**August 10, 2025 A7G** **9:00 am LEADER COPY**

**WORSHIP VERSE** Psalm 111:1

*Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD*

*with my whole heart, in the company of the upright,*

*in the congregation.*

**PRESERVICE THOUGHTS**

*The true, the genuine worship is when man, through his Spirit, attains to friendship and intimacy with God. True and genuine worship is not to come to a certain place; it is not to go through a certain ritual or liturgy; it is not even to bring certain gifts. True worship is when the spirit, The immortal and invisible part of man, speak to and meets with God, who is Immortal and invisible.* ***~*** William Barclay

**Disciples learn the ways of blessedness**

*Blessed are the peacemakers,*

*for they will be called children of God.*

Who are the **peacemaker** types in this world, those who find themselves between opposing parties? There are judges or arbiters, like in divorce cases; umpires between teams at odds over a call; teachers between hostile students, parents between quibbling siblings (sometimes siblings between parents). Then there are the police officers in domestic disputes and negotiators in business deals. Now ask yourself this: How often are both sides satisfied with the peacemaker's efforts? Someone almost always feels cheated, don't they? Peacemaker types can end up being spoken of derisively – not highly. In dealing with multiple parties, peacemakers often face ungrateful, manipulative and conniving people on at least one side -- sometimes both. And this is before, during, and after the efforts to bring peace. Truth can be hard to root out.

Jesus, the Prince of Peace and Truth Himself, also faced ungrateful, manipulative and conniving people before, during, and after His efforts to bring peace through His life-and-death efforts. Peacemakers are in good company with Jesus, the Ultimate Peacemaker – and like Jesus, the Son of God – they are called children of God.

**PRESERVICE PRAYER**

Almighty and most kind God, You sent us Jesus the Prince of Peace, to bless us with peace that the world cannot give, and You desire us to be agents of peace for others. Let our Prince of Peace lead our church as we seek to be like Christ and act like the children of God that we are; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**PRESERVICE** *“Peace” (Father You are Holy)* Garrelts

Father, You are holy.

Lifting up Your name, we give You praise.

You wipe away our tears,

You’re there throughout the years.

Your name means peace.

La la la la. La la la la la la la.

Jesus, You are holy.

Lifting up Your name, we give You praise.

You wipe away our tears,

You’re there throughout the years.

Your name means peace.

La la la la. La la la la la la la.

Spirit, You are holy.

Lifting up Your name, we give You praise.

You wipe away our tears,

You’re there throughout the years.

Your name means peace.

La la la la. La la la la la la la.

La la la la. La la la la la la la.

La la la la. La la la la la la la

*“You Are”* Roach

You are holy. You are faithful.

You are Savior. You are friend.

You are all I'll ever need. Lord, You are.

You are ev’ry question’s answer.

You are ev’ry reason why.

You are moving. You are still. Lord, You are.

*Chorus*

*You are the Lord on high.*

*You are the Way, the Truth, the Life.*

*You are the Word made flesh.*

*You are the bright Morning Star. You are.*

You are glory hallelujah.

You are hope of peace on earth.

You are Alpha and Omega. You are.

You are comfort. You are refuge.

You are love personified.

You are kindness and compassion. You are. *Chorus*

*Bridge*

You are my God and my King.

You are the words that I sing.

You are the reason I make this offering.

You are my God and my King.

You are the words that I sing.

You are the reason I make this offering.

You are my God and my King.

You are the words that I sing.

You are the reason I make this offering.

 *Chorus, Bridge*

**PSALM OF THE WEEK** Psalm 119:105-112

 *(with adaptations for personal prayer in italics)*

Your word is a lamp for my feet,
    a light on my path *– let me not neglect it.*
I have taken an oath and confirmed it *– and do so again --*
    that I will follow your righteous laws.
I have suffered much -- *much at my own hand;*
    *mercifully* preserve my life, Lord, according to your word.
Accept, Lord, the willing praise of my mouth,
    and teach me your laws *anew*.

Though I constantly take my life in my hands,
    I will not forget your law.

*[When I risk my life, let it be for You –
    not forgetting Your law, but living out of it.]*

The wicked have set a snare for me,
    but I have not strayed from your precepts.

*[Though the wicked set snares for me,
   Your precepts remain my heart’s desire.]*

Your statutes are my heritage forever;
    they are the joy of my heart.
My heart is set *– and reset again –*

 on keeping your decree to the very end.

*Thy Word”* Grant/Smith

*Chorus*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet*

*and a light unto my path.*

*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet*

*and a light unto my path.*

When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way,

still, You’re there right beside me.

And nothing will I fear, as long as You are near.

Please be near me to the end. *Chorus*

I will not forget Your love for me,

and yet my heart forever is wandering.

Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side,

and I will love You to the end. *Chorus*

**WELCOME and SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made.

**People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it! *(Psalm 118:24)***

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**INVOCATION**

Pastor: We come in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. May we worship in spirit and in truth as the Father seeks.**

**OPENING SONG**

*“Let Everything That Has Breath”* Redman

*Chorus*

*Let everything that, everything that,*

*everything that has breath praise the Lord!*

*Let everything that, everything that,*

*everything that has breath praise the Lord! Repeat*

Praise You in the morning.

Praise You in the evening.

Praise You when I'm young and when I'm old.

Praise You when I'm laughing.

Praise You when I’m grieving.

Praise You every season of the soul.

If we could see how much You’re worth,

Your power, Your might, Your endless love,

then surely we would never cease to praise You.

 *Chorus*

Praise You in the heavens,

joining with the angels

Praising You forever and a day.

Praise You on the earth now, joining with creation

calling all the nations to Your praise.

If they could see how much You’re worth.

