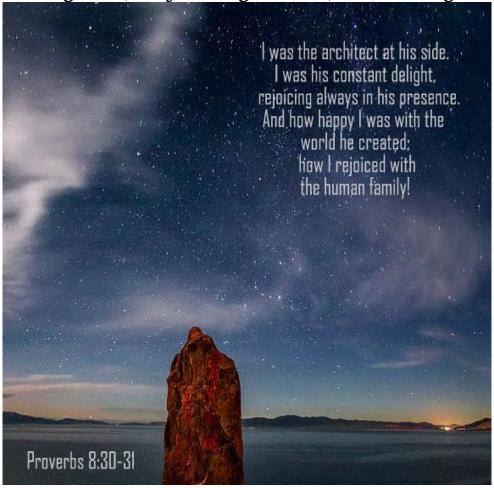
The Lutheran Church of the Covenant

"Reaching Out, Reflecting Christ, Renewing Lives"



Holy Trinity Sunday June 12, 2022



Evangelical Lutheran Church in AmericaGod's work. Our hands.



We welcome you to worship here at the Lutheran Church of the Covenant! Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise this God of new life together!

- Bulletins and Communion (wheat or gluten-free wafers, wine or grape juice options) are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.
- Portions marked with * are when we invite you to stand as you are able to do so.
- We encourage you to participate throughout the worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!
- There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local ministry as well as the wider church.
- We will commune from our respective seats, where the presiding minister will invite you to open your respective cups with the Communion elements. We believe this meal is for everyone who wishes to partake, regardless of church affiliation or lack thereof. This tangible gift of God's love is meant for the world to enjoy!

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

Ministers
Presiding Minister
Organist
Lector
Parish Administrator
Custodian

All People The Rev. Bradley Ross Robin Crawford Ted Lockmiller Jennifer Lasher-Dobush Vince Besednjak

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant 19000 Libby Rd. Maple Heights, OH 44137

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Holy Trinity Sunday

"O LORD our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Today we celebrate the holy Trinity. Paul writes that through Jesus we have peace with God, whose love pours into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, giving us lasting hope. We celebrate the gracious One-in-Three, eternal Three-in-One, as we worship in community; as we share water and word, bread and wine; and as we bring God's love and hope to our neighbors.

Prelude Abide With Me (Wood)

Welcome & Greetings

*Thanksgiving for Baptism

You may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at our baptism, forever uniting us as one family in our Risen Lord, and calling us to serve as disciples of Jesus Christ for the sake of the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In the waters of baptism, we have passed over from death to life with Jesus Christ +, and we are a new creation. For this saving mystery, and for this water, let us bless God, who was, who is, and who is to come.

We thank you, God, for your river of life, flowing freely from your throne: through the earth, through the city, through every living thing.

You rescued Noah and his family from the flood; You opened wide the sea for the Israelites. Now in these waters you surround us with mercy, and our sin is drowned forever. You open the gate of everlasting life and we pass safely through. In Jesus Christ, you calm troubled waters.

You nourish us and enclose us in safety. You call us forth and send us out. In lush and barren places, you are with us. You have become our salvation.

Now, breathe upon this water and awaken our Covenant family, and your whole church, once more. Claim us again as your beloved and holy people. Quench our thirst; cleanse our hearts; wipe away every tear. To you, our Beginning and our End, our Shepherd and Lamb, be honor, glory, praise, and thanksgiving, now and forever!

Amen!

*Gathering Hymn Come, thou Almighty King

ELW #408

The grace of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all! And also with you.

Canticle of Praise This is the Feast

ELW pg. 140

Prayer of the Day

God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us with your never-ending love, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he has already shared with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen!**

^{*}Greeting

In the Bible, wisdom is portrayed in terms sometimes human and sometimes divine. Often, wisdom is personified as feminine. In this passage, Woman Wisdom is depicted not only as the first creation of God, but also as God's helper, rejoicing in God's creation, especially in human beings.

¹Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? ²On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand: ³beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: 4"To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. ²²The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. ²³Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. ²⁴When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. ²⁵Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth— ²⁶when he had not yet made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil. ²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, ²⁸when he made firm the skies above. when he established the fountains of the deep, ²⁹when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, ³⁰then I was beside him, like a master worker: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, ³¹rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race."

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 8

The bold verses are sung by the congregation using the tone below.



