

Sunday Devotion for Martin Luther Church

10th Sunday after Pentecost, August 9, 2020

A warm welcome to watch this devotion and related videos at
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIjEQnirqCMOXsJqVcfpOSDUy3GFFPXHS>

Introduction

Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

A. GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Reconciling God,

A: **we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
through your love, renew us;
and in your Spirit, lead us;
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

Gathering Song: All Who Hunger Gather Gladly ELW 461 *(See next page)*

Greeting

P: The grace of our Saviour Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

O God our defender, **storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your children from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad - ly; ho - ly man - na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev - er strang - ers; seek - er, be a wel - come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil - der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest - less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full - ness, all a - round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat - tered in com - mu - nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat - i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

B. WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Psalm 85:8-13

⁸I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Gospel Acclamation ELW 172

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

Second Reading: Romans 10:5-15

P: The Holy Gospel as revealed in Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

A: **Glory to you O' Lord.**

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is

no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

P: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon by Vicar Silke Fahl

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you."

Amen.

It's good to be back here at Redeemer Lutheran again and to celebrate this service not only with this congregation, but with our siblings from Martin Luther Church and other parts of the country and maybe even the world as well.

I don't know how you are feeling, but when I turn on the news or open one of the many news apps on my phone, I often feel something like a knot forming in my stomach. Not a single day passes by without negative and devastating headlines.

All around the world COVID-19 cases and the number of people who die from this horrible disease are rising either again or in many places: still. We learn more and more about long-term consequences of the infection. What looked like a lung disease at first, can affect all our organs and our whole nervous system. That scares me. I'm particularly worried about the people in my life.

Then there was the horrible explosion in Beirut at the beginning of the week. The crash of a plane from an Indian airline. We hear about racism, homophobia and so many other forms of discrimination and oppression. We hear about police brutality, war, and terror. I feel more and more like we're living in the dystopian novel of some science-fiction author.

Next to all those negative news we hear and read on a daily basis, the text from Romans 10 we heard earlier feels like balm for the soul to me. A text of care. A text full of encouragement. A text that is not only permeated by good news. Instead it's basically overflowing with it.

Everything that divides us here on Earth doesn't matter to God. We are all her children. No matter where we're from, which language we are speaking, how we pray, what gender we have, whom we love, what we look like. Each and every one of us is God's beloved child.

This text, too, makes that clear. For in the verses 12 and 13 it says, ¹²*For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.* ¹³*For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'* And these aren't the only verses in this part of the letter to the Romans with a positive and affirming message.

In verses 9 and 10 Paul talks about believing with your heart and confessing with your mouth. Reading any translation, it often sounds as if those two were different things. But when you look into the Greek original, you'll find that those two things are the two sides of the same medal. To believe and to confess and/or profess belong together. Just as justice and salvation are irreversible entwined.

Who believes will be justified and thus saved. And our faith isn't something that only takes place on our inside, something we keep to ourselves. Or something we only practice inside our own four walls. Our faith leads to words and deeds through which we proclaim God's message. We talk to family and friends about our faith. We volunteer in our congregations. We are there for other people. We speak up for people on the margins and do what we can to ensure that their voices are heard. We fight against injustice and discrimination and for equal rights for all people. Each of us in our own way.

We don't have to tell each and every person we meet that we're Christian. And non of this is about proving that we're good and religious people. Instead it is our faith that makes us want to stand up for our neighbours. Not in the sense of justification by works, though. For through Christ's death and resurrection we are already justified and saved. *Sola fide. Sola gratia. Solus Christus.* Through faith alone. Through grace alone. Through Christ alone.

To believe with our hearts and to proclaim through our words and deeds in our personal ways. For me that is the centre of Christian life and faith. And it is this faith that lets us say with Isaiah and Paul, *"No one who believes in him will be put to shame."* And with Paul and Joel we can also say, *"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."*

We don't know what that salvation will look like. And it isn't always the salvation we are hoping for. Just as our prayers aren't always answered the way we think they should be answered. But: God is at our side no matter what happens. God accompanies us every step we take and every road we walk. We don't always sense God's presence, but he is always with us. We can trust that the promise Jesus gave is true: *"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

The author Margaret Fishback Powers put this promise and the trust we have in God into words in a text she wrote in 1964. Many of you probably know it and even though I myself have heard and read it countless times, I still find it heartwarming and encouraging. That's why I want to share it with you today. The text is called *"Footsteps in the sand"*.

