



**St. John Lutheran Church ELCA
Waseca, MN**

Sunday, May 2, 2021
Fifth Sunday after Easter
Service of the Word

GATHERING

Introduction

The world changed, and few seemed to notice. In our reading from Acts, a man of faith named Cornelius (a Roman official) and Peter encounter God's dream to draw together a diverse and inclusive community of faith. Gentiles (a designation for all countries, skin colors, and ethnic groups) are welcome to join the Christian community without leaving behind their cultural particularities. Peter understands that his vision is not about food but about people. This is a story of transformation. Cornelius and his household receive the Holy Spirit. But Peter is transformed as well by this encounter. Peter discovers that Jesus' call to be witnesses to all the world means the church will be called to embrace the ethnic diversity of world.

Prelude

(Please Stand)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
C: Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!
P: We come to this place where God pours out love on us,
C: we join our voices in praise, as our fears are left behind.
P: We gather with these people, those who seek to follow Jesus,
C: so we might walk the paths of service hand in hand.
P: We open our hearts to the gifts of the Spirit,
C: so that grace and peace might be the fruit we bear.

Opening Hymn: (cranberry) #715 Christ, Be Our Light

1. *Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.*

~Refrain~

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

2. *Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.*

~Refrain~

3. *Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.*

~Refrain~

***Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

4. *Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.*

~Refrain~

5. *Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come.*

~Refrain~

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray together:

P: God of all nations,

C: you made it clear that all people are invited to partake of the glory of your salvation. Help us to invite all people to your goodness, so that no one might be forgotten in your saving grace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Hymn of Praise #764 Have No Fear, Little Flock

1. *Have no fear, little flock; have no fear, little flock,
for the Father has chosen to give you the kingdom; have no fear, little flock!*

2. *Have good cheer, little flock; have good cheer, little flock,
for the Father will keep you in his love forever; have good cheer, little flock!*

3. *Praise the Lord high above; praise the Lord high above,
for he stoops down to heal you, uplift and restore you; praise the Lord high above!*

4. *Thankful hearts raise to God; thankful hearts raise to God, for
he stays close beside you, in all things works with you; thankful hearts raise to God!*

(Please be seated)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Acts 10:1-17, 23-24, 34-35

Peter crosses the ethnic boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. Peter announces that God's forgiveness in Jesus' name reaches to all people.

¹In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian Cohort, as it was called. ²He was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God. ³One afternoon at about three o'clock he had a vision in which he clearly saw an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius." ⁴He stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" He answered, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. ⁵Now send men to Joppa for a certain Simon who is called Peter; ⁶he is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the seaside." ⁷When the angel who spoke to him had left, he called two of his slaves and a devout soldier from the ranks of those who served him, ⁸and after telling them everything, he sent them to Joppa.

⁹About noon the next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray. ¹⁰He became hungry and wanted something to eat; and while it was being prepared, he fell into a trance. ¹¹He saw the heaven opened and something like a large sheet coming down, being lowered to the ground by its four corners. ¹²In it were all kinds of four-footed creatures and reptiles and birds of the air. ¹³Then he heard a voice saying, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is profane or unclean." ¹⁵The voice said to him again, a second time, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." ¹⁶This happened three times, and the thing was suddenly taken up to heaven.

¹⁷Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon's house and were standing by the gate.

^{23b}The next day he got up and went with them, and some of the believers from Joppa accompanied him. ²⁴The following day they came to Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends.

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

R The Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand)

Gospel Acclamation (cranberry) Pg. 205 Alleluia

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 tenth chapter.*

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

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Jesus makes clear that there are "other sheep" yet to be welcomed into his fold. Jesus' words anticipate a diverse community of faith with people from every nation, ethnicity, race, and color, united under his shepherding care.

[Jesus said:] ¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they

will listen to my voice. So, there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Hymn (cranberry) #789 Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

1. *Savior like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.*
2. *We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.*
3. *You have promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
You have mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to you.*
4. *Early let us seek your favor, early let us do your will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus you have loved us, love us still.*

Message

When God gives a dream

Pastor John Omans

Message Song (cranberry) #641 All Are Welcome (1, 2, 4, 5)

1. *Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
~Refrain~
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*
2. *Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
~Refrain~*
4. *Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the out cast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger:
~Refrain~*

5. *Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words with in the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace,, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:*

~Refrain~

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

(Please Stand)

Apostles' 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 into hell. 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 the People

Prayer Response: (cranberry) #751 Oh Lord, Here My Prayer

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 too me.

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Share a greeting of Christ's peace with one another.

(We share Christ's Peace)

(please be seated)

THANKSGIVING

Stewardship Minute

P Thank you to Terry and Amanda Huber for offering their place for a Congregational Fellowship Activity! (Isn't it time for us to all enjoy being together once again?) Here is the invitation: "Everyone is welcome to come out to the farm and enjoy the animals. This is open to all ages!"

May 23rd, 2021 ... 11:00 am-4:00 pm at the Terry & Amanda Huber Farm

34073 150th St. Waseca MN. Watch for more details. See you all there!

Offering Invitation (Noisy Offering)

(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

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

on earth as it is heaven.

Give us today 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 our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

Sending Song (cranberry) #661 I Love to Tell the Story

- 1. I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true: it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.*

~Refrain~

***I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old,
old story of Jesus and his love.***

2. *I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat what seems,
each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message
of salvation from God's own holy word.*

~Refrain~

***I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old,
old story of Jesus and his love.***

3. *I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering
and thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new,
new song, I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long.*

~Refrain~

Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

P: Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Leaders in the Service

Pastor: John Omans

Organist: Jan Macklay

Ushers: Craig & Cathy Johnson

Acolyte: Lexi Kanewischer

Reader: Marsha Bartz

Church Council: Koni Hudak

Videographer: Marcia & Dennis Bartz

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