***Liturgy of Word, Song and Prayer***

***A Worship Gathering for the People of LOM to Focus on God, Grief, and Gratitude***

***Wednesday, June 3, 2020***

***Beginning at 4:00 PM EDT, 3:00 PM CDT, 2:00 PM MDT, 1:00 PM PDT***

Extended Bulletin

WELCOME Don Johnson, Executive Director, LOM

OPENING SONG Staff of Metigoshe (ND)

 **“PEACE - OUT OF BOUNDS”**

Father, you are holy

Lifting up your name we give you praise

You wipe away our tears

You’re there throughout the years

Your name means peace

Out of bounds, out of bounds is your love. (repeat)

2. Jesus 3. Spirit

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THE GREETING Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell, LOM Board President

Centering and Opening Prayer

God our Creator,
***Have mercy on us.***

Jesus our Redeemer,
***Have mercy on us.***

Holy Spirit our Sustainer,
***Have mercy on us.***

Holy Trinity, one God,
***Have mercy on us.***

Most merciful God, we come to you in this time of anxiety and uncertainty for our outdoor ministries in the midst of this pandemic. As the sorrows of our heart and mind increase, we beseech you to save us from all trouble and fear. Cast away all works of darkness. Be our rock, a castle to keep us safe. For the Lord is our stronghold and sure defense. Ease our fears and anxieties. Continue inspiring us to share the Good News of your love and hope. In Jesus’ name we pray,

***Amen.***

Opening Litany

Eternal God, you are our only hope, our sure help in this time of trouble. In all times and places you alone are our strength and stay. Because we trust in you, we dare to believe:

**Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
hope is stronger than despair.**

Although we may be lost in grief and overwhelmed by fear and anger during this pandemic, we hear your call to firmer faith and deeper trust. In the midst of doubt and fear you call us to be a people of prayer.

Hear us, O Lord, and teach us to pray,
**for you alone are our refuge and strength.**

Even as we are overcome with sadness and loss, give us the grace to continue sharing the comfort of Christ with all those who long for his healing touch. Surround those who have been shaken by this pandemic with a sense of your present love.

Hear us, O Lord, and help us to heal,
**for you alone are our refuge and strength.**

In a world of darkness, you call us, God, to bear witness to your light. Guide us by your Spirit, that we might reflect the glory of your Son in his courage in speaking the truth, in his compassion for others, in his willingness to bear suffering, in his refusal to return evil for evil.

Hear us, O Lord, and guide our witness,
**for you alone are our refuge and strength.**

In a world of despair, you call us, God, to be a people of hope. When we are cast down or dismayed, keep your Spirit alive in us. Grant us faith to look forward with confidence to that day when the whole world will be drawn into willing obedience to your reign and people will come from east and west, from north and south, to sit at table in your kingdom.

Hear us, O Lord, and fill us with hope,
**for you alone are our refuge and strength.**

CREEDAL SONG Staff of Badlands (ND)

 **I Believe, I Do Believe**

**Chorus:**

I believe I do believe truly I believe it.

Truly I believe it, truly I believe it (repeat)

1. I believe in God the Almighty Lord Creator,

Mighty Lord Creator, Mighty Lord Creator (repeat)

2. I believe in Jesus the Savior of the People,

Savior of the people, Savior of the People (repeat)

3. And I do believe in the Power of the Spirit,

 Power of the Spirit, Power of the Spirit (repeat)

 CCLI# 2028431

PRAYER OF THE DAY - REMEMBRANCE Lakyn Muilenberg, NeSoDak (SD)

 Good and Gracious God,

We thank you for this opportunity to gather together in this community; to grieve, to support, and to be reminded of your unconditional and unwavering love. We gather today to remember all of the wonderful people that come to our camps, the people who laugh, love, and grow through and in the ministry we are all a part of.

We lift up the summer staff that have been anxiously waiting to counsel, lead and learn. Help them to know their strength is still with them and help them continue to rise up as leaders wherever they find themselves. We pray for the campers that were eagerly waiting to attend camp. Be with them and remind them we are steadfast and always here for them.

We lift everything up to you in this trying, challenging, and uncertain time. We pray for the campfires that won’t be filled with songs of praise, the dining halls that won’t be filled with conversation, the untrotted trails waiting to be ventured on, and the tie - dye that won’t be made, may Your presence be enough.

Lord, we grieve these losses within our communities. Help us to support and console one another, and to walk this unique journey together. Remind us that none of us are ever alone. We lift all of this up to you Lord and ask for help to be still and know that You are God.

Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 40:3-8 Julie Kroll, Caroline Furnace (VA)

THE PSALM Joel Abenth, Voyageurs (MN) & Hannah Loeffler-Kemp, Good Earth Village (MN)

 Psalm 51:8-10

 Create in me a clean heart, O God.

 And put a new and right spirit within me.

 Cast me not away from your presence,

 And do not take your holy spirit from me.

 Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,

 And renew a right spirit within me.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Jacob Kvale, Flathead (MT)

 2 Corinthians 9: 8-11 (The Message Translation)

GOSPEL LESSON Jen Bacher, Lutherock (NC)

ANTHEM Dianna Parks, Good Earth Village (MN)

 “Prayer for Peace” by Buryl Red

Make me an instrument of thy peace

Lord, of thy peace, Lord, of thy peace

Make me an instrument of thy peace

Lord, of thy peace, Lord, of thy peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Doubt, faith; despair, hope;

darkness, light, sadness, joy;

Pardon, faith, hope, light, and joy,

Love.

Make me an instrument of thy peace, Lord, of thy peace,

Lord, of thy peace, of thy peace, of thy peace.

MEDITATION Rev. Jeff Barrow, Wapo (WI)

SONG

“Sow the Seed, Trust the Promise” Contributed by Brad Abbott, Sky Ranch (CO)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying " We pray to you, O God: **hear our prayer**."

**For the Universal Church** Rev. Nathan Pile, Sequanota (PA)

O God of every season, we pray for your Church Universal, which is set today amid amplified anxieties, accelerated change, and infinite demands. Animate her anew in your spirit of new life, washing away all that shrouds Your desire of unity for her, and giving her clear vision and revelation of how to lovingly respond.

May she rediscover peace in your unchanging presence, and empower her to shine like a beacon of hope in a broken and fearful world. Guide her take on the yoke of reconciliation, especially in circumstances where she has been the oppressor or caused injury, working not only to be forgiven, but to understand and repair what has been broken. Lead her to be a champion for the lost, the least, the last, the lame and the lonely.

May she continue to reform and use the disruption of this pandemic to live more fully as your people. Breathe new life into her bones, inspiring her sense of purpose - to do greater justice, to be a servant to others, and to boldly proclaim the gospel with extravagant compassion, using words only when necessary.

We pray to you, O God: **hear our prayer.**

 **For Decision Makers, Near and Far** Andrea Scofield, Lutherwood (OR)

Creator God, we pray for all those in the position to make difficult and important decisions at this time: County Health Departments, Small Business Owners, Store Managers, Parents, Camp Board of Directors, Executive Directors, and Camp Program Directors. Mayors, Clergy, Doctors, Nurses, First Responders, School Principals & District Superintendents, Bishops, Governors, The American Camping Association, The Center for Disease Control, The World Health Organization, National and International governmental leaders, and countless others.

May those who feel unprepared for this moment be reminded they are indeed equipped, resourced, and called for such a time as this. May they know they are not alone and may they have support systems in place to remind them of that.

May they be humble enough to seek wise and innovative counsel, and may they be humble enough to listen and to be still to know how best to respond.

May they be courageous enough to actually make decisions and may those decisions be made with equal parts of speed & caution. Help them to easily discern harsh criticisms from helpful suggestions. Help them to be patient in their impatience, kind in their anger and defensiveness, as well as aware of the impact their decisions will have on others.

May they have the courage to rest, to grieve their own losses, to recount their own gratitude’s, and take care of themselves so they may better care for those they are leading.

We pray to you, O God: **hear our prayer.**

**For the Welfare of the World**  Paula Lawhead, Carol Joy Holling (NE)

Lord, we pray for the welfare of the world in the midst of this pandemic;
For those globally who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, give them healing.
For the people and places unable to get COVID testing or adequate medical care, give them resources, patience and strength.

For those who need other medical procedures and are nervous about elevated exposure or having to wait, protect them Lord.

For the nearly 400,000 who have died from Covid-19, may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

For those who are sheltering in places that are not safe, for those whose mental health is suffering, and for those who are lonely, shield & comfort them and provide ways to find connection and support.

For all of us who are neighbors around this globe, give us wisdom and courage to think not only of our own welfare, but to become a unified body that cares for all of its members.

We pray to you, O God: **hear our prayer.**

 **For the Welfare of the LOM Community**  Janis Sloka, Camp of the Cross (ND)

 Lord, we pray for the welfare of our Lutheran Outdoors community:

This has certainly been a new adventure for all of us in outdoor ministries. We have been struggling, praying, pondering and just wondering what this is all about during this pandemic.

