

## ***Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> ~ A Story of Promise***

**Prelude, Words of Welcome, A Reading from Today's Daily Text**

**\*Liturgy**      Creation, page 27-30

ROEDER

*God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars,  
How does the creature say Awe? How does the creature say Praise?*

*God of the earthquake, God of the storm, God of the trumpet blast,  
How does the creature cry Woe? How does the creature cry Save?*

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him the heights above.

**Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars.**

Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightening and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding.

**Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.**

Princes and rulers, men and women, old and young together,

**Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget none of his benefits.

**He forgives our sins and heals our diseases; he redeems our lives and crowns us with love and compassion.**

We have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for the sins of the whole world.

**If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart, in full assurance of faith, and confess our sins.

**Gracious God, we confess to you our sins: sins of oppression, when prejudice, fear, and hate rule our hearts; sins of neglect, when we poison the earth for profit or we ignore please for mercy and justice; sins of pride; and sins of greed. Lord, forgive us when we feed our anger and bathe in our despair. Hear now our confessions and know our hearts.**

SILENT CONFESSION

Have mercy, O God, according to your unfailing love;

**Wash away all our iniquity and cleanse us from our sin. Amen.**

As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is God's love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

Hymn: As The Deer

*As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you.*

*You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.*

*You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.*

*You alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.*

In praise of our Creator, let us affirm our faith,

**I believe in the one true God, the Father of humanity, who creates and sustains the universe in wisdom and power, who calls us into being and into relationship with God by grace, whose nature is love.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who lived that we might see God, who died that we might be reconciled to God, who rose again that we might experience the life of God, who freely accepts and welcomes all who come to him, not on the basis of their merit, but on the basis of his unconditional love.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, who is God present with us now, who shows us our need for God, who assures us of God's love in all circumstances, who lives the life and the love of Jesus Christ through us.**

**In this faith I will seek to live in harmony with God, with people everywhere, and with all of creation.  
Amen.**

We offer thanks to you, Creator God, for your artistry in frost and snow in the icy stillness of winter, for new life bursting forth and blooming in spring.

**We thank you for the sunshine and rain and for growth in summer, which you nurture into the fruitful abundance of autumn.**

We thank you for the seasons of the spirit, for joy and sorrow, for pleasure and pain, for gladness and grief, for friendship and solitude.

**We are grateful to you for your sustaining presence in all circumstances, and for giving us the strength through which we can do all things.**

We pray for those who because of greed or selfishness exploit the gifts of the earth, that they may learn to be careful stewards of your creation.

**We pray for all who by their commitment and involvement are working to preserve our planet, that you would multiply their efforts.**

We pray for those who suffer from prejudice, poverty or pain, that you would draw near to them and provide for them true justice and mercy.

**We pray for those whose lives are being wasted in careless living or despair, that they may find the joy of self-discipline and the hope that comes through Christ.**

We pray for your whole church, that it may become a powerful agent of reconciliation and renewal in the name of Jesus Christ.

**We pray for all people, that everyone will recognize your awesome majesty and bow in obedient and joyful service.**

ROEDER

*God of the hungry, God of the sick, God of the prodigal,  
How does the creature say Care, how does the creature say Life?*

*God of the neighbor, God of the foe, God of the olive branch,  
How does the creature say love, how does the creature say peace?*

*God of the ages, God near at hand, God of the loving heart,  
How do your children say Joy, how do your children say home?*

**Prayers for our Christian Education Leaders and Educational Ministries**

We gather as the Body of Christ to bear witness to the saving love of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We come as the people of God who are called to build up the church and provide for the nurture of its members.

***We rejoice in our calling to serve and seek to show God's love in all that we say and do.***

In your creative wisdom, O God, you made us in your image and equipped us by your Holy Spirit to fulfill your work here on earth. The gifts were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and some teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry.

***You have equipped all of us, O Lord, with particular gifts to build up the Body of Christ and spread your love near & far.***

*To the Christian Education Committee...*

You have been charged by this congregation to lead our educational ministries. Do you accept this ministry and do you promise before God and this congregation to lead as you follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ?

**Christian Education Committee Members:** *I will, with God's help and the prayerful support of this congregation.*

*(The Congregation Stands)*

Will you, the members and friends of the West Side Moravian Church, support, pray for, and encourage these individuals.

***We will, with God's help and the power of the Holy Spirit.***

**Hymn: #665, verse 3, Tune #544 Hymn to Joy**

*Bless these lives of dedication- days and seasons, weeks and years, spent in serving congregations, spreading joys and soothing tears! Bless these lives so firmly planted in the grace the Savior brings, flourishing as God has granted, soaring high on Spirit wings!*

**Presentation of Bibles to our Second Graders**

**Meditation with Youth and Children**

**Scripture** Genesis 9:8-17

**Sermon** *A Story of Promise*

**Our Offerings** *Celebrating the ways we can offer ourselves and our resources to reflect Christ's light in our care for others*

>You may place your offering in the copper church at the entrance to the sanctuary today.

>Electronic direct deposit forms can be secured from the church office- call 920.499.4433

>Online Giving can be accessed at <https://mmfa.info/west-side-moravian-church-wi-donation-form/>

**Offertory Hymn** "We are an offering" #146 Worship and Praise Songbook

*We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: We are an offering.*  
*Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our lives, they are yours: We are an offering.*  
*All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.*  
*We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:*  
*We are an offering, we are an offering.*

**Prayer**

**Hymn**

"This is a Day of New Beginnings" #784 vs. 1-4

*This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on, time to believe what love is bringing,  
Laying to rest the pain that's gone.*

*For by the life and death of Jesus, God's mighty Spirit, now as then, can make for us a world of difference,  
As faith and hope are born again.*

*Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind our disappointment, guilt,  
And grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to find.*

*Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings, our God is making all things new.*

**Benediction & Postlude**

**CCLI 172614**

This service can be viewed after the service on our facebook page @westsidemoraviangreenbay/facebook or our website, [wsmoraviangb.org](http://wsmoraviangb.org)

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