

Because I live,
you also
will live

JOHN 14:19

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 17, 2020

Pastor Jim Helgren

Prelude & Announcements

Opening Hymn

P: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!!

C: Christ is Risen! Alleluia!!

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

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: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage 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

Brief Order of Confession

Hymn of Praise – spoken

C: This joyful Eastertide, Away with sin and sorrow! My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow. Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst his three-day prison, Our faith had been in vain. But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen; But now has Christ arisen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day

See Insert

The First Lesson: Acts 17:22-31

See Insert

Psalm 66:8-20

See Insert

Second Lesson: 1 Peter 3:13-22

See Insert

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: The Gospel according to St. John, the 14th chapter

See Insert

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P:The Gospel of the Lord"

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Apostles' Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 Church

The 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, the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

Benediction and Dismissal

Closing Hymn

Postlude

We pray always for . . .

*Marilyn Anderson, Robert Armknecht, Grace Bentzinger, Verna Brinkman,
Luetta Bruns, Linda Daniels, Eldon Dieckgrafe, Erin Ebeler Rolf,
David Eisenhauer, Bruce Gerking, Axl Walters, Will Yank,
our military men and women, their families and their leaders.*

We also remember in our prayers . . .

Grace, Oscar & Sabra, orphans we are sponsoring in Tanzania.

*Please put items for the bulletins & newsletter in the secretary's box
in the south office. You may email the church office
grace68329@gmail.com NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS*

***You may contact Pastor Helgren by calling 402-864-4201 (church)
402-864-2113 (home) or 402-826-0613(cell)***

*Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to Grace & Louis
Benzinger on the passing of Grace's sister Leona Druin of
Volin, South Dakota on May 5th.*

Today 5/17/20

Worship – 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday 5/19/20

Church Council – 7:00 p.m.

NEXT SUNDAY 5/24/20

Worship – 8:30 a.m.



Today's Readings

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020

Prayer of the Day

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.**

First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way.²³ For 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.²⁴ The 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,²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.²⁶ From 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

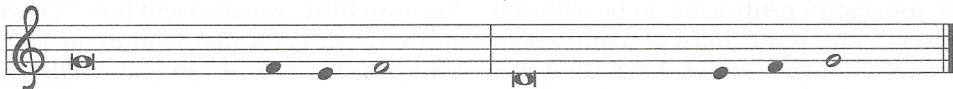
they would live,²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said,

'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.³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ because 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."

Psalm

Psalm 66:8-20; tone 6



Bless our¹ God, you peoples;
let the sound of¹ praise be heard.
⁹Our God has kept us
a-¹ mong the living
and has not allowed our¹ feet to slip.
¹⁰For you, O God, have¹ tested us;
you have tried us
just as sil-¹ ver is tried.
¹¹You brought us in-¹ to the net;
you laid heavy burdens
up-¹ on our backs.

¹²You let people ride over our heads;
we went through¹ fire and water,
but you brought us out
into a place¹ of refreshment.

¹³I will enter your house
with burnt offerings
and will pay¹ you my vows—

¹⁴those that I promised¹ with my lips
and spoke with my mouth
when I¹ was in trouble.

continued

¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings
of fatlings with the ¹ smoke of rams;
I will give you ox- ¹ en and goats.
¹⁶Come and listen, all you ¹ who believe,
and I will tell you
what God has ¹ done for me.
¹⁷I called out to God ¹ with my mouth,
and praised the Lord
¹ with my tongue.

¹⁸If I had cherished evil ¹ in my heart,
the Lord would ¹ not have heard me;
¹⁹but in truth ¹ God has heard me
and has attended to the sound
¹ of my prayer.

²⁰Blessed be God,
who has not reject- ¹ ed my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing ¹ love from me.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

Who 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 un-

righteous, 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.

Gospel

John 14:15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "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."

Guidelines for Attending Church

That is a weird title. Do any of our members not know how to attend church? And yet we will have to do things much differently than we did our last worship on March 15.

- 1. If you do not feel comfortable being around people or coming to church – please stay home.**

Yes, you need to wear a mask.

This is a requirement sent to us by our insurance company.

We are planning to share the worship on Facebook also.

- 2. Stay 6 feet apart from non-family members. Please begin filling the church from front to back, as we will dismiss from back to front in order to prevent people from passing by people sitting on the end of the pews.**

**USE HAND SANITIZER AS YOU ARE
ENTERING AND LEAVING THE CHURCH**

We will not be singing or using the hymnals.

- a. Space yourself in the pews so as not to sit next to, behind, in front of anyone less than 6 feet. Family members may sit together. Two pews separation should do the trick. Council has pews taped off as guidelines.**
- b. When entering the church pick up your own bulletin and communion card. There will be a plate to place your communion card in when you leave the church.**
- c. There will be a plate available for offerings on the table with the bulletins. No offering will be collected.**

- d. Do not linger in the church to visit – please exit the west doors and do not stand blocking the exit. The weather should be nice enough to visit (with your masks on) and keep social distancing on the lawn following worship. There will not be fellowship in the church basement for the time being.
- 3. No touching. Wave or nod your head as you say good morning or when you pass the peace.
- 4. Communion will be done with wafer and juice communion sets when they become available. Pick a set up when you pick up your bulletin. They will be in a baggie for disposal into trash cans at the back of the church to dispose of on your way out. This will hopefully keep grape juice droplets from staining the pew cushions. Little boxes of raisins will be available for the children.
Congregation members will not come forward to receive communion. Pastor will direct congregation when to open their communion set and we will receive together. There will be a learning curve to discover the best way to do this for each congregation. These communion sets are on back order and will not be shipped before May 15.
- 5. Pastor will probably not greet you as you leave but will be outside to visit, with social distancing.
- 6. You may not be able to sit in “your” pew. This will feel uncomfortable. Pastor and Church Council don’t like it either, but we must worship safely so we can live to serve God.

WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH!

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!