**All Saints Lutheran Church, ELCA**

**421 SW 19th St. Blue Springs, Missouri 64015 816-229-3633**

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## Sunday, June 01, 2025

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

## *You are absolutely invited into this sacred space.  We welcome all who are seeking God’s love and grace.  All Saints recognizes that we are all unique and beloved children of God.  We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has given us.  We affirm the sacredness of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.  We affirm the sacredness of all those who have experienced exclusion because of race, ability, age, or culture. We are committed to working towards anti-racism in ourselves and our community. We affirm the sacredness of all those who wrestle with addiction, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us.  We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ’s teaching to love one another as God loves us.  We need each other and our sincere hope is by being in community together, we will experience God’s presence in new and real ways.*

*The offering plate is by the main door to the sanctuary for your convenience.*

*We practice open communion at All Saints Lutheran Church. What does that mean? It means that if you believe and trust that Christ offers his body and blood For You, you are welcome at the table. At All Saints, we believe that Christ invites all people to the feast. “Come to the banquet for all is now ready.”*

***\*\*Stand as you are comfortable***

***Prelude***

***Announcements***

**\*\**Thanksgiving for Baptism***

Blessed be the Holy Trinity: the God who creates us and all that exists, the Risen One + in whom we are set free from sin, and the Spirit who strengthens and enlightens us with her gifts.

**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

We are joined to Christ in the waters of our baptism, made part of God’s holy family that extends to every time and every place. Through our baptisms, we are given new birth each day, and through the Word and the Meal we receive new life in abundance.

Let us give thanks for the saving gift of our baptism.

**Holy God, in our baptism you reached out your saving hand to give to us the gift of new life in you. You are the river of life, the source of all renewal and all joy.**

We are blessed by your gift of holy water: oceans and lakes, rivers and streams.

**We are blessed by your gift of the holy water which cleans and sustains our bodies.**

We are blessed by your gift of holy water: rain and clouds, puddles and pools.

**We are blessed by your gift of the holy water which nourishes flowerbeds and fields, and sustains all of creation.**

**We thank you for the gift of our holy baptism into Christ’s death and resurrection.**

**Wash away all our sin in your holy water.**

**Empower and encourage us to share the good news of the empty tomb.**

**Help us find the courage to speak and act toward justice for all your children.**

Refresh us and the world through this holy and living water.

Where there is drought, bring rain and renewal.

Where there is doubt and despair, bring hope.

Where war and chaos thrive, bring the promise of peace.

We ask all these things through Christ, the Risen One,

who reigns with you and the Spirit forever.

**Amen.**

***\*\*Entrance Hymn In Christ There is No East or West ELW#650***

***\*\*Greeting***

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*\*Kyrie ELW#157**

**\*\*Now the Feast and Celebration ELW#167**

***\*\*Prayer of the Day***

**Loving and Eternal God, you promised Abraham and Sarah that their descendants would number as the stars in heaven. With our baptism into Christ, you have given us new identities: we are your children, heirs of Abraham and Sarah along with all those who have gone before us. Help us to see your Spirit at work in our lives and in the lives of all whom you love. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

***Reading:*** **Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29**

1You foolish Galatians! Who has cast a spell over you, in spite of the clear and public portrayal you have had of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ? 2Let me ask one question: was it because you practiced the Law that you received the Holy Spirit, or because you believed what was preached to you? 3Are you so foolish that, having begun by the Spirit, you would now try to finish through human effort? 4Was everything you suffered in vain? If this is how you are ending up, it has all been in vain indeed! 5Does God give you the Spirit so freely and work miracles among you because you practice the Law, or because you believe what was preached to you?

6Recall that Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” 7Realize, then, that those who believe are the children of Abraham. 8Because scripture saw in advance that God would justify the Gentiles through faith, it foretold this Good News to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed in you.” 9So then all who believe are blessed along with Abraham, who believed first.

23Before faith came, we were under the constraint of the Law, locked in until the faith that was coming would be revealed. 24In other words, the Law was our monitor until Christ came to bring about our justification through faith. 25But now that faith is here, we are no longer in the monitor’s charge.

26Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. 27All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or citizen, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus.

