

CHRIST'S UNITED ✠ ST. JAMES ✠ FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Ashland/Pitman/Hegins

Seventh Sunday of Easter ✠ May 24, 2020 ✠

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings in the name of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ. This is the seventh Sunday of Easter Today, we honor our graduates. Also, this is Memorial Day weekend.

- If you have any pastoral care needs, please call the pastors at the Lutheran parsonage at **570-652-1951**. Also, visit our church websites for more information.
- *Remember your offering. Now more than ever, your congregation depends on you for financial support. Mail in your offering or give on-line.*

Our Lord is risen and has sent an Advocate to be with us always.

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.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

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.**

HYMN ELW#656 "BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS"

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| 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the unity of heart and mind is like to that above. | 3 We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear, and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear. |
| 2 Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares. | 4 From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; and perfect love and friendship reign through all eternity. |

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... 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. **Amen.**

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES

A reading from Proverbs: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

*We honor the following students who are graduating this year, each a member of one of our three congregations: **Maci, Deidre, Kaitlyn, Kylie, Ryan, Bryce, Logan, Hannah, Maddison, and Chelsea***

The Pastor continues with the prayer and blessing.

Let us pray...God of life and growth, you have created us in your image and we give you thanks for the ways you speak to us and through us. We ask you to generously bless these young people and remain with them as a Guide in their lives. May they always be pleasing in your sight. Increase in them a desire for wisdom and insight that they may use what they have learned for the sake of the common good. May they be lights to the world, sharing your good news wherever they go. We pray in the name of the one who taught disciples and told stories, Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The Pastor continues:

You have learned and taught.

Thanks be to God!

You have grown and matured.

Thanks be to God!

You have explored and created.

Thanks be to God!

You have loved and been loved.

Thanks be to God!

Now, enter into rest and play, the re-creation of summer. And all God's people said:

Amen!

THE DAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR: SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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.

FIRST READING: ACTS 1:6-14

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.

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.

EASTER VERSE & ALLELUIA

Alleluia. I will not leave you orphaned, says the Lord. I am coming to you. *Alleluia.* (John 14:18)

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 17th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: JOHN 17:1-11

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.

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 the LORD.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

“Dy-no-mite”

Pr. Laura A. Csellak

HYMN ELW#796 “HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION”

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| 1 | How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word! What more can he say than to you he has said who unto the Savior for refuge have fled? | my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply. The flames shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine." |
| 2 | "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, for I am your God and will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand." | 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love; and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne." |
| 3 | "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie, | |

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

SHARING OF THE PEACE *A sign of peace is shown by bowing.*

The peace of the LORD be with you always.

And also with you.

THE PRAYERS *Response: "Hear our prayer."*

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.

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 kingdom to all people. We especially pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Samuel, and all who lead your Church.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Lord, make your justice known among the nations of the earth. We pray for government leaders, that they will set aside their own quests for glory and work as humble servants for the sake of your people. Protect the weak, lonely, and those most vulnerable. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Breathe life into your creation. Guide your people as faithful stewards of the earth. We pray for the work of scientists and mathematicians and all, *like Nicholas Copernicus and Leonard Euler, whom the church commemorates today*, whose skill enriches our understanding of the world around us. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Come to the aid of your children. We pray those affected by the coronavirus and all who are sick, 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,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

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,

hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

BENEDICTION

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.**

HYMN ELW#826 "THINE THE AMEN"

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| 1 Thine the amen thine the praise alleluias angels raise thine the everlasting head thine the breaking of the bread thine the glory thine the story thine the harvest then the cup thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up. | 3 Thine the truly thine the yes thine the table we the guest thine the mercy all from thee thine the glory yet to be then the ringing and the singing then the end of all the war thine the living thine the loving evermore evermore. |
| 2 Thine the life eternally thine the promise let there be thine the vision thine the tree all the earth on bended knee gone the nailing gone the railing gone the pleading gone the cry gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high. | 4 Thine the kingdom thine the prize thine the wonder full surprise thine the banquet then the praise then the justice of thy ways thine the glory thine the story then the welcome to the least |

- then the wonder all increasing
at thy feast at thy feast.
- 5 Thine the glory in the night
no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree
then the Lamb eternally
then the holy holy holy
celebration jubilee
thine the splendor thine the brightness
only thee only thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
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LEADING WORSHIP

PRESIDING

Pr. Laura Csellak and Pr. Mark Swanson

VIDEOGRAPHER

Mr. Gary Klinger

THIS WEEK ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR...

SUNDAY, MAY 24: NICOLAUS COPERNICUS, D. 1543; LEONHARD EULER, D. 1783; SCIENTISTS

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27: JOHN CALVIN, RENEWER OF THE CHURCH, DIED 1564

Gifted both as a systematic theologian and as an interpreter of scriptures, Calvin embraced the Reformation, and as a preacher in Geneva, Switzerland, brought a theocratic government to it. He is regarded as the father of the Reformed churches.

FRIDAY, MAY 29: JIRI TRANOVSKÝ, HYMNWRITER, DIED 1637

Tranovský is considered to be the father of Slovak hymnody as well as an important reformer of the Slavic church. He translated the Augsburg Confession (the basis of Lutheran teachings) and published a collection of Slovak hymns.

