

Worship in the time of COVID-19
An order of worship for May 17, 2020
6th Sunday in the Season of Easter
Graduate Recognition Sunday

Welcome by Pastor Kristen

Call to Worship: Psalm 66:8-20

8 Bless our God, you peoples;

let the sound of praise be heard.

**9 Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

10 For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.

**11 You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

12 You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

**13 I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows—**

14 those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

**15 I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.**

16 Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.

**17 I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

18 If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;

**19 but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

20 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Psalm Song: God has Brought Us to Life (Psalm 66)

Chorus: God has brought us to life, oh (3x)

1. People of God, come here, come close, I'll tell you what happened to me
I was in deep, deep pain, God knows, God heard my prayer and helped me

Chorus

2. We've been like silver, being refined, God trapped us and burdened our backs
We've been through terror, flood, and fire, But freedom's come at last *Chorus*
Bridge: Bless the freedom giver who took us through fire and water (x2) *Chorus*

3. I'll come to you each day with praise, I'll keep my promise to you
My life is yours, I walk your way, your freedom's made me new *Chorus*

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Sermon

Gospel: John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. 17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18 "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Sermon

Hymn: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing!

Now is the triumph of our king!

To all the world glad news we bring:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day;

death's mighty stone is rolled away;

let all the world rejoice and say:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Praise we in songs of victory

that love, that life, which cannot die,

and sing with hearts uplifted high:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,

and sing today with one accord,

the life laid down, the life restored:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Blessing of Graduates

We are delighted to recognize high school graduates of American Lutheran Church today. It is our privilege to affirm these members of our congregation who have completed one phase of their lives and move with great expectations to another.

- Slide Show of 2020 Graduates plays

2020 High School Graduates:

Lainey Bahe

Grace Distler

Alyssa Hoey

Kristin Hoey

Justin Leach

Heath Wyant

Graduates, as you celebrate your achievements and prepare to begin new endeavors, be mindful of your grounding in faith, and of your vocation to serve God in all your life's work and accomplishments.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you bless your servants with many achievements. We give thanks especially for the milestones that *name/s* have attained. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they also know your love and experience your peace in all the experiences they encounter. Bless also the parents of these students, who have raised their children and nourished them in the Christian faith. Give them strength in your continuing presence and give them many joyful reunions with their sons and daughters, who may be leaving home soon to begin new and varied ventures, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve our God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Grant wisdom to the local, state, and national governments, that they might make wise decisions for the health and safety of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way, especially those who are suffering from COVID-19. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You inspire the work of your people. Be with scientists, researchers, public health officials, and all employees of health care systems, that their work might be fruitful as they care for the sick and seek new treatments for the coronavirus. Grant safety and protection to all essential workers who are working in risky conditions. Help all who feel isolated to know that they are not alone, because you are with us wherever we go. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

You are present for all of life's milestones. Give comfort and courage to all who mourn the losses of important events during this time of pandemic and social distancing. Be with those who are graduating in the class of 2020, who have lost so many meaningful rituals of celebration. Guide Lainey, Grace, Alyssa, Kristin, Justin, and Heath as they graduate from high school and prepare for their next phase of life. Help them to remember that wherever they go, your hand is leading them and your love is supporting them. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us, especially those who have lost their lives during this coronavirus pandemic. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Special message from Chaplain Cindy Breed of Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

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.

Song/Hymn: Borning Cry by John Ylvisaker

- 1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell."**

- 2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun."**

- 3 "In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been,
with just one more surprise."**

**4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized
to see your life unfold."**

Blessing

May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead
raise you to new life, fill you with hope,
and turn your mourning into dancing.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Go in peace and serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!
And have fun doing it! We will! Amen!

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Scripture is from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

God Has Brought Us To Life (Psalm 66)
Words and music by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan.
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Even in these difficult times, we remember that all that we have is a gift from God. I encourage you to practice both gratitude and generosity with these gifts. If you are able, remember American Lutheran Church in your generous giving. Offering can be mailed to the church or given through the website. Thank you!!

Next week (May 24), the worship service will be provided by the staff of the Northeastern Iowa Synod office. We are grateful for the opportunity to worship with them!

By the Numbers

Check Register Balance: \$9,681.86
Bank loan: \$9,465

May 10th, 2020 Giving

Current: \$3,065
Benevolence: \$32
Improvement: \$85
Debt Reduction: \$100