Antiphon: Your glory is chanted above the heavens. (Ps. 8:2)

¹O | LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

²you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe $\ \$ and avenger. Antiphon

³When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers, the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,

⁴what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them, human beings that you should | care for them? *Antiphon*

⁵Yet you have made them little less | than divine; with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

⁶You have made them rule over the works | of your hands; you have put all things un-| der their feet:

⁷all | flocks and cattle,

even the wild beasts of the field,

8the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea, and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.

⁹O LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth! Antiphon

Second Lesson Romans 5:1-5

Paul describes the life of faith with reference to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Even now, we have peace with God through Jesus, and our hope for the future is grounded in the love of God that we experience through Christ's Holy Spirit.

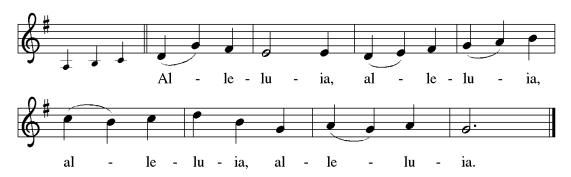
¹Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance

produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Word of God, word of life!

Thanks be to God!

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel John 16:12-15 *Jesus' ongoing presence with the disciples will be made known through the coming Spirit who will guide them and communicate to them Jesus' will and glory.*

The Gospel according to John 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

[Jesus said,] ¹²"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

This is the holy Gospel of our Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Abide with Me

ELW #629

*Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

* Prayers of Intercession

United in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the creation, and all in need.

A brief silence.

One God, giver of life, you established peace through your Son and gave your whole church the hope of sharing in your glory. As the Holy Spirit, enliven our Covenant family to speak and act in love for the sake of the world. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator of all, you rejoice in creation and have given humankind responsibility for the works of your hands. Instill in everyone a passionate care for the earth, especially in areas threatened by ecological devastation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

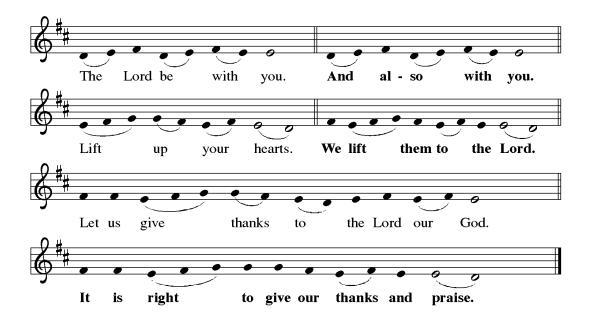
Loving Redeemer, you delight in the human race. Move the hearts of world leaders to seek wisdom, speak truth, and care for all endangered by poverty, prejudice, or violence. Further the work of international collaboration and peacemaking. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding Comforter, you call out to all who live. Restore severed relationships and protect children who lack trustworthy caregivers. Grant hope to those who are experiencing fear, pain, or grief. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

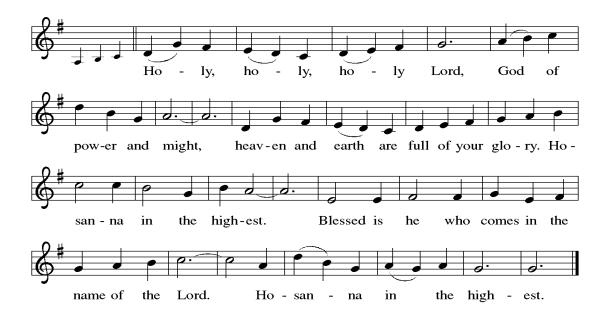
Holy Three, you are community and you create community of hope and new life. Build up ministries that support those who are isolated or lonely. Give endurance as we nurture vital relationships in our family, the church, and beyond. We remember your saints for their strong faith and witness, even unto death. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of every time and place, in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Spirit, we entrust these spoken prayers and those in our hearts into your holy keeping. **Amen!**

* Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



*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, continue to come upon us and upon 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.

*Invitation to Communion

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Taste the banquet of everlasting life!

Thanks be to God!

Communion

Music Interlude Prelude on "Nicaea" (Williams)

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.
Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may know your never-ending love.
This we pray in the name of Jesus, our Risen Lord. Amen!