29Furthermore, if you belong to Christ, you are the off-spring of Abraham, which means you inherit all that was promised.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God**

***\*\*Gospel Acclamation***

**\*\*Halle, Halle, Hallelujah ELW#172**

*Announcement of the Gospel*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

***Gospel:* Luke 1:68-79**

**68“Blessed are you, the Most High God of Israel—**

**for you have visited and redeemed your people.**

**69You have raised up a mighty savior for us**

**of the house of David,**

**70as you promised through the mouths of your holy ones,**

**the prophets of ancient times:**

**71salvation from our enemies**

**and from the hands of all our foes.**

**72You have shown mercy to our ancestors**

**by remembering the holy Covenant**

**you made with them,**

**73the oath you swore to Sarah and Abraham,**

**74granting that we,**

**delivered from the hands of our enemies,**

**might serve you without fear,**

**75in holiness and justice,**

**in your presence all our days.**

**76And you, my child, will be called**

**the prophet of the Most High,**

**for you’ll go before our God**

**to prepare the way for the Promised One,**

**77giving the people the knowledge of salvation**

**through forgiveness of their sins.**

**78Such is the tender mercy of our God,**

**who from on high**

**will bring the Rising Sun to visit us,**

**79to give light to those who live**

**in darkness and the shadow of death**

**and to guide our feet**

**into the way of peace.”**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon "Identity"**

***Hymn of the Day* All Are Welcome ELW#641**

\*\***Affirmation of Faith – Immigrant’s Creed by Jose Luis Casal**

**I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home, who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger. When he returned to his own country he suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power. Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and unjustly condemned to death. But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead, not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God’s kingdom.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God’s kingdom among us, who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.**

**I believe that the Church is the secure home for foreigners and for all believers. I believe that the communion of saints begins when we embrace all God’s people in all their diversity. I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God, and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness. I believe that in the Resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time. I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be foreigner but all will be citizens of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever. Amen.**

***\*\*Prayers of Intercession***

**God of Love, hear the prayers that we lift before you. Hold close to you all those for whom we pray.**

Welcoming God, you invite all people to come and encounter your love. Give your church open hearts and minds to embrace all who seek your presence. Increase the capacity for cooperation between denominations and congregations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You call us by name and form us. Nurture the baptized to receive your Spirit and proclaim boldly the grace, justice, and mercy of your reign. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your might is seen in storms and in silence. Where drought threatens, bring rain. Where waters flood, ease them back. Where fire, earthquake, hurricane, or tornado destroy, shelter your people and restore your land. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Discerning God, fill the hearts of leaders with your passion for justice and mercy. Call the nations of this world to tables of peace and collaboration. Encourage governments to seek avenues of collective benefit and joy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Abiding God, all people are held in your care. Accompany survivors of abuse, trauma, and exploitation. Strengthen our resolve to listen and advocate on behalf of all who are unnoticed. Hear our prayers for those close to our heart struggling especially Monty, Paul, Linda, Betty F, Carla, Becky H., Becky W., David, William and family, Helen, Larry, Stephen, Jennifer, Otto, Fran, Tammy, families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near. Comfort all those impacted by the tornadoes in the Midwest. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, be with this congregation as summer begins in the northern hemisphere. Keep travelers safe. Keep the vulnerable cool. Invigorate summer ministry efforts in our community, and support the well-being of children and young people. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for Border Servant Corps and all ministries and volunteer organizations whose mission is to care for those on the margins, and whose purposes are being challenged and budgets cut. Empower us, your people, to rise up in support. Hear us, O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, the beginning and the end, you are with us throughout our lives. In gratitude for the saints who have died, we look toward your coming again among us. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

**Good and loving God, we give everyone we have prayed for into your care. Amen.**

*\*\** ***Sharing of the Peace***

### *\*\*Offering is brought forward*

### *\*\** *Offertory Response*

### *As the Grains of Wheat (Refrain Only) ELW#465*

### *\*Blessing of CSL Gifts*

### *\*\*Offertory Prayer*

**Good and loving God, all you have created is good. Help us to be generous with that which you have first given us, so that we can respond to those who hunger in any way. As we gather now at your Table, prepare us to go out and proclaim Christ’s resurrection through what we say and do.** **Amen.**

**Dialogue**

The Risen Christ is with you!

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts in joyful praise!

**We lift them up to God in joy!**

We give thanks to God!

