



**SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
SYNOD** EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

SUMMER SERMON SERIES

SERVICE 1 of 3 | **DEBORAH: THE COLLABORATIVE LEADER**

Thank you for joining your brothers and sisters across the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod for this service. Pastor Melissa Stoller and the Synod Staff are joyful to share this service, and to provide a space for restoration and rejuvenation for the pastors and deacons of our synod during these difficult days.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Sundays after Pentecost

The Season of the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020

The Season of Protest Against
Violence Towards African-Americans 2020

GATHERING HYMN

“O Day Full of Grace” The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Virtual Choir

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

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

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of **+** Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PSALM 123

¹To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.

²**As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes look to you, O LORD our God, until you show us your mercy.**

³Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

⁴**too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22: 34-40

The holy gospel according to Matthew 22: 34-40

Glory to you, O Lord.

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ‘Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?’ He said to him, ‘“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.’

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SCRIPTURE READING: JUDGES 4: 1-10

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.'" ' Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.' And she said, 'I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.' Then Deborah got up and went with Barak to Kedesh.

Barak summoned Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; and ten thousand warriors went up behind him; and Deborah went up with him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON – Rev. Melissa L. Stoller, Director for Evangelical Mission and
Assistant to the Bishop of the Southwestern PA Synod of the ELCA

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our Faith with the whole church:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Almighty God, with joy and gladness we give thanks for all your goodness. We praise you for the gift of your Son our Savior, through whom you have made known your will and grace. We thank you for the Holy Spirit,

the comforter, for your Church and the means of grace. Enable us to demonstrate our thankfulness by lives that are wholly given to your service.

Hear us, good Lord.

Give your wisdom to pastors and deacons, that in faithful service they may preach your Word diligently and your people receive it willingly, and through their faithfulness many people be equipped to witness, and your name glorified.

Hear us, good Lord.

Take from us all hatred and prejudice, give to us a spirit of love, and your peace. Comfort those in distress. Guide the leaders of our nation with your wisdom. Grant us courage and hope to face the future. May mutual understanding and common endeavor be increased among all peoples.

Hear us, good Lord.

Let your blessing rest upon seedtime and harvest, commerce and industry, leisure and rest, the arts and culture of our people. Give all just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is good in your sight.

Hear us, good Lord.

Comfort with the grace of your Holy Spirit all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Have mercy on those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning. And to all grant a measure of your love, taking them into your tender care.

Hear us, good Lord.

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you in your Church on earth, who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all your saints and bring us at last to the joy of your heavenly kingdom.

Hear us, good Lord.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray,

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray together as Jesus 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;
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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak; help the afflicted;
honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN

“When Peace Like A River” Performed by the National Lutheran Choir

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