

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
“Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives”



Weeping MAY ENDURE
FOR A NIGHT,
BUT Joy COMES
IN THE MORNING.
Psalm 30:5

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June 27, 2021



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



We welcome you to worship here at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant! As long as the weather cooperates, we gather outside in God's Creation so that we may more safely come together and worship with singing and loud shouts of praise.

- Bulletins and Communion (wheat or gluten-free wafers, wine or grape juice options) are available to be picked up at the side driveway. Please keep in mind potential wind that may affect your Communion cups.
- You may stay in your vehicle or setup a chair anywhere you like. Speakers will be set up front by the worship leaders so that everyone can hear and participate from their respective spots.
- It is your choice whether you wear a mask or not, as well as how much distance you wish to keep from others. We are mindful of everyone's varying comfort levels with what we hope to be improving circumstances with COVID-19.
- We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
- You will not be asked to stand during the worship, so feel free to remain seated throughout.
- An offering basket is placed up-front by the podium.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Ministers
Presiding Minister
Pianist
Lector
Flute
Parish Administrator
Custodian

All People
The Rev. Bradley Ross
Robin Crawford
Bert Zahn
Ann Droste
Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Vince Besednjak

*The Lutheran Church of the Covenant
19000 Libby Rd.*

Maple Heights, OH 44137

Phone: 216-662-0370

Email: covenantlc@sbcglobal.net

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

A woman finds healing by touching Jesus' cloak, and a girl is restored to life when he takes her by the hand. In both cases a boundary is crossed: in Jesus' time the hemorrhaging woman was considered ritually unclean, polluting others by her touch, and anyone who touched a corpse also became unclean. In Mark's gospel Jesus breaks down barriers, from his first meal at a tax collector's house to his last breath on the cross as the temple curtain is torn in two. We dare to touch Jesus in our "uncleanness" and to live as a community that defines no one as an outsider.

Prelude *Shall We Gather at the River?* (LOGAN)

Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at our baptism, remembering our everlasting bond with our Risen Lord.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen!

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ

from the ways of the world in which we live.

We turn to our own understanding

rather than trusting in you.

Share with us the words of eternal life

and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen!

Gathering Hymn *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

#733



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain



Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866–1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957

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Prayer of the Day

Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

First Lesson

Lamentations 3:22-33

The book of Lamentations is one of our most important sources of information about the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 587 BCE. Though the people admit that God's judgment was just, today's reading declares a fervent trust that God will not leave them forever.

- ²²The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
²³they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴"The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
²⁵The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
²⁶It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.
²⁷It is good for one to bear
the yoke in youth,
²⁸to sit alone in silence
when the Lord has imposed it,
²⁹to put one's mouth to the dust
(there may yet be hope),
³⁰to give one's cheek to the smiter,
and be filled with insults.
³¹For the Lord will not
reject forever.
³²Although he causes grief, he will have compassion
according to the abundance of his steadfast love;
³³for he does not willingly afflict
or grieve anyone.

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

- ¹I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.
- ²**O Lord my God, I cried out to you,
and you restored me to health.**
- ³You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.
- ⁴**Sing praise to the Lord, all you faithful;
give thanks in holy remembrance.**
- ⁵God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime.
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.
- ⁶**While I felt secure, I said,
"I shall never be disturbed.**
- ⁷You, Lord, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains."
Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.
- ⁸**I cried to you, O Lord;
I pleaded with my Lord, saying,**
- ⁹"What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?"
- ¹⁰**Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;
O Lord, be my helper."**
- ¹¹You have turned my wailing into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.
- ¹²**Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

Paul encourages the Corinthians to honor their commitment to participate in the collection his churches are organizing for the Christians in Jerusalem. He presents Jesus as an example of selfless stewardship and reminds them that Christians have received abundantly so that they can share abundantly.

⁷Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. ¹⁰And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—¹¹now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. ¹³I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between ¹⁴your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. ¹⁵As it is written,
 “The one who had much did not have too much,
 and the one who had little did not have too little.”

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

Gospel

Mark 5:21-43

Jairus, a respected leader, begs Jesus to heal his daughter. A woman with a hemorrhage was considered ritually unclean and treated as an outcast. Both Jairus and the unnamed woman come to Jesus in faith, believing in his power to heal and bring life out of death.

The Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. ²²Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet ²³and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.” ²⁴So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. ²⁵Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. ²⁶She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, ²⁸for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” ²⁹Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. ³⁰Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” ³¹And his disciples said to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” ³²He looked all around to see who had done it. ³³But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. ³⁴He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

³⁵While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” ³⁶But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” ³⁷He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. ³⁹When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” ⁴⁰And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. ⁴¹He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” ⁴²And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. ⁴³He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

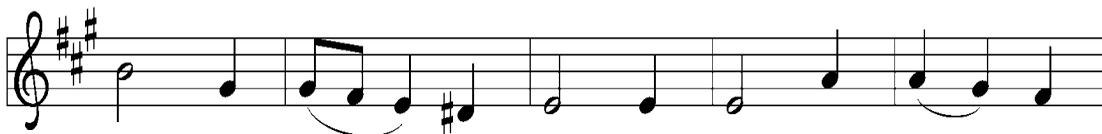
This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon



1 Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch-ed - ness and need, on shad - owed
 3 From ten - der child-hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man
 4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of
 thresh-olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

- 5 O Master, from the mountainside
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 among these restless throngs abide;
 oh, tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
 and follow where your feet have trod;
 till glorious from your heav'n above
 shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850–1935, alt.
 Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, Sacred Melodies, 1815

Prayers of Intercession

Here at the end of June let us pray for the needs of the world, responding to each petition with an echo of today's psalm, "We cry out to you."

A brief silence.

God of hope, the ministry of your church extends across borders, from nearby neighbors to far and distant countries. Accompany all those who labor eagerly in service of the gospel, that through your good news all might experience transformation. Mighty God, **we cry out to you.**

Still-creating God, we give you thanks for the air we breathe, the water we drink, the land that provides our food. Guard all species of plants and animals from harsh changes in climate and empower us to protect all you have made. Benevolent God, **we cry out to you.**

Universal God, we lift up all the nations and their leaders. Give them a spirit of compassion and steer them towards a fair distribution of resources; that none among us would have too much or too little. Righteous God, **we cry out to you.**

God of healing, your touch has the power to make us whole. Watch over those suffering from physical or mental illness. Embrace those who are sick. Surround them with your unwavering presence. Compassionate God, **we cry out to you.**

We give thanks for our entire Covenant family. Revive our spirits, renew our relationships, and rekindle our faith, that we might experience resurrection in this community. Faithful God, **we cry out to you.**

We give thanks for the faithful ancestors in every age whose lives have pointed us towards you. Envelop them in your love, that we may be reunited with one another in the last days. Eternal God, **we cry out to you.**

Into your hands, today and forever, we commit for all whom we pray, trusting in the grace made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals, the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Holy Spirit, bless us through this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
both now and forever. **Amen!**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion

Music Interlude *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus* (BONAM)

Ann Droste, Flute

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen!

Blessing

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever!
Amen!

Sending Hymn *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

#886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude *Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* (SHACKLEY)

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Bob Buettner, Joan Clarke, John Crawford, Nicole Crawford, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Nealie Gage, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Judy Jones, Matt Jones, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Andrea Lanzalaca, Heather Lasher, Sara Mendes, Phyllis Nemeth, Bernice Novak, Robert Ridgell, Don Rusher Jr, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susaneck, Phyllis Treichel, Phyllis Welker, Linda Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Kim (Novak) Leonhardt, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Bill Wilkens, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family

LAST WEEK

General Fund receipts for week ending 6/20/2021: \$740

Lectionary Blog: Fear and Faith



Fear and Faith. When I was about 7 or 8 years old, I was in the woods back of our house climbing about in a tree with my brother. We were playing pirates and the tree was our ship, or maybe Batman and Robin and the tree was a tall building, or maybe the tree was just a tree and we were enjoying being in it. I don't remember. What I do remember is that somehow my brother ended up standing on the ground, and I ended up hanging by my feet with my head about 10 feet above the ground. I was really, really scared and could not get down. My brother was really, really scared and couldn't figure out how to help me get down. So he told me to let go, he would catch me. I distinctly remember him saying, "Trust me, I'll catch you." I trusted him. He didn't catch me. I still have a scar under my chin from where I cut it on a rock. He ran to the house, screaming for my mother. He thought, he feared, that I was dead. He also had little faith that were I not dead, our mother would not punish him severely for letting his little brother get hurt.

