

Ah LORD GOD! It is thou who hast made
the heavens and the earth by thy great power
and by thy outstretched arm!
Nothing is too hard for thee...

-Jeremiah 32:17



**St. Matthew
Lutheran Church
Hazen, ND**

Rev. Kirk Peters

Liturgy and Prayers for a Time of Drought

GATHERING

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

895 Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
△ 3 All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,



Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,



Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;



With countless gifts of love And still is ours to-day.
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ever more.

Opening Versicles for Time of Drought:: (*replaces the Kyrie*)

P The Lord is great:

C our Lord is above all gods.

P Whatever the Lord pleases he does:

C in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

P It is our God who makes the clouds rise at the end of the earth:

C God makes lightnings for the rain and brings out the wind from its storehouses. (Psalm 135:5-7)

P Come, let us return to the Lord, for it is God who has torn, and God will heal us;

C God has struck down, and God will bind us up.

P Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord;

C God's appearing is as sure as the dawn,

P God will come to us like the showers,

C like the spring rains that water the earth. (Hosea 6:1,3)

Hymn of Praise

894 For the Fruits of His Creation



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har-vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done. In our
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the



plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
world - wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
won - ders that as - tound us, For the truths that still con - found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, Thanks be to God.
In the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

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Prayer of the Day:

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord our God, look down upon our dry lands and parched earth, and come quickly to save us. Send your clouds of water to rain down upon us as your righteousness and love rain down upon our hearts. Fill us with faith and trust in you that we may give you glory now and in your heavenly presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

WORD

First Lesson:

Jeremiah 14:1-9

The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought: Judah mourns and her gates languish; they lie in gloom on the ground, and the cry of Jerusalem goes up. Her nobles send their servants for water; they come to the cisterns, they find no water, they

return with their vessels empty. They are ashamed and dismayed and cover their heads, because the ground is cracked. Because there has been no rain on the land the farmers are dismayed; they cover their heads. Even the doe in the field forsakes her newborn fawn because there is no grass. The wild asses stand on the bare heights, they pant for air like jackals; their eyes fail because there is no herbage. Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name's sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you. O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the night? Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us!

Psalm 65

- P** Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;
C **and to you shall vows be performed,**
P O you who answer prayer!
C **To you all flesh shall come.**
P When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us,
C **you forgive our transgressions.**
P Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.
C **We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.**
P By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation;
C **you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.**

- P** By your strength you established the mountains;
C **you are girded with might.**
- P** You silence the roaring of the seas,
C **the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.**
- P** Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
C **you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.**
- P** You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it;
C **the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain,**
- C** **for so you have prepared it.**
- P** You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,
C **softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.**
- P** You crown the year with your bounty;
C **your wagon tracks overflow with richness.**
- P** The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
C **the hills gird themselves with joy,**
- P** the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain,
C **they shout and sing together for joy.**

Second Lesson:

Revelation 22:1-17

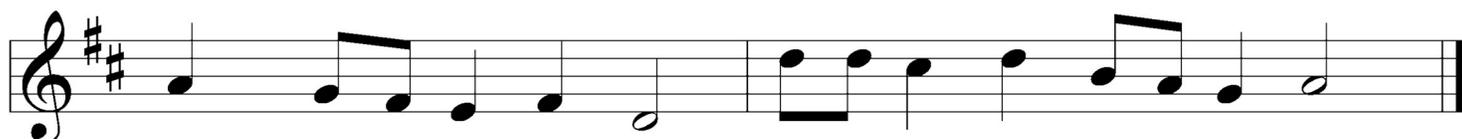
Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will

be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever. And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true, for the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place." "See, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me; but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your comrades the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God!" And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." "See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and fornicators and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Lesson:

St. John 4:5-14

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

892 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un-to His praise to yield;
3 For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His har-vest home,
4 E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come To Thy fi-nal har-vest home;



All be safe-ly gath-ered in Ere the win-ter storms be-gin;
Wheat and tares to-geth-er sown, Un-to joy or sor-row grown.
From His field shall in that day All of-fens-es purge a-way,
Gath-er Thou Thy peo-ple in, Free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our mak-er, doth pro-vide For our wants to be sup-plied.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap-pear.
Give His an-gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
There, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, In Thy gar-ner to a-bide:



Come to God's own tem-ple, come; Raise the song of har-vest home.
Lord of har-vest, grant that we Whole-some grain and pure may be.
But the fruit-ful ears to store In His gar-ner ev-er-more.
Come with all Thine an-gels, come, Raise the glo-rious har-vest home.

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Apostle's Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come 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 the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Exhortation and Prayers of the Church in Time of Drought

P Brothers and sisters in Christ, in the beginning the Lord our God formed the earth and the heavens and all that exists. God separated the waters and formed the clouds. God marked the limits of the rivers and seas and placed the rain and snow in their storehouses. Throughout our lives, God has watered the earth and let the sun shine to bring forth harvests of abundance for the living. And God has blessed us with infinite love through this abundance.