Your power, Your might, Your endless love,

then surely they would never cease to praise You.

*Instrumental, Chorus 2X*

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

 **We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, Have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: My friends, rejoice with me that in Christ we are

 Father God’s beloved children,

**People: rescued, redeemed, and renewed.**

Pastor: And precious in His sight.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Having received God’s grace through forgiveness, let’s also receive His grace to empower us for living godly lives to His glory in Jesus’ name.

**People: Amen.**

**SONG OF PRAISE**

*“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”* Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit;

we are one in the Lord.

We are one in the Spirit;

we are one in the Lord.

And we pray that all unity

will one day be restored.

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.*

*Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will walk with each other;

we will walk hand in hand.

We will walk with each other;

we will walk hand in hand.

And together we’ll spread the news

that God is in our land.  *Chorus*

We will work with each other;

we will work side by side.

We will work with each other;

we will work side by side.

And we’ll guard each man's

dignity and save each man's pride. *Chorus*

All praise to the Father,

from whom all things come.

And all praise to Christ Jesus,

His only son.

And all praise to the Spirit,

who makes us one. *Chorus*

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Pastor: Father God, we are so grateful to be reconciled to You through Jesus Christ, our sin not being counted against us. Your kindness is unmatched. Thank You. Although we cannot match that level of

 peacemaking, we pray that we can mirror You by

 being reconcilers in the world we live in.

**People: Show me how to be an ambassador for Christ**

 **in big and small ways. In Jesus’ name I pray.**

 **Amen.**

**BLESSING OF BACKPACKS**

**CHILDREN RELEASED TO JAM SESSION**

**CALL TO LISTEN**

*“Jesus, Name Above All Names” (v 2)* Hearn

Jesus, loving Shepherd
Vine of the branches, Son of God
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor
Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** James 3:13-18

Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.

For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Ephesians 2:14-18

For he himself (Jesus) is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**COME FOLLOW ME: DISCIPLESHIP POINT**

Reader: ** *Dealing with a connection between peacemaking*

*and relationships between others, we turn to the last of three key components in the life of a disciple, taken from Hope’s ABC’s of discipleship:* **RELATING WITH OTHERS.**

In seeking to grow as disciples of Jesus, there are three crucial components God uses to bring about spiritual growth: His Word, His Spirit and His people. We need each other.

At least once a week, plan to connect with a group of people (2-15) to share life, including what you’re learning or wrestling with God and His Word, how He’s working on you. Encourage, admonish, laugh with, strengthen, and love each other in these get-togethers. It’s the third component by which God matures His people – don’t ignore it.

**DISCIPLESHIP PRAYER**

Reader: Join me in praying:

**People: Lord God, I pray for strong relationships among my family, friends, church and other walks of life. I want to be a blessing to them – and to be blessed by You through them. Help us all to get over real and perceived slights so that we can truly laugh with, strengthen, and love each other with You central to us all. Amen.**

**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 10:32-42

“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven. “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to turn “‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’ “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward.

And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

Pastor:This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

**READING FROM JESUS’ SERMON** Matthew 5:9

Pastor God’s Word from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount.

**People: Holy Spirit, remind us of what Jesus taught.**

Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: May we be hearers and doers of the Word.**

**MESSAGE** Rev. Paul vonWerder

**PRAYER FOR THE HARVEST**

**PRAYER FOR POTENTIAL DISCIPLESHIP PARTNER**

 *(Concordia Lutheran Church, Sarasota: ¾ time)*

**BLESSING AND INSTALLATION OF TEACHERS**

**OFFERING SONG** *“My Peace”* Routledge

My peace I give unto you;

it's a peace that the world cannot give.

It's a peace that the world cannot understand;

peace to know, peace to live.

My peace I give unto you. *Repeat*

**NICENE CREED** 158

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth
 and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation
 came down from heaven**

 **and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin**

 **Mary and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the**

 **Scriptures and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both
 the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have**

 **no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is**

 **worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic**

 **Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor:(after each petition) Lord, in Your mercy…

**People: Hear our prayer.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** Matthew 6:9-13

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has

 taught us:

**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**

 **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.**

**HOPE PRAYER BOX(ES)**

**OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST (taken from Scripture)**

Pastor: Let’s remind ourselves who we are in Christ Jesus:

* **In Christ, we have been shown mercy by God and will seek to let mercy triumph over judgment as we relate with others.**
* **In Christ we have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God without blemish or defect.**
* **In Christ, we are reconciled to God the Father with all sins forgiven and we gladly serve as ambassadors for Christ to help others be reconciled to God and others.**

**BENEDICTION FOR THE WEEK** Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you;

 the Lord make his face shine on you

     and be gracious to you;

 the Lord turn his face toward you

     and give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

**CLOSING SONG** *“Take Me Higher”* Brewster

Take not Your Spirit from me;

Lord, lead me to Your peace.

For my one desire is to be with You.

Come, cleanse my life,

Lord, and make me pure.

Won't You wrap me up in Your arms?

*Chorus*

*And take me higher and draw me closer,*

*and pull me deeper than I've ever been. Repeat*

Hide not Your face from me;

Lord, turn my spirit free.

For my one desire is to be with You.

Come, cleanse my life,

Lord, and make me pure.

Won't You wrap me up in Your arms? *Chorus*

*Instrumental, Chorus 2X*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* 😊 (thanks Skylar!)
* 😊
* 😊
* 😊

**EXIT INVOCATION**

Pastor: We are a discipleship-oriented and disciple-sending church. As disciples of Jesus sent into the world, let’s follow in His path of loving and serving.

**People: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; Amen!**

**Rev. Paul vonWerder, Pastor**

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