*Blessing

The God of peace, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen!**

ELW #413

Go in peace. Love your neighbor as yourselves!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Voices Raised To You (Ore)

^{*}Sending Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

^{*}Dismissal

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Mary Kaye Bernardo, Annie Brown, Bob Buettner, Joan Clarke, John Crawford, Nicole Crawford, Barbara Fossa, Carolyn Frajter, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Nealie Gage, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Clare Hanusz, Alex Hohenstein, Judy Jones, Dylan King, Jason Lanese, Sara Mendes, Phyllis Nemeth, Steve Senderak, Gary Smith, Arlene Stoltz, Marie Storms, Tom Susanek, Phyllis Treichel, Phyllis Welker, 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, the Peypo family.



We will start worshiping from our parking lot on Sunday, July 3 (9am), and will continue to do so through the months of July and August. In the meantime, we will continue worshiping in our sanctuary. When we worship outside, bulletins and Communion will be available to be picked up by the side office door, and you will be invited to remain in your car or bring your own lawn chair, and enjoy the Creation, as we praise the still-Creating God! If the weather does not cooperate for any of those Sundays in July and August, we will move into the sanctuary.

Bishop Barbins Here Next Sunday!



Bishop Laura Barbins will be here at Covenant to lead worship next Sunday, June 19. We hope you can join us to hear her preach, bringing Good News from the wider church. Laura Barbins was elected bishop on September 11, 2020, and took office December 1, 2020. Prior to her call to the Office of Bishop, she was the pastor of Celebration Lutheran, Chardon, Ohio for 19 years, Interim Pastor at Messiah Lutheran, Fairview Park, Ohio for 1 year, and Associate Pastor for

Youth at Holy Trinity, Nashville, Tennessee for 2 years. Holding a PhD in New Testament and Homiletics, Bishop Barbins has also been Adjunct Professor for Preaching at Trinity Seminary at Capital University since 2018. Bishop Barbins lives in Mentor, Ohio with her husband and four daughters. When able, she enjoys gardening and travel.

Lectionary Blog: The Active Spirit

In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus gives direct testimony about the Spirit. Certainly, the Spirit hasn't been absent from the biblical text to this point, but Jesus' closing speech to his disciples in John and the first Christian Pentecost in Acts reveal the Spirit in a way that we haven't previously known. In John 16, Jesus reintroduces his disciples to the Spirit and then tells them how much they—and he—will depend on the Spirit.

In the Gospel of John, we see that Jesus has been describing the Spirit's activities for some time. The Spirit will convict the world with regard to sin, righteousness and judgment (16:8) and will testify to the world about who Jesus is, seemingly independent of the work of human disciples (15:27—"[the Spirit] will testify about me, and you will testify also"). This week, we read about the "Spirit of truth."

Jesus knew that after his death, resurrection and ascension, there would be confusion and rumors about what had actually happened. What would people think about his band of disciples (numbering around a hundred) rejoicing that their dead rabbi had triumphed over the powers of sin and death in order to welcome all people(s) to the earthly and heavenly parties that don't stop? If I were a first-century Roman Jew, like Paul, I might have had serious doubts about whether the so-called "Spirit of truth" was on my side. And, truthfully, the Spirit was *not* by their side. Indeed, the Spirit was—and is—out front, going into places that don't make sense, among folks whom we don't know or trust. Acts is a series of questions about who else could be included in the Jesus movement. Non-Galilean Jews? Samaritans? Ethiopians? Romans? Greeks? Even Europeans? Absolutely!

But Jesus' disciples, almost all of them from Galilee, couldn't know how their rabbi's name and power would spread so quickly through the Spirit's testimony. How could they? Jesus had already told them so much that they couldn't fully digest. What does abundant and full life really mean anyway? Like any good instructor, Jesus knew when the material went beyond his students. As an educator, I'm always excited to point out that Jesus promises that the Spirit will partner equally with him to teach his disciples.

Jesus had much more that he wanted to teach his disciples, but they weren't ready to hear it (John 16:12). He had already promised that the Spirit would come to remind them of what he had taught and to teach everything they didn't have the capacity to learn from him (John 14:26). Indeed, Jesus, without any sense of jealousy, told his disciples that it would be *better* when he left them (John 16:7) because the Spirit couldn't be given fully until he went away (John 7:39, 16:7). This invites all sort of fruitful meditation on the relative strengths of God, Jesus and the Spirit. Is the Spirit the best educator, while Jesus is the best intercessor? At any rate, there is no competition—just cooperation. Jesus and the Spirit draw from a common supply of truth, power and wisdom: that of God the Father (John 16:14-15). They share disciples, truth and glory in a mutually giving, serving and edifying relationship.

