



## LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A Growing Family of Faith*

July 11, 2021

**Retirement Service Reverend Michael Birnbaum and  
Ordination and Installation Pastor Brandon Scroggins**

### **INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP** *(please rise as you are able)*

P. We are called together to worship today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C. Amen**

P. How can we keep still this day?

**C. There is joy in this place!**

P. God's steadfast love extends to everyone.

**C. God reaches out to us all in forgiveness and compassion.**

P. Thanks to God for all the wonderful blessings we have received.

**ALL. Let us celebrate God's joyful love for and with us! Amen**

### **GATHERING SONG** "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling!"

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

P. Let us pray. Most merciful God,

**C. 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**

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for His sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

**C. AMEN.**

*(Please be seated)*

### **WORSHIP SONG** "Fairest Lord Jesus"

### **SCRIPTURE LESSONS** **FIRST LESSON**

R. The first lesson is from the book of 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27 The Message (MSG)

<sup>12</sup>You can easily enough see how this kind of thing works by looking no further than your own body. Your body has many parts—limbs, organs, cells—but no matter how many parts you can name, you're still one body. It's exactly the same with Christ. By means of his

one Spirit, we all said good-bye to our partial and piecemeal lives. We each used to independently call our own shots, but then we entered into a large and integrated life in which *he* has the final say in everything. (This is what we proclaimed in word and action when we were baptized.) Each of us is now a part of his resurrection body, refreshed and sustained at one fountain—his Spirit—where we all come to drink. The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive. <sup>14-18</sup> I want you to think about how all this makes you more significant, not less. A body isn't just a single part blown up into something huge. It's all the different-but-similar parts arranged and functioning together. If Foot said, "I'm not elegant like Hand, embellished with rings; I guess I don't belong to this body," would that make it so? If Ear said, "I'm not beautiful like Eye, transparent and expressive; I don't deserve a place on the head," would you want to remove it from the body? If the body was all eye, how could it hear? If all ear, how could it smell? As it is, we see that God has carefully placed each part of the body right where he wanted it. <sup>19-24</sup> But I also want you to think about how this keeps your significance from getting blown up into self-importance. For no matter how significant you are, it is only because of what you are a *part* of. An enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster. What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand, "Get lost; I don't need you"? Or, Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out"? As a matter of fact, in practice it works the other way—the "lower" the part, the more basic, and therefore necessary. You can live without an eye, for instance, but not without a stomach. When it's a part of your own body you are concerned with, it makes *no* difference whether the part is visible or clothed, higher or lower. You give it dignity and honor just as it is, without comparisons. If anything, you have more concern for the lower parts than the higher. If you had to choose, wouldn't you prefer good digestion to full-bodied hair? <sup>25-26</sup> The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. <sup>27-31</sup> You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

P. This is the word of the Lord ***C. Thanks be to God.***

### **GOSPEL LESSON** (Please rise as you are able)

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter, verses 11-22:

#### ***C. Glory to you, O Lord***

<sup>11</sup> And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he

had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. <sup>14</sup> And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. P. This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **APOSTLE’S 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 power of 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 Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.***

**(Please be seated)**

**SERMON SONG** “Worthy is the Lamb”

**MESSAGE** Pastor Michael Birnbaum

### **OFFERING**

“Doxology” (please rise as you are able)

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you**

P. Let us pray, **C. We give You thanks for this day, a day of promise, a day of hope. You have made us and filled us with all good things. With joy, enthusiasm, and trust O God, we offer You all that we have. Take everything into Your hands for service in Your name. AMEN**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH** *(Please remain standing as you are able)*

*Following general prayers, you are encouraged to share other prayer concerns out loud. Please close your prayer concern with “Lord in your mercy”.*

**HOLY COMMUNION**

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. Lift up your hearts. **C. We lift them to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P. It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise your name and join their unending proclamation: **C. (singing) Holy, holy, holy,**

**My heart, my heart adores You!**

**My heart is glad to say, the words:**

**You are holy, Lord!**

**Communion Prayer, Consecration of Elements, Lord's Prayer**

**(Please be seated during distribution of communion)**

We welcome everyone to the Lord's Table who shares the Biblical belief that He is present (1 Cor. 10:16) and our sins are being forgiven as He promises (Matt.26:28). This sacrament is a truly wonderful opportunity to share this miracle and our oneness as the Body of Christ together! (1Cor. 10:17-18)

**POST COMMUNION CANTICLE** *“Thank the Lord” (please rise as you are able)*

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

**ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF BRANDON SCROGGINS AS PASTOR OF LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**RETIREMENT OF REVEREND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM AS PASTOR EMERITUS**

**BENEDICTION**

**SENDING SONG** *“I'll Fly Away”*

P. Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C. Thanks be to God!**

***Join us after worship for special fellowship meal and reception to welcome***

***Pastor Brandon and honor Pastor Michael as he retires!***

***Pastors will be greeting everyone outside while worship area is being set up for reception and fellowship meal. Please join us!***

### **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling  
Joy of heaven to earth come down  
Fix in us Your humble dwelling  
All Your faithful mercies crown  
Jesus source of all compassion  
Love unbounded, love all pure  
Visit us with Your salvation  
Let Your love in us endure

Finish then Your new creation  
Pure and spotless gracious Lord  
Let us see Your great salvation  
Perfectly in You restored  
Change from glory into glory  
Till in heaven we take our place  
Till we sing before the Almighty  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise

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### **Fairest Lord Jesus**

Fairest Lord Jesus Ruler of all nature  
O Thou of God and man the Son  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor  
Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands  
Robed in the blooming garb of spring  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer  
Who makes the sorrowing heart to sing

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight  
And all the twinkling starry host  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels heav'n can boast

Beautiful Savior, Lord of all the nations  
Son of God and Son of Man  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine

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### **Worthy Is the Lamb**

Thank You for the cross Lord  
Thank You for the price You paid  
Bearing all my sin and shame  
In love You came and gave amazing grace

Thank You for this love Lord  
Thank You for the nail-pierced hands  
Washed me in Your cleansing flow  
Now all I know Your forgiveness and embrace

Worthy is the Lamb, seated on the throne  
We crown You now with many crowns  
You reign victorious  
High and lifted up, Jesus Son of God  
The treasure of heaven crucified  
Worthy is the Lamb, Worthy is the Lamb

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### **Thank the Lord and Sing His Praise**

Thank the Lord and sing His praise;  
tell ev'ryone what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice  
and proudly bear His name.  
He recalls His promises  
and leads His people forth in joy  
With shouts of thanksgiving.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

*Divine Service One, The Lutheran Service Book, CPH 2006*

### **I'll Fly Away**

When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away  
Some glad morning when this life is o'er  
I'll fly away  
To that home on God's celestial shore  
I'll fly away  
I'll fly away O glory, I'll fly away  
When I die hallelujah by and by  
I'll fly away

(Musical interlude)

(Oh) Just a few more weary days and then  
I'll fly away  
To a land where joys will never end  
I'll fly away  
I'll fly away O glory,  
I'll fly away (in the morning)  
When I die hallelujah by and by  
I'll fly away

I'll fly away O glory, I'll fly away  
When I die hallelujah by and by  
I'll fly away  
When I die hallelujah by and by  
I'll fly away

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