

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost - June 16, 2024
9:00 a.m. Worship Service**

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Gathering Hymn – Almighty God, Your Word is Cast – ELW #516

Invocation

L: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**A Confessional Litany and Lament
Commemorating The Nine Who Were Slain
at Mother Emanuel AME Church June 17, 2015**

Words of introduction

They were doing what we are called to do, engaged in bible study. That Wednesday night a stranger walked in, and these people welcomed him and prayed together:

Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton,

Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd,

Susie Jackson,

Ethel Lee Lance,

Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor,

Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders,

Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons,

Rev. Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson, and

state senator and pastor of the church, Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney.

This stranger said he wanted to ignite a “race war,” after taking those nine lives, denying them the very humanity he claimed for himself, using words of hate.

A: Now we are grieved, once again in pain, lamenting the horror of evil unleashed. And so we cry out,

C: Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

L: Sorrow and heartache have come to us. Death and mourning have visited us. We feel far from you, O God, and distant from one another. And so we cry out,

C: Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

A: Evil besets us in our land. We acknowledge and denounce ways that promote and normalize prejudice and inequality. We cry out against the horrors and agonies of racism. And so we cry out,

C: Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

L: Open our eyes, O God, open our hearts. Open our ears, O God, open our minds. Help us to behold one another as you behold us. Help us to be more firmly rooted in the practices of the gospel, so, when we pray and the way we live will make real the intention of your beloved community within and among us. And so we cry out,

Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us.

A: With the help of your mercy and grace, lead us to think, believe, and change. May your gospel's transforming power by the working of the Holy Spirit be present in us, in our churches, in our nation and all the nations of the earth. May it be so.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise – As Rain from the Clouds - ELW #508 vs1

Greeting

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

A Juneteenth Litany
Adaptation of Lift Every Voice and Sing – ELW #841

L: Celebration rises, up from the deep places, finding voice in the light and air no longer denied.

**C: Lift every voice and sing, sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.**

L: Celebration rises, not blind to the suffering, not blind to the sorrow. Celebration comes at a cost.

**C: Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed.**

L: Celebration rises, remembering the way we have come, the paths taken that have brought us here now to this place and time of celebration. Celebration rises, up and up, full of remembering. Remembering the ones led to freedom by Harriet Tubman. Remembering lives and freedom stolen: *We pause in silence to remember those who gave their lives during the struggle against slavery.*

**C: We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

L: Celebration rises, recognizing what has been done and left undone, knowing there is still much to do, so much further to go. Celebration rises, naming the victories, recognizing the challenges ahead. Celebration rises on voices offering unfinished praise.

**C: Lest our feet stray from the places, our God where we met
thee;
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world we forget thee;**

L: Celebration rises, resisting illusions, to be embraced by the real and abiding presence of God who breaks our chains, and sets us free for freedom, in power and love and joy.

**C: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears
thou who hast brought us thus far on our way;
thou who has by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.**

L: Celebration rises, with the power of healing and promise.
Celebration rises, celebrating God's grace and God's creation of our human family in all its diversity and unity.

**Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.
True to who we are, True to who we have been
and who we are becoming, thanks be to God.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image.

**C: Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make
no peace with oppression.**

A: Help us to resist the evil of discrimination and oppression in any form and any manner.

**C: Help us to use our freedoms to bring justice among people and
nations everywhere,**

A: to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce

boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

¹It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

²to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

³to the music of the lute and the harp, to the melody of the lyre.

⁴For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work; at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

¹²The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

¹³They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God.

¹⁴In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap,

¹⁵showing that the Lord is upright; he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must

appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: Mark 4:26-34

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Message – Tim Leitner, SAM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDEq9v-Dn9w>

Hymn of the Day – For the Fruit of All Creation - ELW #679

Prayers of Intercession **(We will sing Lord, listen to your children praying** **ELW #752 - after each petition)**

L: Petition for God's Church: Gracious God, Nourish your faithful people through gifts of word and worship. Guide the church in listening to and interpreting your message of grace for this time and place. In your wisdom, lead us in expanding the reach of your love. – Lord listen:

C: Lord, listen to Your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.

A: Petition for God's Creation: Creating God, Nature sings your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night. Sustain the holy rhythms of creation: days and seasons, hibernation and activity, phases of the moon and tides of the sea. Let these patterns assure us of your constancy. – Lord listen:

C: Lord, listen to Your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.

A: Petition for God's Help: Healing God, we lift up those who are in need of your loving healing and care. especially: – Lord listen:

C: Lord, listen to Your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.

A: Prayer for fathers: As you have loved us, so let us love one another. Empower fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, adoptive fathers, and chosen fathers to embody this gift of love for their children. Where these relationships are strained or broken, bring your comfort and peace. – Lord listen:

**C: Lord, listen to Your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

L: Petition for God’s Guidance and Strength: God of creation, we give you thanks for our wonderfully diverse human family. We pray for the well-being of all people, including our neighbors of other religions and worldviews. Grant that, together with them, we will find ways to cooperate for the common good of all, as you desire.

– Lord listen:

**C: Lord, listen to Your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to Your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Offering

Offertory Hymn – Take My Life, That I May Be – ELW #685 vs 1-4

Offertory Prayer

A: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.

C: Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

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.**

Communion Distribution

Post Communion Blessing

L: Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.

C: As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

A: In your name we pray.

C: Amen.

Benediction

L: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, Father, †Son and Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn – The Spirit Send Us Forth to Serve – ELW #551
(please stand as you are able)

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Juneteenth is a holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It recalls how the states of Louisiana and Texas heard the news that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Slavery continued in those two states for more than two years after the proclamation was signed because the word had yet to travel there. Texas and Louisiana finally got the good news on June 19, 1865. Former slaves broke out in spontaneous celebration. These were dangerous times. Even in the face of resistance and threat, the formerly enslaved Africans found ways to give voice to the wide range of thoughts and emotions at the announcement of the end of legalized slavery in the United States of America.

The “Emanuel Nine,” of blessed and eternal memory, were nine gifted, loving, and faithful people who spent their lives striving for excellence, connection, and the presence of God, and spent their last moments in study of the word. They leave a legacy of grace, resistance, family, and faith. This occurred at Mother Emanuel AME Church, in Charleston, SC on June 17, 2015. The assailant, a 21-year-old white man, was a member of an ELCA congregation at the time of the shooting.