



MEMORIAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
of AFTON

September 13, 2020
Rally Sunday

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

We begin worship with a time of reflection and honesty before God and one another.
Silence is kept for reflection

Faith God, **have mercy on us.**

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and to serve worldly masters.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Give us humble hearts that turn away from sin so we can walk every day in the newness of life you alone can give. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.
Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of +Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live now in freedom and do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn

We Are Called

ELW #720

Children's Sermon/Celebration of MLC Children and Youth

This year Sunday School and confirmation will happen differently, but they are still very much happening. We remain committed to the promises we make at every baptism, to teach our children the stories, traditions and prayers of the Christian faith. We take this moment to recognize, celebrate and support our children, youth and their families. This year, more than any other, we remember the teaching of Martin Luther who said this about parenting, "In all the world this is the noblest and

most precious work, because to God there can be nothing dearer than the salvation of souls....most certainly father and mother are apostles, bishops, and priests to their children."

Scripture Reading: Romans 14: 1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰ Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18: 21-35

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?' ²²Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." ²⁹Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your

fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Sermon

Pastor Elizabeth Damico-Carper

Hymn of the Day

Blest Be the Ties that Bind

ELW #656

Prayers of Intercession

Communion Liturgy

Lord's Prayer

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.

Post Communion Prayer

Closing Hymn

Go, My Children With My Blessing

ELW #543

Benediction

Mothering God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

Sending Music

Within the Reign of God (Last chorus with repeat)