That's all well and good for God, but where is the good news for us? I think it's this: in the United States, we are grappling with COVID-19, passionate disagreements concerning which and whose bodies are protected by which laws, continued racial injustice and violence, how best to respond to wars and rumors of wars overseas, and how to work together to steward creation. At least for me, it's more than I can humanly deal with all at once. I know I don't understand enough to speak confidently on many of the issues facing friends and neighbors around the planet. But hear the good news: Jesus already knows that. He knows I need more of God's wisdom than I can handle in any one moment. And the Spirit is a patient teacher of truth, leading by example, going ahead of us and daring, compelling and inviting us to follow in truth and love.

This Lectionary Blog, and other resources for the journey of faith, available at LivingLutheran.org.



Cory Driver is an ELCA missionary serving as the director of graduate studies at the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Cairo (Egypt). His book on wilderness spirituality, Life Unsettled, is available from Fortress Press.



Situation Report: Ukraine and Eastern Europe (June 6, 2022)June 6, 2022

More than three months since Russian troops invaded Ukraine, fighting continues to intensify as humanitarian conditions deteriorate. The United Nations' OCHA Ukraine: Humanitarian Report estimates that 6.6 million people have fled the country and 8 million are displaced internally. While the majority of the people who crossed borders to safety have remained in the neighboring countries, others have continued to other countries in Europe and beyond. The UN estimates that more than 24 million people — more than half of Ukraine's population — will need humanitarian assistance in the coming months.

The policy in Ukraine that prevented most men between the ages of 18 and 60 from leaving the country has resulted in forced separation of families. Far from their homes in Ukraine and often from their husbands and extended families, many mothers with children face the difficult challenge of creating a safe space and a version of stability for their families. In addition to continuing to meet the immediate needs of arriving refugees including food, shelter, hygiene kits and medical supplies, our partners in the region support those fleeing the violence in Ukraine with assistance in psycho-social care, pastoral care, housing, job searches, language study, school admission, legal services, cash assistance and other key integration support for individuals and families. Our support is also reaching communities not eligible for state-sponsored services for refugees, including Roma people and third-country nationals fleeing the violence in Ukraine.

Partners: Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (ECACP), Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania (ECACR), Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia (ECACS), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary, German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine (GELCU), and in collaboration with Lutheran World Federation (LWF), ACT Alliance, Church World Service (CWS), Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) and Phiren Amenca.

Partner update: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary (ELCH)

As the early-spring influx of refugees has slowed, the humanitarian needs have changed. In a recent interview on the ELCH website, Anna Gyöngés Kelemen, the head of the ELCH diaconal department, observed that "our tasks have changed to the extent that the focus is not on providing rapid assistance at border crossing points and nearby settlements, but on providing assistance to those who remain in Hungary temporarily or permanently in the medium and long term."

One of the ways the church is assisting is through a temporary school for Ukrainian children, set up in the basement of the ELCH office in Budapest. Though not an accredited educational institution, the school provides structure for children, allows them to continue learning, and enables their caregivers to have time to work or seek employment. The volunteer teachers are themselves refugees from Ukraine as well. The school serves children in first through eighth grades and approximately 50 children attend each day.

ELCH congregations, as well as the national church, are also assisting refugees with longer-term integration needs such as financial support, counseling, housing and more.

Partner Update: Lutheran World Federation

As of the end of May, LWF has opened two of six planned enrollment centers for refugees in Poland. The two centers, in Gdansk and Wroclaw, will serve a combined 37,000 families. Families will be able to enroll in a multi-purpose cash assistance program as well as access services including counselling for children experiencing post-traumatic stress and referral services for victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

"I have mixed feelings about today," said Allan Calma, LWF global humanitarian coordinator, at the opening in Gdansk on May 17. "I am happy that we can open this center today, but I am also thinking that we should not have an enrolment center in Gdansk. This war is not right, it is not right for women and children to flee their homes, to leave their husbands and fathers, and flee for safety."

"This war has divided a lot of people," he added. "But all I could see in the past weeks was people coming together and trying to be human."

The additional centers will be based in Ostróda, Zgierz, Bielsko-Biała and Bytom Miechowice, and will support a total of 56,000 households or about 168,000 people.

As the Wind Song



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931-2020

Music: WAIRUA TAPU, Lim Swee Hong, b. 1963

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Blessed Trinity

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CROSS AMEN SON BLESSED SIGN SPIRIT FATHER

PRAYER HOLY TRINITY