

MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH & FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

A black and white photograph of a stained glass window. The window features a central circular design with a cross-like shape in the middle, surrounded by concentric circles and various geometric patterns. The text is overlaid on this background.

**Because I live,
you also
will live**

JOHN 14:19

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Setting Four—Non-Communion

INTRODUCTION

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and planted us in a well-watered garden. In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you watered us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life. We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

"Jesus Loves Me"

Hymn 595

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

p. 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p. 148

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

FIRST READING

Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the "unknown god" whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM**Psalm 66:8-20**

⁸Bless our | God, you peoples;
let the sound of | praise be heard.
⁹**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living**
and has not allowed our | feet to slip.
¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us;
you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.
¹¹**You brought us in- | to the net;**
you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.
¹²You 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—
¹⁴those 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 ox- | en and goats.
¹⁶Come 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.
¹⁸If 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.
²⁰Blessed be God, who has not reject- | ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing | love from me.

SECOND READING**1 Peter 3:13-22**

The author of 1 Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. *Alleluia.*

GOSPEL

John 14:15-21

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This 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. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Bishop Herman Yoos

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

Hymn 631

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

ANTHEM

“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

Busarow

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

p. 220

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

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.**

SENDING SONG

"Come, We That Love the Lord"

Hymn 625

DISMISSAL

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Altar Flowers & Bulletin Covers *are given to the glory of God by Sharon Mattern in honor of Sarah & Danny's birthdays on May 16th.*

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Trent Bozard, Ashlynn Busbee, Ashleigh Christine, David Cook, Michael Cook, Natalie Cook, Milton Hall, Harold Jones, Kayla Newman, Dalton Rodgers, Charles Sharpe, Todd Sharpe, Ben Smith, Eric Smith, Wendy Spainhour, Helen Summers, Charles Taylor.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Cheryl Hall, Elise Harmon, Ray Conrad.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Robert Cromer Jr., Brenda Smith, Alice Pollock, Penny Timmerman, Lucky Jones, Jennifer Brazzell, Hazel Rauch, Matthew Hook, Mary Hamson, Ann Callison, Adele Rodgers, Faye Smith, Lisa Long.

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Sydney Richardson, Betsy Adams, Emily Cobb, Chris Riggins, Bernice Collins, Nancy Reed, Tommy Roof, Isabelle Sundlie, Bill Hunnicutt.

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Andrew Hamson, Samuel Davis, Mike Willhide, Scott Hash, John Post, Dallas Phillips.

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Tom Bryant, Marcus Hayes, Tristan Mullen, Cory Fabian, Hayden Henneman, Edwin Taylor, Patrick Taylor, Edwin Torres, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Patrick Morris, Ben Barron, Barry Duncan, Michael Barfield, Adam Mintz, David Mathews, Bernd Koehler, John Ward.

The Family Of:

Howard Kleber Sr., Robert Smith, Gregg Avedisian, Robert "Bob" Livingston Sr., Julian White.

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date by calling the church office with any names to be added or removed. Otherwise, names remaining on the prayer list for more than 2 months will be removed.

I'll Not Turn Away

It's all about the relationship of love. Love is the first and the greatest of commandments, according to Jesus. This is the gospel of the Lord!

The two men seemed dissimilar in almost every way: their color, their age, their education and careers, their families and sexuality, the worlds they knew and the lives they had lived. All of it registered as a natural, albeit unconsidered, divide. When circumstances they could never have anticipated brought them together, the two began to accompany one another through years of capsized lives. They walked side by side in body and spirit, carrying along one another's stories, fears, losses, regrets, and joys, each daring to let them slip into his heart. Amid the ebb and flow of seasons, the unlikely companions discovered in one another stories that were their own. Something of each of them was in the other.

Call this grace: the wretched demons of loneliness that had haunted both men stumbled, adrift in the wake of the companions' fellowship.

Still, they knew that parting was ahead. The days of walking, conversing, and trusting the companionship would soon come to an end. So they began to speak of their impending separation in this way: "This is my promise: I'll see you on the other side of this." It was repeated with other words, which always meant "I will not turn away from you." Call this the gospel story.

Grace is found in mystery, when strange circumstances confound expectations. Love is found in experience, when trust is discovered and nurtured. In a form we are not looking for, another—the Advocate, Comforter, Counselor, Spirit—will come to us.

"I will not leave you orphaned," says Jesus. "I am coming to you" (John 14:18). It's all about the relationship of love.

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor

Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation

Mrs. Sandra Lindler, Interim Organist

Mrs. Elise Helms, Interim Choir Director

Rev. Emily Willhide, Pastor of Faith Formation

Vicar Justin Marx, Intern

Ms. Lorie Gladyness, Seminarian

Mrs. Karen Shevenell, Minister of Music, Faith