



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 24, 2020

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”



In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today’s gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Red Worship Book pg. 94-95

L: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

L: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Greeting

Red Worship Book pg. 147

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

Red Worship Book pg. 147-148

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Canticle of Praise

Red Worship Book pg. 149-150

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

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

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

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

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

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

Prayer of the Day

L: O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

First Reading: Acts 1:6-14

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

L: Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;

C: let those who hate God flee.

L: As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;

C: as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.

L: But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;

C: let them also be merry and joyful.

L: Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;

C: I AM is that name, rejoice before God!

L: In your holy habitation, O God,

C: you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

L: you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;

C: but the rebels shall live in desert places.

L: O God, when you went forth before your people,

C: when you marched through the wilderness,

L: the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,

C: at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

L: You sent a bountiful rain, O God;

C: you restored your inheritance when it languished.

L: Your people found their home in it;

C: in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

L: Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;

C: sing praises to the Lord.

L: You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;

C: you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.

L: Ascribe power to God,

C: whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

L: How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel,

C: giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Red Worship Book pg. 151

C: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

Gospel: John 17:1-11

¹After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true

God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

Sermon

“Essential Prayer: John 17:1-11”

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

Grace mercy and peace to you from God our Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

These last two months have been unlikely and unbelievable as our lives have changed from busy schedules and activities to staying home. We have heard much and many different opinions and hearing about the research and science, we search for answers for our world, our church and each other personally. I like each of you have turned to prayer. We join together or separately trusting God. Many times the words flow freely yet sometimes our prayer may be just, help me, forgive me, and walk with me. This is natural and all good.

In our Gospel reading for today we hear Jesus Christ praying on his last day on walking on the earth. Jesus prays for his disciples. Imagine sitting and hearing these words from Jesus Christ, listening in on his prayer when the disciples are hearing the King our Lord, glorified and praying to the Father on their behalf. Imagine this essential prayer from our one and only Jesus Christ.

He says at last, “Father the hour has come. Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you.” (John 17: 1) The hour has come and it is time. Unlike when he told his mother it was not his hour when he changed the water into wine, now is the time so that Jesus and God will be glorified.

The disciples are trusting Jesus Christ by listening in on his prayers. Jesus Christ first prays for himself, then for his disciples, and finally for us, the future believers. They are overhearing and sitting in the midst of the great, essential, life giving and lifesaving prayer, Jesus Christ our Savior.

This is the hour. This is the time. Jesus continues, “To give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” (John 17:3) We receive eternal life from God, given and taught through Jesus Christ. We trust and believe in him. The disciples have walked with him, heard him teach, showed them how to live and have an abundant life. Now we follow their lead. This eternal life is given to us right now at this time and place, now, not for later, knowing Christ brings you to knowing God and eternal life.

In recent days we have had much uncertainty. We are praying for the sick and vulnerable, for our families and friends, for work or lack of work, for those who are struggling and weary, for those missing out on celebrations and heartache, know this. Jesus Christ prays for you. We long for promises from Jesus Christ and we long to feel his presence among us. Essential prayer as we continue in strong faith.

On that thought, imagine the intimate relationship that you have with God. We can go to the Father through the Son knowing that we have this connection, this walk with God. When we realize this, we know that we are caught up in the life of God. Not just out of cooperation or duty, but a relationship with the divine. Just you and the divine. Just you and Jesus Christ. In our hard times, we point to the Father, in our sad times, we point

to the Father, in the in-between times we point to the Father and think, “I’m made in the image of God, I am His child, and He has got me covered.”

Life and death, yet Resurrection and living out the Easter promise every day. All because he loves us so much he gave us this promise. We remember his life and death that he chose that we might have eternal life, and that is a gift. Yet the real promise and what matters the most is that we know God, we know Jesus Christ and we have a relationship with him here and now. He is with us and walking with us and we are not and never will be alone.

What a relationship we are offered with the divine. You are that special. You are that loved. You are that forgiven. Jesus Christ prays for you and all people. He keeps his promises. Amen

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witness.”

Acts 1:9

Hymn

“This Is My Song”

Red Worship Book 887

1 This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.

2 My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine. But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine. So hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

3 This is my prayer, O God of all earth's kingdoms, your kingdom come; on earth your will be done. O God, be lifted up till all shall serve you, and hearts united learn to live as one. So hear my prayer, O God of all the nations; myself I give you; let your will be done.

Prayers of Intercession

L: 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.

(A brief silence).

L: O God, call your people to be one, as you are one. Unite your church in the truth of your gospel, the love of our neighbor, and the call to proclaim your reign to all people. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Breathe life into your creation. Guide your people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We pray for the work of scientists and mathematicians whose skill enriches our understanding . Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Make your justice known among the nations of the earth. Protect the vulnerable. Redirect those who use violence and greed as weapons. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Come to the aid of your children. We pray for those engulfed in grief, those without supportive families, and for all who are isolated, powerless, or afraid, that all may rest their anxieties in your care. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Give courage to all who embark on new ventures. We especially remember this day those who risked their lives to serve in our armed forces. Grant safety to those serving at home or abroad, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

L: Raise all your saints to eternal life. Until that day, we give you thanks for the faithful examples of those who have listened to your voice and now rest in you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

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

C: Amen.

Offering

Prayer

L: Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Feed us again at this table for service in your name, in the strength of the risen Christ.

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 154

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.

Benediction

May the Lord Bless you keep you, may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn

"Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory"

Red Worship Book 890

1 Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword: his truth is marching on.

Refrain

Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah! Glory, glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

2 He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat; he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat. Oh, be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet! Our God is marching on.

Refrain

3 In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea, with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me. As he died to make men holy, let us live to make men free, while God is marching on. **Refrain**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

the worship is ended ... let the service begin...

