

# **We Are the Church: August 16, 2020**

**Week Twelve: Discipleship and Witness**



**St. John's**  
Lutheran Church

**Today's Worship will be Accompanied by  
C.J. and the B.S. Boys**

**Carrie Heppelman, Wes Evans, Tom Trihey, and Chris Hallstrom**

**With Special Musical Guest:  
Julia Evans**



**PRELUDE:**                      **Little Mountain Church**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING SONG:**    **Just a Little Talk with Jesus**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

L:    Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting,  
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. Amen.

L:    Listen deeply to these words as we confess our sins, trusting in the mercy of  
God. Reconciling God, 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.

L:    Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy  
we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus, through whom we have  
obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope.  
For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our  
hearts through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Let us pray: O God of wisdom, in your goodness you provide faithful teachers for your church. By your Holy Spirit you have given to us the ministry of witness and service in teaching. Give us insight into your word, holy lives as examples to us all, and the courage to know and do the truth in every circumstance; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### **SONG: I Saw the Light**

#### **The First Reading: Acts 16:11-15**

##### *The Conversion of Lydia*

L: The first reading are selected stories from Acts the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home." And she prevailed upon us.

## **The Second Reading: Acts 16:16-34**

### *Paul and Silas in Prison*

L: The second reading is from Acts, the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>16</sup> One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.” <sup>18</sup> She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup> But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup> When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup> and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed

that the prisoners had escaped.<sup>28</sup> But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.”<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas.<sup>30</sup> Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”<sup>31</sup> They answered, “Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”<sup>32</sup> They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.<sup>33</sup> At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay.<sup>34</sup> He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

### **The Third Reading: Matthew 28:16-20**

#### *The Great Commission*

L: The third reading is from the Gospel according to Matthew, the 28<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>16</sup> Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.<sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

## **SERMON**

**SERMON HYMN:            Tell the World That Jesus Saves**

**BAPTISM:                    Brynn Cimmiyoti**

## **OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours,  
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Water and word, wine and bread:

these are signs of your abundant grace.

Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim  
your steadfast love in our communities and in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: On this morning, let us pray to God for the church, the earth, and all in need, that the whole world may know the resurrection that God promises to give

### *Just a Little Talk with Jesus Refrain*

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.

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.

For the nations and their leaders. In you, steadfast love and faithfulness meet, and righteousness and peace embrace. May nations in conflict know the peace that is the fruit of justice, and the justice that is the path to peace.

### *Just a Little Talk with Jesus Refrain*

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*).

For our congregation. You have gathered us here today as your people and we thank you for this gift. We pray for those who are new to this community, for students and teachers preparing for a new school year, and for those struggling with unexpected hardship. Supply us generously with your grace for our life together.

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 (*especially*).

### *Just a Little Talk with Jesus Refrain*

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

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Worship:** Sunday at 9AM on the lawn; 10AM Zoom. Online available afternoon  
→ Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays  
Wednesday at 6:30 PM online via Zoom  
→ Communion: August 19

### **Bible Studies**

Thursdays at 9:30 AM via Zoom: Women of Faith

Saturdays at 10 AM via Google Meets: "Lamentations"

## **BLESSING**

L: 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.

## **DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Christ is with you. Thanks be to God.

## **SENDING SONG: This Little Light of Mine**

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