

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Worship
Sunday, May 17, 2020 – Sixth Sunday of Easter
<https://vimeo.com>

Prelude - Wondrous Love

setting by Jacqueline Nappi

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn - What Wondrous Love Is This

666

We gather in the name of the Father ☩ and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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.

Amen.

Most merciful God,

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST

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

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

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

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Let us pray

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.

WORD

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For 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. ²⁴The 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, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

²⁶From 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, ²⁷so 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. ²⁸For ‘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. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

³¹because 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 66:8-20

Refrain



Bless our God, you peo - ples; let the sound of praise be heard.

Refrain

⁸Bless our | God, you peoples; let the sound of | praise be heard.

⁹**Our God has kept us a- | mong the living and has not allowed our | feet to slip. Refrain**

¹⁰For you, O God, have | tested us; you have tried us just as sil- | ver is tried.

¹¹**You brought us in- | to the net; you laid heavy burdens up- | on our backs.**

¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through | fire and water,

but you brought us out into a place | of refreshment.

¹³**I will enter your house | with burnt offerings and will pay | you my vows—**

¹⁴those that I promised | with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I | was in trouble.

¹⁵**I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the | smoke of rams;**

I will give you ox- | en and goats. Refrain

¹⁶Come and listen, all you | who believe, and I will tell you what God has | done for me.

¹⁷**I called out to God | with my mouth, and praised the Lord | with my tongue.**

¹⁸If I had cherished evil | in my heart, the Lord would | not have heard me;

¹⁹**but in truth | God has heard me and has attended to the sound | of my prayer.**

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

Second 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.

¹³Who 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 unrighteous, 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

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:] ¹⁵“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.”

Hymn of the Day - Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**631****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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures, such as Eno River, Ellerbe Creek, Falls Lake, Neuse River, and Jordan Lake. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way, *especially Audrey, Barbara, Jan, Johanna, Tony, Sonja, Charlie, JoAnn, Leon, Judy, Janet, Carol, Jim, Joyce, Barbara, Ida, Debbie, Larry, Blanche, Leslie, Jim, Kaaren, Leigh*, and all those we name now in our hearts or on our lips. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of faith, hope, and love, remind us again that these three things endure. Each of them is a gift from you. Help us in this time of unending uncertainty to hold fast to the truth that your love never fails and that nothing can separate us from your love. We cry out to you in faith, knowing you are our only hope. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us, especially Kathleen Bost Fulps, sister of Deborah Bost. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. 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 our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

Great Thanksgiving

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,

the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;

who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels,

cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy Holy

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of powe'r and might; Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth,

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the
mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us,

Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

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.

Come to the banquet for all is ready.

Communion will be available in the church parking lot Sunday, from 10 to 11 am.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR. WE WILL COME TO YOU AND DELIVER A WAFER AND WINE OR GRAPE JUICE. IT WILL BE SERVED TO YOU IN A FOAM BOWL. PLEASE TAKE THE ELEMENTS AND DISTRIBUTE AMONG THOSE IN YOUR VEHICLE AND THEN DISPOSE OF THE CUPS AND BOWL WHEN YOU GET HOME.

Prayer after Communion

Life-giving God,
you have fed us with your word,
and our hearts burn within us.
Through this meal you have opened us to your presence.
Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Sending Hymn - My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

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Postlude - Fuga

by P. B. Czernohorsky (1684-1742)

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The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Audrey Pearson, Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Johanna Nikitscher, Tony Perrotte, Sonja and Charlie Bock, JoAnn and Leon Bowman, Judy Schlegel, Janet Ravert, Carol and Jim Sackett, Joyce Veazey, Barbara Anderson, Ida Elliott, Debbie Fullbright, Larry Jenkins, Blanche Bragg, Leslie Johnson, Jim Klausman, Kaaren Johanson, Leigh Stock

Our sympathy to the family of Kathleen Bost Fulps, sister of Debra Bost. Kathleen died on Sunday, May 10, 2020.

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time** - drop a note in the offering plate, email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews [Tony's mother], Robert Meissner [Tony's uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Byron Franzen (brother of David Franzen), Laura and Mike Smith (sister and her husband by Carol Sackett), Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), JoAnn Sackett (daughter-in-law of Carol and Jim Sackett), Kate Genaitis, Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte's), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Tom and Mary Jakubus (friend of Deb Tabert), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Tristan and Hailey Hunter (relatives of Deb Tabert), Cary Grant (friend of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Lydia Taylor (cousin of Bee Ellertson), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Bob and Ellie DeVries, Lenore Carnes (aunt of Pat Casper), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Al Deardorff (cousin-in-law of Marlene Coulter), LeRoy Farmer (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Gary Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Michele and Matthew [mother and baby] (relatives of Pat Casper), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Ron Blackwell (cousin of Pat Casper), Lenore Carnes (aunt of Pat Casper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Moe Johnson (uncle of Betty Hinshaw), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte)

St. Paul's Readers – We will have a zoom meeting on Thursday, May 21, at 3:00 pm to discuss both How Starbucks Changed My Life, by Michael Gil, and The Tattooist of Auschwitz, by Heather Morris. Looking ahead, the June book selection is Why Religion: A Personal Story, by Elaine Pagels.

Pour a cup of tea or coffee and join the Pastor and Vicar for Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11. We are looking forward to seeing you, chatting, and catching up. Here is the info:

Topic: Coffee Hour with the Pastor and Vicar

Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRIgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09>

Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753

Password: 292680

Scott Anderson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Bible Study on Thursday mornings.

Topic: **Bible Study - Acts** – You may download the lessons ahead of time by going to the home page of our website (stpaulsdurham.org)

Time: 10:30 am on Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/946532621?pwd=UTJqYjV0V3laMmpROStMdGRvTGfHUT09>

Meeting ID: 946 532 621

Password: 402561

St. Paul's Vacation Bible School 2020

The staff has met and discussed holding Vacation Bible School this summer but with the demands and difficulties surrounding the COVID 19 virus, it is not going to be possible. The CDC has laid out guidelines for how to safely hold a day camp this summer which makes any typical or even greatly modified version of our VBS extremely difficult. But more importantly, we are thinking of the many volunteers who are compromised by health issues and/or age that would not be able to support the program and we certainly do not want to put anyone of any age in danger for their health.