**It is good and right to raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving!**

**\*\*Preface:** As we celebrate Christ’s resurrection from the dead… this hymn of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy ELW#191**

***\*\*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.**

***Invitation to Communion***

# ***Communion Hymn One Bread, One Body ELW#496***

### *\*\*Sending Song*

### *Praise to you, O God of Mercy ELW#208*

### *\*\*Prayer After Communion*

**Alleluia! We give you thanks, risen Lord, for your life-giving presence among us. You have fed and refreshed us with the healing gift of life. Now send us out to share the good news of the empty tomb, through all that we say and do. Amen! Alleluia!**

### *\*\*Blessing*

### *\*\*Closing Hymn Oh, Worship The King ELW#*842

### *\*\*Dismissal*

Go in peace to serve our Risen Christ. Alleluia!

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

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**Weekly Attendance**

***Week of May 25***

***18***

***Vigil***

***08***

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**Calendar of Events**

***Today***

* ***Adult Bible Study***
* ***Blessings of CSL Contributions***

***This Week***

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| --- | --- |
| ***June 03*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***June 05-07*** | ***Synod Assembly*** |
| ***June 07*** | ***Kansas City Pride Parade 11:00 am*** |

***Upcoming Events***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***June 08*** | ***Pentecost*** |
| ***June 08*** | ***Tyler Melton’s Graduation Party after Worship*** |
| ***June 10*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***June 14*** | ***Men’s Breakfast 8:00 am Perkins by Walmart*** |
| ***June 15*** | ***Father’s Day*** |
| ***June 17*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***June 18*** | ***Council Meeting 6:30 pm*** |
| ***June 19*** | ***Juneteenth-Office Closed*** |
| ***June 22*** | ***Coffee with Council*** |
| ***June 24*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***June 28*** | ***Project Comfort 9:00 am-Noon*** |
| ***June 29*** | ***Fifth Sunday of Conversation*** |
| ***July 01***  | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***July 04*** | ***Independence Day-Office Closed*** |
| ***July 06*** | ***Blessing of CSL Contributions*** |
| ***July 08*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |
| ***July 13*** | ***Baptismal Birthdays*** |
| ***July 13*** | ***Installation of Church Council/Ice Cream Social after Worship/Photo OP*** |
| ***July 15*** | ***Creative Friends 1:00 pm*** |

Pastor Sarah, Lisa, and David will be attending synod assembly June 5-7. Please keep them and all of the assembly’s voting members in your prayers as they do the work of the synod, including the election of a new bishop. Please keep all of the candidates for bishop in your prayers, including those whose names have been put forward: Rev. Chad Langdon, Wichita, KS; Rev. Peter Rehwaldt, Mission Hills, KS; Rev. Donna Simon, Kansas City, MO; Rev. Zach Sturm, Overland Park, KS; and any additional nominations from the floor of the assembly.

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The book of Leviticus has kind of a bad reputation. We often think of it as being excessively rules-based, really strict, with regulations that don’t really apply to us any longer in our modern world. So much so that it seems like Leviticus has two purposes in modern Christianity – either to be ignored and set aside, or to have verses pulled out of context to be used to condemn others. But neither of those are a fair treatment of Leviticus. When we dive into it, we discover a text that we can wrestle with and learn from. A text that has much to teach us about faithfulness to God and to each other.

We will be exploring this book in a **7-part sermon series** this summer, starting on **Holy Trinity Sunday.**

* **June 15: Introduction/Holiness**
* **June 22: Sacrifices**
* **June 29: Worship (5th Sunday Conversation)**
* **July 06: Purification**
* **July 13: Holiness Code part 1**
* **July 20: Holiness Code part 2**
* **July 27: Sabbath/Conclusion**

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**“The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus (1849-1887)**

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

*(poets.org)*

This poem was written by Lazarus in 1883 as part of the fund-raising efforts for a base for the Statue of Liberty. It is cast on a plaque that is mounted on the inside of the base of the statue. Lazarus was an activist and advocate for Jewish refugees fleeing from Russian pogroms in the 1800s, and wrote the poem as a way to express empathy for Russian Jewish refugees to the US.

