



St. John Lutheran Church ELCA  
Waseca, MN



Sunday, May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday after Easter

## GATHERING

### 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

### Welcome and Announcements

(Please Stand)

### Gathering Hymn: (cranberry) #413 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty

- Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*
- Holy, holy, holy,! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.*
- Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee, though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in pow'r, in love and purity,*
- Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All they works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!*

### Call to Worship

As we gather together, we remember that we are not alone in our faith

#### **God is our Companion.**

Though the Way is not easy, and we may suffer in righteousness,

#### **God is our Comfort.**

When anger fills our hearts, and grief crushes our spirits,

#### **God is our Counselor.**

And through it all, we are together:

**For we are all children of God, our Companion, our Comfort, and our Counselor. Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: 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.**

(Please be seated)

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### First 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.*

<sup>13</sup>Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? <sup>14</sup>But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, <sup>15</sup>but 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; <sup>16</sup>yet 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. <sup>17</sup>For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. <sup>18</sup>For 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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who 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. <sup>21</sup>And 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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

R The Word of God, word of life.

**C Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

### Gospel Acclamation (cranberry) pg. 205 *Alleluia! Lord and Savior*

*Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.*

*Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.*

*Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.*

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P *The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.*

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: John 14:15-21**

*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:] <sup>15</sup>“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>This 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.

<sup>18</sup>“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup>In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup>On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup>They 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.”

P *The Gospel of the Lord.*

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

**Hymn (cranberry) #697 Just a Closer Walk with Thee**

**Refrain:**

**Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;  
daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

1. I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close too thee.

**Refrain~**

2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares? None buy thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

**Refrain~**

3. When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o'er to they kingdom shore, to thy shore.

**Refrain~**

**Message**

**The Holy Spirit and us**

Pastor John Omans

**Message Song (cranberry) #781 Children of the Heavenly Father**

1. *Children of the heav'nly Father safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven such a refuge e'er was given.*
2. *God his own doth tend and nourish, in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them, in his mighty arms he bears them.*
3. *Neither life nor death shall ever from the Lord his children sever;  
Unto them his grace he showeth, and their sorrows all he knoweth.*
4. *Though he giveth or he taketh, God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely to preserve them pure and holy.*

(Please Stand)

## 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.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** 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.**

**P:** God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

*P: Hear us O God;*

**Hymn: (cranberry) #751 O Lord, Hear My Prayer (*The Lord Is My Song*)**

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, answer me.*

*O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and listen to me.*

## Peace

*P The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**C And also with you.**

## THANKSGIVING

### Stewardship Minute

*P Thank you today for the ministry of hospitality! For people who ‘check-in’ on the St. John Facebook page with a post and a few words of welcome or missing you; for all those who welcome each other in our Sunday morning Facebook live worship; for all who those who call, text, email, or message others and say, ‘thank you for being part of this faith community!’*

**Offering Invitation** (*Spoken by Pastor John*)

(please stand until the end of service)

### Offering prayer

*P: Merciful God,*

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### The Lord’s Prayer

**C 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.**

## SENDING

### Blessing

*P:* 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.

**C: Amen.**

### Sending Song (cranberry) #423 **Shall We Gather at the River**

1. *Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,  
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?*

*~Refrain~*

***Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.***

2. *On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,  
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.*

*~Refrain~*

3. *Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down;  
grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.*

*~Refrain~*

4. *Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;  
Soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.*

*~Refrain~*

### Sending

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### Postlude

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### Leaders in the Service

**Pastor:** John Omans   **Organist:** Al Tonn   **Videographer:** Curt Yess   **Lector:** Nadine Omans

**Thank you to all these members of St. John for offering their time and talents.**