The Bible tells us that in times of need, we should turn to the Lord who sustains us with the fruits of creation, bringing our petitions and concerns, asking forgiveness for our sins, and placing our needs trustfully and faithfully into God's hands. As Jeremiah of old led the people of Israel in prayer to God during a

time of drought, so let us now draw near to God with our prayers for our parched lands and loved ones in distress.

P The Lord is gracious.

C **The Lord's understanding is beyond measure.**

P The Lord heals the brokenhearted.

C **The Lord binds up all our wounds.** (Psalm 147:1,5)

P Gracious Lord, loving God, look down with mercy upon your people as we draw near to you. Fill our hearts with faith. Forgive our sins. Lead us to righteousness and peace. And hear our prayers of concern for our lands, for our people in distress, for our industries that suffer, for all who are affected by the lengthy dryness of this season. We look to you for help. Be our aide and our guide; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P The people of Israel cried out in thirst.

C **They cried aloud to the Lord most high.**

P The Lord came and commanded Moses.

C **The Lord commanded, and water came forth from the rock.** (Exodus 17:1-7)

P Lord of the sun and of the rains, your faithful people thirst again in your sight. Our crops languish in the sun. Even your little creatures are stressed in the heat. As you answered the prayers of Israel of old, quench the thirst of your people, our lands, our crops, and all creatures. Bring forth the rains that sustain and

foster growth in the seasons and cycles that you marked with your creative hand. In you alone we trust; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

P God covers the heavens with clouds.

C God prepares rain for the earth.

P God makes the grass to grow on the hills

C God gives to the animals their food.

P The Lord's delight is not in the strength of the horse or the speed of the runner.

C The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear God, in those who hope in God's steadfast love. (Psalm 147:8-11)

P God of hope, God of healing and blessing, God of refreshment and peace, shower down upon us with your infinite love and righteousness. Send your Holy Spirit to fill us with faith. Lead us to green pastures and make us to lie down by still waters, refreshing our souls and giving us peace; for you live and reign with your Son Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Offering

~ ~ drop your offering in the box in the narthex, mail it, use the link on the church website or the GivePlus app. ~ ~

Offertory

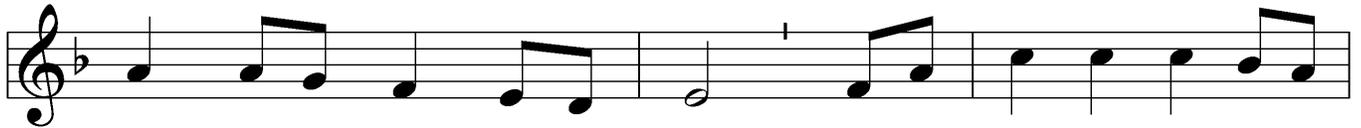
LSB 159



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to



me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-



va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my



vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the



courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.**

SENDING

Final Blessings

P The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,

C **and you give them their food in due season.**

P You open wide your hand

C **and satisfy the needs of every living creature.** (Psalm 145:16-17)

The Blessing of the Parched Earth

P Blessed are you, O God, king of the universe. You made the whole earth for your glory and nurture it with sun and rain and the passing seasons. We lift our voices in praise and sing with all creation to give you glory.

Bless + now our parched earth. Open your heavens wide and send forth the rains that nurture the earth, the fields and their crops, your people and all your creatures. Make the earth to break forth in abundance, so that the harvest from your hand may enrich our lives, and all people see the greatness of God.

Bless also those who are in any distress from this hot dry season: the elderly, the poor, the homeless, the industries and people who depend upon the land. Save us all by your gracious

hand. Heal us and bind us up in faith.

To you be honor and glory and praise, with the Son and Holy Spirit, now and in all ages to come.

C Amen

The Blessing of the People

P Be steadfast in faith. Trust in the Lord. God's love will sustain you through this season and always. And may almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

C Amen

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Doxology *all sing*

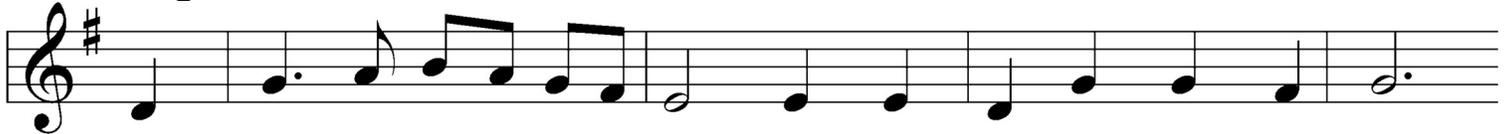
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below.

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

893 Sing to the Lord of Harvest



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, Sing songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds rain good - ness, The des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar The gifts His good - ness gave,



With joy - ful hearts and voic - es Your al - le - lu - ias raise.
The hills leap up in glad - ness, The val - leys laugh and sing.
The gold - en sheaves of har - vest, The souls Christ died to save.



By Him the roll - ing sea - sons In fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with His full - ness, All things with large in - crease;
Your hearts lay down be - fore Him When at His feet you fall,



Sing to the Lord of har - vest A joy - ous song of love.
He crowns the year with bless - ing, With plen - ty and with peace.
And with your lives a - dore Him Who gave His life for all.

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