Christian Care Sunday, 2021

Service of the Word

# Opening Responses

He has shown you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?

**To act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.** (*Micah 6:8*)

# Hymn LHB 855 Brother, let me be your servant

# Confession and Absolution

Friends in Christ:
Jesus said:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul
and with all your mind and with all your strength';
and 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.
We have not kept this great commandment.
Let us confess our sins to God our Father,
and ask him to forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**We confess to you, almighty God,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to each other,
that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed
by our own fault.
Have mercy on us, for Jesus’ sake,
forgive us all our sins,
and bring us to eternal life. Amen.**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

**Amen.**

# Apostles’ Creed

As God’s people through our baptism into Christ, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic\* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

\**or:* Christian; *'catholic' here means 'universal'*

Psalm 23 may be sung

Alternately Psalm 86 may be spoken responsively

Hear me Lord, and answer me,
    For I am poor and needy.
Guard my life, for I am faithful to you,
    Save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God, have mercy on me, Lord,
    For I call to you all day long.
Bring joy to your servant, Lord,
    For I put my trust in you.

**You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.**

You, Lord, are forgiving and good
    abounding in love to all who call to you.
Hear my prayer, Lord
    listen to my cry for mercy
When I am in distress, I call to you,
    because you answer me.

**You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.**

Teach me your way, Lord
    that I may rely on your faithfulness;
Give me an undivided heart,
    that I may fear your name.
I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;
    I will glorify your name forever.
    For great is your love toward me.
**You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.**

# Prayer of the Day (Collect)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray that we love God and our neighbour. *[silence]*

Everliving God,
we thank you for giving yourself in love
through your Son Jesus.
Lead us by your great love
to love you with all our heart,
soul, mind, and strength,
and to love our neighbour as we love ourselves.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
**Amen.**

# Readings

First Reading Deuteronomy 6:1-9 Love the Lord your God

Second Reading 1 John 3: 16-24 Let us love with actions and truth

Gospel Luke 10:25-37 The parable of the good Samaritan

# LHB 858 Make me a channel of your peace

# Sermon

*After the sermon, or in place of it, you may like to interview someone who works in a care role in your church, community or a Lutheran Service or aged care facility. You might like to highlight a care ministry of your congregation – community visiting, emergency food parcels, or any other care ministry you provide. You could show a video clip of the work done by Lutheran Care SA/NT, Lutheran Services QLD, or Lutheran Aged Care to promote the work done by these arms of the church. Congregation members could be encouraged to bring an offering (financial or some other necessary item, such as food, hygiene products or blankets/teddy bears) to support a care ministry. Example’s of interview scripts and suggested multimedia for showing in church are available from the CCS resource page.*

*If you have a member sharing about their work, or a visiting Service provider, it would be appropriate to pray and/or bless them after their presentation.*

# Offering

*Let us pray:*

Thank you, Lord, for calling us
and giving us so many gifts,
both physical and spiritual.
Help us to go out and serve you
by showing your compassion and love to others.
**Amen.**

# Hymn LHB 426 What a friend we have in Jesus

# Prayer of the Church

*Jesus told the scribe that we are to love the Lord our God with all our being and love our neighbour as we love ourselves. So let us pray to the Lord for our neighbours in need.*

(SILENCE)

We acknowledge, God, that we are sometimes afraid to help people who are in need. The Jericho Road can be a dangerous place. Reaching out can be a risk. Giving from our own resources is costly, in finances, time and emotional reserves. Empower us with your Spirit, to live like your Son Jesus, and in the example of the good Samaritan, showing love even to those who we would identify as ‘the other’, or perhaps even our enemies. Help us notice and respond in love to those who are hated by the world, ignored, excluded and abused.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Gracious God, we remember those you call the least of these: the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the stranger, the sick, and the prisoners. Help us not be blind to them in our midst, here at home and around the world. Stir our hearts to provide food and water, clothing, welcome, healthcare and visitation.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Merciful God, your Son came to bring reconciliation into a broken world. Wherever there is conflict, hurt and hatred between people, communities, and nations,
bring peace and understanding. We pray for those who commit violence against other human beings, that they would repent and seek to repair the damage they have done. We remember especially those who suffer from family and domestic violence, and all those who have lost loved ones through the devastation of war and displacement. Heal their hurting hearts.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

God who made us all in your own image, we remember our Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander brothers and sisters in Australia, our Maori brothers and sisters in New Zealand and First Nations people globally, who experience displacement, loss of language and culture, systemic discrimination, racism, violence and abuse from the White Western world at large. Grant us eyes to see where privilege and colonization has led to deep distress. Help us work to make right the way we live together in the present, through truth-telling and reconciliation. May we all see each other, first and foremost, as Your much-loved people.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We give thanks for the work of Lutheran community services including Lutheran Care in SA/NT and Lutheran Services in QLD, and our Lutheran aged care facilities and all those who work in these arms of the church. Sustain them in their work as they meet with some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We give you thanks gracious Father for doctors and nurses and all others in healing professions. We give special thanks for the Lutheran Nurses Association of Australia and the support they provide to parish and community faith nurses. Give wisdom and skill to all who provide medical care, and provide healing and release to all who need it; we pray for healing that is beyond all human ability.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Dear Father, we thank you for the gift of parents and children, family and friends. Let the light of your love shine in our homes. Help us to overcome strife and conflict with your patience and forgiveness. Help parents in the task of raising children. Comfort the lonely, and bring them into good company.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We thank you Lord God for the blessings of a free and peaceful society. Help those in government and positions of responsibility to maintain honesty and truth, justice and peace. Encourage all our citizens to lead good lives and strive for the common good. May you give us the courage to cross the road to help our neighbour in need, reaching out with Your compassionate love.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Father, teach us to see your own dear Son in the face of all who suffer. May we be your instruments of love and healing in the world. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Lord’s Prayer

Finally, let us pray for all those things which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

**Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
 now and forever. Amen.**

# Hymn LHB 844 Sent out by God’s blessing

# Blessing

Go in peace and love, with the love of Christ.
 **Amen.
We go in the name of Christ, carrying love to the world.**