*One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.*

*After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.*

*This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."*

*He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."*

Amen.

*"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your
minds in Christ Jesus."
Amen.*

Hymn of the Day: God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind ELW 400, 1, 3, 4 (See next page)

Prayers of Intercession

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

For your whole church throughout the world. Give courage in the midst of storms, so that we see and hear Jesus calling: "Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid." May we follow Christ wherever he leads. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation. Protect waterways, forests, lands, and wildlife from exploitation and abuse. Help the human family endeavor to sustain and be sustained by the resources of your hand. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the nations and their leaders. In you, steadfast love and faithfulness meet, and righteousness and peace kiss. May nations in conflict know the peace that is the fruit of justice, and the justice that is the path to peace. We pray for all those around the world responding to crisis, especially this week those in Beirut, Lebanon. May the injured, the grieving, and the homeless be cared for by attentive response teams. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in need. Everyone who calls upon your name will be saved. Accompany all who are lonely, hear the voices of those who cry out in anguish, and support those who are frustrated in their search for an affordable place to live. We pray for those suffering this day especially Jeff, Geri, Jens, Waltraud, Horst and the McGowan family, especially Betty. Anni, Betty, and Tony. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who have celebrated their birthdays this week, especially: Harry, Gerhard, Laura, David, and Daina. Bless them in the year ahead as they continue their journey of life and faith. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind



1 God of tem - pest, God of whirl - wind, as on Pen - te -
2 God of blaz - ing, God of burn - ing, all that blocks your
3 God of earth - quake, God of thun - der, shake us loose from
4 God of pas - sion, God un - sleep - ing, stir in us love's



cost de - scend! Drive us out from shel - tered com - fort;
pur - pose, purge! Through your church, Christ's liv - ing Bod - y,
leth - ar - gy! Break the chains of sin a - sun - der,
rest - less - ness! Where the peo - ple cry in an - guish,



past these walls your peo - ple send! Sweep us in - to cost - ly ser - vice,
let your flam - ing Spir - it surge! Where de - ceit con - ceals in - jus - tice,
for earth's heal - ing set us free! Crum - ble walls that still di - vide us;
may we share your heart's dis - tress. Rouse us from con - tent with e - vil;



there with Christ to bear the cross, there with Christ to bear the cross!
kin - dle us to speak your truth, kin - dle us to speak your truth!
make us one in Christ our Lord, make us one in Christ our Lord!
claim us for your king - dom's work, claim us for your king - dom's work!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

For our congregations. You have gathered us here today as your people and we thank you for this gift. We pray for those who are new to our communities, for front line workers, and for those struggling with unexpected hardship. Supply us generously with your grace for our life together. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks, O God, for the saints of the whole church from all times and places, and for the saints in our lives and in our community whom you have gathered to yourself. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: **And also with you.**

C. MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Great Thanksgiving

P: God is with you.