We have experienced sadness and disappointment. We have made decisions we thought we would never have to make. Outdoor Ministry has taken on a new look and for some of this, it really isn’t what we want. But we have it.

We lift up those who have lost their jobs or are living out a different job. Be their foundation.

We lift up our donors, constituent congregations and all who have invested in our ministries. Please help them to stay ever faithful to our ministries and our needs.

We remember the vendors, businesses, and service providers our decisions affect, may our relationships be about more than the commodities we are to one another.

For the leaders who won’t get to implement changes and improvements they have worked hard on.

For those whose home is camp, give them gratitude in having discovered such a place.

For those who have been waiting to counsel, lead, and learn, help them to rise up in the places they find themselves.

For those who might live in a different area of the country and will be counseling, leading, learning this summer. Help them with this new way of outdoor ministries. Give them courage and strength to meet each day.

We grieve these losses in the world and give them to You, O Lord trusting that You walk with us in our sorrow. Help us to have faith in your ability to redeem all creation even if we do not know how and cannot see it today.

We pray to you, O God: **hear our prayer.**

**For Campers and Staff**  Nicole McCarthy, Living Water (MI)

Lord, we pray for all campers, adult leaders and staff - for those who will be attending camp this summer and for those who will not. For those making hard decisions, whether that was to cancel their programs or to run their programs, give them Your clarity and peace.

For the staff who will be walking alongside campers this summer on their journey of faith growth, and for the staff who are figuring out what exactly to do with their summer, give them Your comfort and guidance.

For the adult leaders who use summer programs to connect with the young people from their congregations, bless them with faithful conversations and positive interactions either in person or digitally.

For the parents whose children will go to camp, may they feel your comfort, knowing their children are well cared for and loved. And for the parents whose children will not go to camp this summer, that they feel supported and know that they are enough even when their usual support systems may look a little different.

For the campers who will discover God at camp this summer, let them see You living in them. For the campers who will not attend camp this summer, remind them that You are always with them and that they are Your light and love in the world - wherever they might be.

We pray to you, O God: **hear our prayer.**

 **For Our Camps and Retreat Centers**  Joel Abenth, Voyageurs (MN)

Lord, at these times when the children and families in the world require the peace and community that are found within our places, we grieve the losses of the closures within our LOM family. Help us to console one another, and to walk this dark journey together. Remind us that none of us are ever alone.

For the firepits that will stay cold, the absence of feet on trails, and the constellations that won’t be named, and the solitude that prevents the singing of harmonies, may Your presence be enough.

For those running camp, give them strength and patience as they plan, care, and serve.  Keep them safe. Under new guidelines, lift up the staff, volunteers, and campers into new ways of living out faith together.  Inspire the campers and leaders to know your love.

For the staff who have been laid off or furloughed, for those who have been let go, and those just trying to hold on.

For lost revenue, programs, momentum, purpose, and clarity of calling

For those watching something we expected, planned, or hoped for disappear

For the buildings that stand empty, and the meals that won’t be shared

For those who feel like camp is their one safe place,

For those who depend on camp to refresh and renew us throughout the year

... For all these supplications and more, help us to be still and know that You are God.

We pray to you, O God: **hear our prayer**.

 **Closing**  David Box, Lutherdale (WI)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Lord, we pray for all of the staff and boards and the decisions that they have made and for guidance on the decisions that are still yet to be made. We pray for campers and families who are heartbroken over the loss of summer camp experiences and we pray for the health and safety of campers and summer staff that are able to attend camp this summer. We pray for all of us in attendance of this Zoom worship and all those that are unable to join us. Grant us Your peace which passes all understanding and hear us as we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us…

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION Don Johnson

SENDING SONG Mandy Severtson, Shores of St. Andrew (MN)

**Days of Elijah** (by Robin Mark)

These are the days of Elijah,
Declaring the word of the Lord
And these are the days of Your servant Moses,
Righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial,
Of famine and darkness and sword,
Still, we are the voice in the desert crying
"Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"

Behold He comes riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call,
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

These are the days of Ezekiel,
The dry bones becoming as flesh,
And these are the days of Your servant David,
Rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest,
The fields are white in Your world,
And we are the labourers in Your vineyard,
Declaring the word of the Lord!

Behold He comes riding on the clouds,
Shining like the sun at the trumpet call,
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee,
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

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Shining like the sun at the trumpet call,
Lift your voice, it's the year of jubilee,

And out of Zion's hill salvation comes.

***Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, for the sake of the world!***