

**WORSHIP BULLETIN – JULY 5, 2020**  
**Drive-up Worship – 305 Livingston St, Filley, NE**  
**Pastor LuRae Hallstrom**

The church is not open at this time. **PLEASE MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING.**

Radio frequency to be posted.

Financial contributions can be brought to Sunday morning worship or can be forwarded to American Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 66, Filley, NE 68357. You may also do on-line giving at [www.filleylutheranchurch.com](http://www.filleylutheranchurch.com).

Facebook @ American Lutheran Church - Filley, NE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

We gather together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 145:8, 14, 18)

P: Our God is merciful and compassionate,

**C: slow to get angry, and filled with unfailing love.**

P: Our God helps those who have fallen,

**C: and lifts up all those who are weighed down.**

P: God is near to all who call on him.

**C: God listens when we pray.**

P: So let's bring our prayers to God with confidence,

**C: knowing that He will hear and answer.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage 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.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## GREETING

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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

**C: O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## READINGS

Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

<sup>15</sup>I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. <sup>18</sup>For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. <sup>19</sup>For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. <sup>22</sup>For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, <sup>23</sup>but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. <sup>24</sup>Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25a</sup>Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

## MESSAGE:

Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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 THE PEOPLE

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world.

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church. Sustain us as we share your word. Embrace us as we struggle to find our common ground. Lift up leaders with powerful and prophetic voices. Free us from stagnant faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the well-being of creation. Protect the air, water, and land from abuse and pollution. Free us from apathy in our care of creation and direct us toward sustainable living. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations of this world. Guide leaders in developing just policies and guide difficult conversations. Lead us to expansive love for our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all in need. For all who are tired, feeling despair, sick, or oppressed. Take their yoke upon you and ease their burdens. Give your consolation and free us from all that keeps us bound. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this congregation. Bless pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders. Energize children's ministry volunteers, church administrators, and those who maintain our building. Shine in this place that we might notice the ways your love transforms our lives. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for those who have died in faith, especially Keith Hippen. Welcome them into your eternal rest and comfort us in our grief until we are joined with them in new life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## HOLY COMMUNION

*Invitation to Communion*

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

*The Words of Institution*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

*Prayer of Consecration*

Lord, our God, send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and cup may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. May we and all your saints be united with Christ and remain faithful in hope and love, and may this, the bread of life, bring healing of body, mind, and spirit. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## THE 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.**

## DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

All: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "God of Our Fathers"

- 1. God of our fathers, whose almighty hand, leads forth in beauty all the starry band.  
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies: our grateful songs before your throne arise.
- 4. Refresh your people on their toilsome way, lead us from night to never-ending day;  
Fill all our lives with heav'n-born love and grace. Until at last we meet before your face.

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SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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**WELCOME TO WORSHIP!** It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here!

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Dustin Fritch

**OUR SYMPATHY** to the family of Keith Hippen who passed away Monday, June 29, in Omaha, NE. Private graveside services were held at Lewiston Cemetery yesterday. We commend Keith to God's care and ask His blessings on his family and friends.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to Steve Knoche (July 6), Tom Young (July 7), Victoria Grabau, Brenda Hippen (July 10).

**HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY** to Scott & Dayna Anderson (7-9-94) and Jeff & Wendy Garrels (7-10-93).

**AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE:** You can find our church website at [www.filleylutheranchurch.com](http://www.filleylutheranchurch.com) or by scanning this QR code:



**BULLETIN ITEMS** are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Sandy or email her at [smahleris@gmail.com](mailto:smahleris@gmail.com).

**LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS BELIEVE AND TEACH** that Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word of God, is truly present in the Lord's Supper, and that in this meal of the baptized children of God, our Lord gives forgiveness of sin, life and salvation. All who seek the mercy and grace of God in the body and blood of our Lord Jesus are invited to partake.

**SUNMART RECEIPTS:** Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called “Support Our Schools and Churches.” All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (when the church building is open again). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached this goal for the first time and are starting over again! You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don’t want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

**THANK YOU** to everyone who supports Community Food Pantry. Please note that they could use financial support rather than food items at this time.

**A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BRIAN MAAS:**

George Floyd. Breonna Taylor. Tony McDade. James Scurlock. These four people are only the most recent of a long list of individuals, God’s own beloved ones, who have died violently because of their race. Because they were black. Arguments about the specifics of how each died are simply distractions from the reality of racism and its consequences. Their race contributed directly to their deaths. As I watch protests in the media I see expressions of grief, rage, frustration, and despair. I also see and hear and feel those same intense expressions as I listen to people I know, to friends, to people I care about, who because of the color of their skin have lived with the reality of racism all their lives. And who are exhausted in their wait for change. As a white man with a very privileged existence, I can’t pretend to know their experience, their pain, their frustration. I know only that it’s real and I know I cannot ignore it. The time for words alone has passed. It passed a long time ago. Now is the time for honesty and for action.

My honesty is in confessing how ill-equipped I am for such work, how overwhelmed I am when I acknowledge the pain I see in the streets and in the faces of people I care about. My action—my action is to step into the pain, ill-equipped but trusting God will get me, get us, where we need to go. I don’t know what form that action will take. I am seeking the help of others in determining what it will be, so that it is not yet another half-step that lets us pretend we’ve done something. My commitment is to doing something soon.

In the meantime, I ask for your prayers. Pray for those victimized by racism. Pray for those whose lives and communities are torn by its consequences. Pray for the protestors and the police and for all who strive to stand as one with those who are suffering. Pray by name for the loved ones of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and James Scurlock. And pray that our church seizes this moment to confront the reality of racism, ready for the hard, hard work that that’s going to be.

**NEBRASKA CORONA BIBLE:** The Nebraska Corona Bible is a project intended to be a low-tech means to stay connected during physical distancing and inviting everyone into a faith practice. People across Nebraska are each copying a chapter from the Bible in their own handwriting. The final result will be a “Nebraska Corona Bible,” a powerful testimony to hope and connection in this time of crisis. People can add their commentary and art in the margins, and once collected, we believe this hand-written manuscript will be a beautiful witness to this time. Rev. Adam White and his colleague from the PCUSA invite you to review the website, <https://nebraskacoronabible.com/>, sign up for a chapter and share this with others. They would love for the Nebraska Synod to have wide-spread participation.