A: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

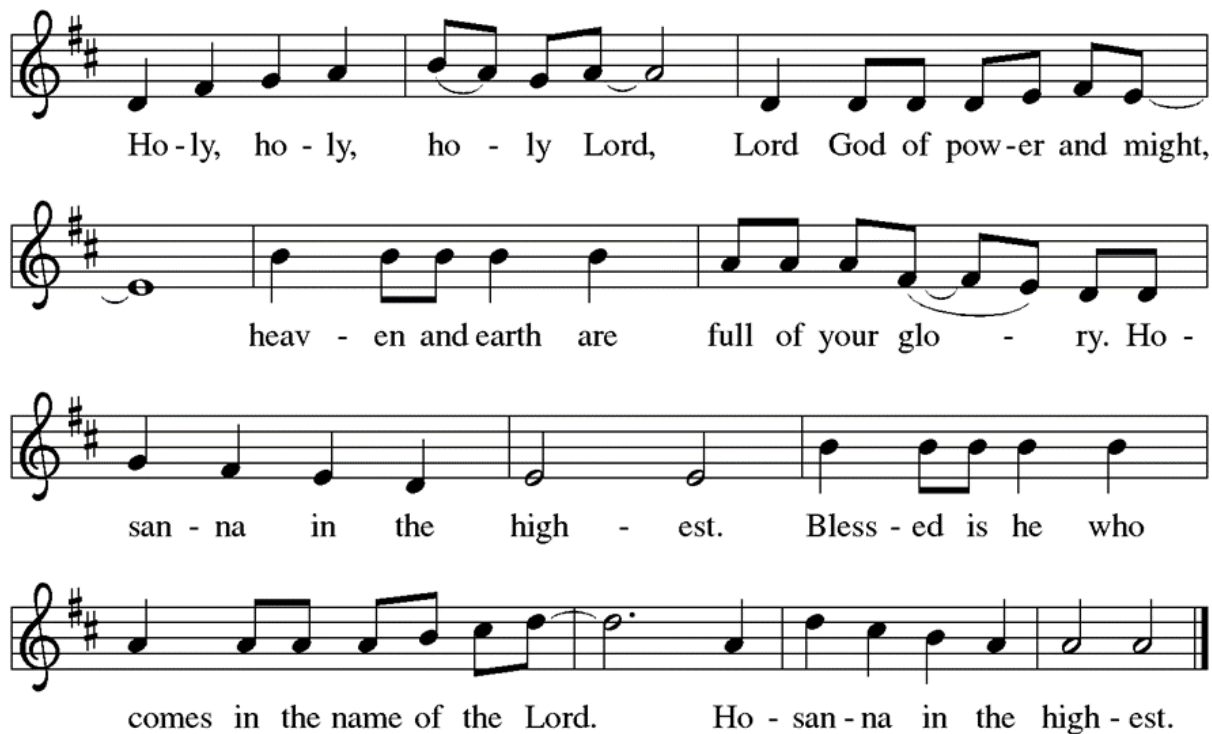
A: **We lift them to our God.**

P: Let us give thanks to God.

A: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed by 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.**

Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn: Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal ELW 464



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever

Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Communion

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

D. SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

God, the creator, Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.

Sending Song: O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate ELW 722, 2, 3, & 4



1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com

800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements

In light of COVID-19, **all meetings and worship services are taking place virtually.**

- Sunday [Video Worship Services](#): Live-streamed at 10:00 am on Zoom (link sent by office) and [Facebook](#) at Redeemer Lutheran Church; recording shared on our [YouTube Channel](#). Please subscribe and comment.
- German [Radio Devotions](#) on our website and Sundays at 9.30 am on CHLO Radio AM 530
- [Virtual Sunday Coffee Hour](#) on Zoom following our livestreamed video services (same link as for Sunday service)
- [Sunday School lessons](#) (April-June) on our website
- [Virtual Coffee Shop Talk](#), Mondays 7:00-9:00 pm on Zoom led by Vicar Silke Fahl. Email vicarfahl@martinluther.ca to sign up.
- [Virtual Prayer Circle](#), Wednesdays 5:30-6:00 pm through Zoom led by Solveig Christina Voss; we also have a Prayer Request Wall in the Church Foyer
To request a prayer or join our prayer circle, email prayers@martinluther.ca.
- [A Summer with Romans](#):
 - ◊ Sermon Series until August 30
 - ◊ Bible Study on Sunday's sermon text: Wednesdays until August 26. A 30-minute weekly discussion of Paul's letter to the Romans. Two opportunities: Roman Coffee at 8:30 am and Roman Lunch at 12:15 pm. Email vicarsmith@martinluther.ca to sign up.
- [Give Peas a Chance](#)- A grow some, give some movement hosted by Martin Luther and Redeemer Lutheran with donated seeds.
- [Masks for Good](#) - A project to ensure that everyone who wants to protect themselves from the virus has access to masks. Everyone who wants to get involved can find an activity that suits them. Contact Vicar Adam McComb if you'd like to volunteer, vicarmccomb@martinluther.ca
- [Corona-Care Calls](#)- Volunteers are continuing to call you with more information and to understand your needs. Let us know if you'd like to join the call team!
- Please phone or email the church office:
 - ◊ if we can help you in any way or to give feedback on what we're offering
 - ◊ if you'd like to volunteer by reading during Sunday services
 - ◊ to support our church and [donate](#). Best ways are PAR or send cheque to church office.

Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church

2379 Lake Shore Blvd. W, Toronto, ON M8V 1B7

Office: (416) 251 8293, Cell: (416) 567-2487, churchoffice@martinluther.ca, www.martinluther.ca

Vicar Silke Fahl, vicarfahl@martinluther.ca, Cell: 905-717-5937

Vicar Adam McComb, vicarmccomb@martinluther.ca, Vicar Jordan Smith, vicarsmith@martinluther.ca

*Member of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) &
Partnered with Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)*