Fear and faith. Our reading from Mark's Gospel is full of fear and faith. A woman in the crowd, a woman with a flow of blood, touched Jesus. He stopped, turned and asked who touched him—a surprising question since the crowd was pressing in from all sides. She "came in fear and trembling, fell down before him and told him the whole truth. He (Jesus) said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well" (Mark 5:34). ***Fear and faith.***

In the wrap-around story of the healing of Jairus' daughter, the story with which our text begins and ends, just after Jesus says to the woman, "Your faith has made you well," "some people came from the leader's house to say, 'Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?' But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, 'Do not fear, only believe'"—have faith (Mark 5:36). *Fear and faith.*

When I was a child, I had a lot of faith; I also had a lot of fear. My faith was faith in the reality of God, not any sort of trust in the goodness or compassion of God. And my fear was Sunday school and fundamentalist preaching, and comic books, and horror movies and God knows what else. As I have grown older, faith and fear have remained in dynamic tension in my life. Just as my faith has matured and become more sophisticated, my fears have grown less generalized and more realistic.

But they are still there, as they are for all of us. All of us fear things: terrorism, illness, economic collapse, earthquake, fire, flood, crime, the police, etc. And the last few years have shown us that many of our fears are realistic and based on reality. As we face these realistic fears, we must ask ourselves—where do we place our faith, our assurance, our hope for the future? In money and its accumulation and clout? In governments and their armies? In coalitions of folk who think, and look and act like us? Whom do we trust? Where do we turn for solace and hope?

The Scriptures call us to trust in God, a thing much easier said than done. Lamentations reminds us "that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, (God's) mercies never come to an end." and then goes on to talk about those times when one feels abandoned by God. This is a realistic look at faith in the face of fear.

The Psalm repeats this theme, as in "then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear" but also cries out, "O Lord, my God, I will give you thanks forever." And our lesson from 2 Corinthians reminds us not to hoard our money but rather to share our resources with those in need, trusting that God will take care of us. Generosity is an act of faith overcoming fear.

Fear and faith. In the last several years, the church has been living through frightening and uncertain times. We must ask ourselves—are we facing the future with fear or faith? Are we retreating into attempts to secure what we have, to protect the church from further erosion and decline? Or are we reaching out to God in faith and to one another in love?

It sometimes feels like we are barely hanging on, about to fall, yet afraid to trust God to catch us if we do. Now, when I was hanging upside down in that tree, I did have faith, I did let go—the problem is, I trusted the wrong person. I should have waited for Mama to come. I am sure she would have been able to rescue me with little or no damage.

Fear and faith. We are invited this day to join the writer of Lamentations in not only singing to God “Great is thy faithfulness,” but also with the woman in the crowd, and Jairus and the people of Corinth, holding out our hands and our hearts to Jesus, trusting the Holy One of God with our life and our future.

Amen and amen.

Originally published June 25, 2018, on LivingLutheran.org.



Delmer Chilton is originally from North Carolina and received his education at the University of North Carolina, Duke Divinity School and the Graduate Theological Foundation. He received his Lutheran training at the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C. Ordained in 1977, Delmer has served parishes in North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee.

Blossom Concert

Join us for a pleasant evening of good music, under the stars, on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, Sept 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., for a Salute to John Williams at Blossom Music Festival. The Orchestra, conducted by Richard Kaufman, will present a program of the works of John Williams, acknowledged master of movie scores which transform images to powerful stories and emotions. Included in the program are blockbuster favorites of Williams such as Superman, Harry Potter, Star Wars, ET and many more.

We hope to be seated in the usual location adjacent to the tram station. There will be fireworks after the concert, weather permitting. Cost of the tickets are \$28.50 each at the Senior discount rate. Please notify Arlene Lasher as soon as possible, but no later than July 18, 2021, if you would like to attend. Checks should be made out to Arlene.