

SUMMER SEASON

Forgiveness



“Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church is an open, welcoming and affirming community, fulfilling God’s vision of a world where peace, love, and justice become a reality for all.”

*Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church
Dillon, Colorado
September 13th, 2020*

Preservice Music

Could You Be This Good
by: Kristine DiMarco
[YouTube Link](#)

= GATHERING =

As you enter the church, please see one of the ushers and follow the directions provided.

Prelude

Piano: Caroline Hesford

Welcome to Our Virtual Service

Pastor Joe Holub

The flowers are given to the glory of God by the Rasmussen Family in memory of their beloved Carl Rasmussen.

Opening Litany

Pastor: We begin our worship together by using a quote from Mother Teresa in litany form.

All: People are often unreasonable and self-centered.

Pastor: Forgive them anyway!

All: If you are kind, people may accuse you of an ulterior motive.

Pastor: Be kind anyway!

All: If you are honest and gracious, people may cheat you or take advantage of you.

Pastor: Be honest and gracious anyway!

All: The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

Pastor: Do good anyway!

All: If we give the world the best we have, it may never be enough or make any discernible difference.

P: Give your best anyway!

Resist allowing the world to determine who you are and how you respond. Allow the Christ Presence that dwells within you to take the initiative. Allow Christ to lead with grace when you feel the impulse to react with something less than grace.

All: We pray that we would be open to Christ within to lead with grace and generosity. Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Gather Us In
by: Marty Haugen
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IbNXqjwh8is>

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us join in prayer together

All: O Lord God, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Transform our hearts when they become hard and indifferent so we live with the heart of the living Christ as agents of grace and reconciliation in the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Snippets of Wisdom on Forgiveness

Louis B. Smedes wrote, “To forgive is to set the prisoner free and to discover that the prisoner was you! Forgiveness does not erase the bitter past. A healed memory is not a deleted memory. Instead, forgiving what we cannot forget creates a new way to remember. We exchange the memory of our past into a hope for a new future.”

“The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is an attribute of the strong.” - Mahatma Gandhi

“Bearing a grudge and withholding forgiveness is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. - Unknown

Nelson Mandela reflecting on being freed from prison wrote: “As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison.”

= **WORD** =

Torah Reading

Lea Dreux

Genesis 50:15-21

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, "Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lector: Hear the Spirit's voice speak today.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading - Matthew 18:21-22

Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-times-seven times.

Pastor: The Good News of the Lord!

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Kids’ Time with Jay and Kelsey Meservy

Sermon

“Set Free To Be... Human”

Pastor Joseph Holub

Hymn of the Day

**We Are Called
by: David Haas**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CDIjPsRIryo>

Prayers for the People of God

O Spirit of God who intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words; we open our hearts to you with our deepest concerns, profound sorrows, and haunting fears, as well as our praises and thanksgivings always seeking your wisdom, so that we might be enlightened by the light of Christ to shine through us in a world filled with much darkness.

Pastor: Lord in Your compassion

All: Sustain and empower us!

Sharing of Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always!

All: And also with you!

Pastor: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

Announcements

Offering

At this time we are inviting people to share generously from the blessings God gave us all. For the regular LOTM offering, write us a check or simply go to our website: lordofthemountains.org and click on the Giving tab. Thank you!

Lord of the mountains, Spirit of wind, bless now the gifts that we bring.

Lord of the mountains, Spirit of wind, stir us to serve and to sing.

Lord of the mountains, Spirit of wind, hosting this table of grace.

Lord of the mountains, Spirit of wind, send us to love with all haste.

SOS Recipient

Casa de Paz

Presented by: Bonnie Brown

Casa de Paz believes in the inherent worth, dignity and respect of all human beings. It is a community-driven effort and 100% led and run by volunteers. Casa de Paz work has always been to host families whose loved ones are being detained in the Aurora GEO ICE Detention Center and individuals who have been recently released. For more information regarding Casa de Paz, please click [here](#).

Casa de Paz is thrilled to introduce their brand new **Immigrant Welcome Center on Wheels!** This converted van will serve as a soft landing place for immigrants released from the back door of the detention center. Now thanks to the Casa de Paz Immigrant Welcome Center on Wheels wandering around and wondering where to go is old news! Each released person is greeted with a warm welcome within minutes.

LOTM SOS donations to Casa de Paz this month will help fund and equip this new welcoming concept. Please consider contributing to casa de Pas during September. You may send a check made out to LOTM or donate through our [Giving](#) page. Be sure to indicate your gift is for Casa de Paz on your check or specify Casa de Paz as the recipient if using PayPal or Zelle.

= THE MEAL =

Great Thanksgiving and Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: It is indeed good and joyful to give thanks and praise to God at all times and in every place and circumstance. O Gracious God, source of life and love: We thank you for all that enables us to grow in wisdom and grace, and especially we thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ. We thank you for his humbled birth, his compassionate life and death, his continuing presence with us as the mystical inner Christ. We thank you that he shares our joys and sorrows, empowers us to live for others and upholds us in the face of suffering and death.

On the night before his death Jesus gathered with his disciples. *“While they were eating,*

He took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it, gave it to them and said, 'Take, this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is the new covenant which is poured out for many.'” (Mark 14:22-24)

As we gather at this table hosted by Jesus, we open ourselves to the gifts of forgiveness and peace that are lavishly given that unite us and ignite us in love.

All: Spirit of God, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so direct our wills that we may be wholly yours and dedicated to follow the challenges of Jesus' love; in whose name we pray. Amen

**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.**

Pastor: Come to the banquet of lavish love and astounding grace! All are welcome!

Table Blessing After Communion

Pastor: And now may these gifts of the being and life-force of Jesus the Christ strengthen and sustain you in every way. Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: This service is over, but our service to the world and others begins as we depart. Go with God's blessing. Go trusting Christ is the power of God within you. Go with the assurance that the Holy Spirit will provide you with what you need on your journey. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn

Sent Forth By God's Blessing
by: Omer Westendorf

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 3Pm8dAALs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Pm8dAALs)

Lyrics:

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving

Postlude

Come Ye Sinners
by: Joseph Hart
Piano: Caroline Hesford

The rules for re-entering the church are in our e-News! Please click on the link:
[E-News Link](#).

Welcome to Lord of the Mountains

We rejoice that diversity in God's creation enriches, nurtures and challenges our life and ministry as followers of Jesus and as servants in the world.

Because we believe with Jesus that God's grace is truly amazing, we are committed to welcoming all people to this place...
no matter where you come from, no matter what age,
race, socio-economic or family status,
no matter what gender identity or sexual orientation,
no matter what your faith tradition or theological beliefs.

Grace is for everyone or it isn't grace.
It's that simple.
It's that amazing.

We really do welcome all!

In the spirit of the Reformation, Lord of the Mountains Lutheran Church continually seeks meaningful ways of expressing our commitment to the life and teachings of Jesus.

We do this by...

- welcoming all people to full participation in our community of faith.
- recognizing there are many ways to God.
- striving to be compassionate toward all of creation.
- aspiring to live what we believe.
- respecting diversity of thought and opinion.
- working for peace and justice for all people and all creation.
- committing ourselves to serving others.

Adopted on January 2018