The statue was intended to be a symbol of republican (anti-imperialist) values; however, Lazarus’ poem gave it a new purpose, turning it into a symbol of welcome for immigrants and refugees at the front door of the country. *(Wikipedia article on “The New Colossus”)*

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*You may recall that there has been an announcement in the bulletin over the past year directing you to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) if you wish to support the people of Ukraine. LIRS has changed its name to Global Refuge and can be found at* ***globalrefuge.org****. Although their name has changed, their mission remains the same: to assist and support refugees in the United States and around the world. Visit their website to see all the ways you can support this important work.*

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**BLUE SPRINGS COMMUNITY SERVICE LEAGUE** *is very appreciative of your continued support of your neighbor.*

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**Questions for Reflection and Discussion**

1. We had a really interesting discussion at dinner the other night about stereotyping people, which I was thinking about while I was writing my sermon. I just couldn’t figure out a good way to work it in. But how do stereotypes harm us as people of faith? How do they constrain us in our relationships with others? This is certainly prevalent in high school thinking, or at least it was in my day, where students got “assigned” to a group by their peers early in high school and had a hard time breaking out of it. Some people didn’t necessarily want to; but for others, the shoe didn’t necessarily fit.
2. So of course, as I was thinking about this, I found myself thinking about a classic movie (I can call it “classic” if it’s 40 years old, right?) with a pretty memorable ending that addresses this same issue: “Dear Mr. Vernon, we accept the fact that we had to sacrifice a whole Saturday in detention for whatever it was we did wrong. But we think you’re crazy to make us write an essay telling you who we think we are. You see us as you want to see us – in the simplest terms, in the most convenient definitions. But we found out that each one of us is a brain…and an athlete…and a basket case…a princess…and a criminal. Does that answer your question? Sincerely yours, the Breakfast Club.”
3. Identity comes up in a number of ways in our text for today, both explicitly and implicitly. First, and most obvious, there’s verse 3:28. Second, there’s the question of being part of Abraham’s family. In ancient Judaism, the Abrahamic covenant was interpreted as being exclusive – the blessing to all nations was not necessarily interpreted to include gentiles. To Paul’s interpretation of this runs counter to what he would have learned growing up. And then, there’s the question of how we read what Paul says about the constraint of the Law, which some Christians through the centuries have read to mean that the promises of Christ supersede the promises God made in the Hebrew Testament, and the Jewish faith is no longer relevant. However, it’s important to remember that Paul is talking to a gentile audience who would have understood that many, if not most, followers of Christ were also Jewish – and would have assumed that there was no conflict.
4. The simplest and best explanation I have heard for reading this in a way that is faithful and inclusive to Judaism as well as Christianity is this: if, in Christ, new promises were made that replaced or were more important than the promises that God had made to Abraham, to David, etc., then that would mean that God had broken God’s promises to Abraham, David, etc. Then, that would mean that we worship a God that breaks promises. And we don’t believe that. So, therefore, we believe that while there may be new promises that have been made – they are not better; they are not replacements; they are simply additional promises, to a new people, to bring them – us – into belonging, alongside those who have come before.

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***Greeter –*** **June 01*-******Donna Taylor***

***Usher –* June 01*-Paul Blixrud***

***Altar Guild-* June 01-*Anne Lee***

***Reader-* June 01-*Sara Meyers***

***Communion Assistant-* June 01-*Flavia Via***

***Tech-* June 01*-Gary Antes***

**Prayer Requests**

***Monty Health Concerns (May 15)***

*Paul Health Concerns (May 31)*

*Mary Health Concerns (May 15)*

*Carla (Pr. George’s wife) Health Concerns (June 26)*

*James & Family Health Concerns (September 11)*

*Betty F (Sara’s friend) Health Concerns (September 23)*

*William and Family Health Concerns (September 25)*

*Becky H Health Concerns (October 28)*

*David Health Concerns (November 18)*

*Becky W Health Concerns (November 18)*

*Larry Health Issues (December 16)*

*Helen Health Issues (January 14)*

*Stephen Health Concerns (February 27)*

*Jennifer Health Concerns (February 27)*

*Otto Health Concerns (April 23)*

*Fran Health Concerns (April 23)*

*Tammy Daughter’s death (May 21)*

***Please pray for Border Patrol Servants***

***Please pray for the people of Haiti, Ukraine, Israel and Palestine.***

***Please pray for the people of the Sudan.***

***Please pray for the Homeless.***

***Please pray for legal & illegal immigrants & those seeking asylum or citizenship.***