position of stating your agreement with our convictions before we have had an opportunity to explain them. We do look forward to any opportunity to discuss with you the Christian faith. Personal Preparation for Holy Communion is found on p. 12 of this service folder.*

### PREFACE

M: The Lord be with You.

**C: And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that where two or three are gathered together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory.



### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

M: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: Amen**



## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

*Jesus Sinners Does Receive*  
CW #304



1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet his words, rich  
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray Are not by the  
4 Come, O sin - ners, one and all, Come, ac - cept his



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
Lord for - sak - en; Wea - ry souls who lost their way  
in - vi - ta - tion. Come, o - bey his gra - cious call;



And from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope  
Here their ills have per - fect heal - ing Who with hum -  
Are by Christ, the shep - herd, tak - en In his arms  
Come and take his free sal - va - tion! Firm - ly in



for all who grieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
ble hearts be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
that they may live— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.  
these words be - lieve— Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

## THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:

C: And his mercy endures forever.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

M: God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## **BLESSING**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Post-Service Music** (Hugo) Elaine Stindt, harp

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CW #318



## PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

### Prayer

*Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.*