



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

May 16, 2021, Seventh Sunday of Easter

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

“We are called by God to grow in faith together, sharing Christ’s love with each other and our community”



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The gospel for Easter’s seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John’s gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus’ desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!

Prelude

Pat Anderson

Welcome to Worship this morning. We will be sharing Holy Communion, so please make sure you have a Communion packet when you arrive. Please join us as we sing under our masks. Thank you for practicing social distancing and masking.

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. C: Amen.

L. Let us confess our sin, calling for God’s transforming power.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

L: Source of all life,

C: we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act to what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

L: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, God’s love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God’s people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ. C: Amen.

Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

Red Worship Book 574

1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Refrain- Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Greeting

Red Worship Book pg. 147

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie

Red Worship Book pg. 147-148

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

L: Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Special Music

Pat Anderson and Elaine Jensen

In the days between Jesus' ascension and Pentecost, Peter oversees the process whereby one of the members of the community of believers is chosen to be the twelfth apostle, in order to fill the vacancy created by Judas's treachery and death.

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection."²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place."²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Psalm 1

L: Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,

C: nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

L: Their delight is in the law of the LORD,

C: and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.

L: They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;

C: everything they do shall prosper.

L: It is not so with the wicked;

C: they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

L: Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,

C: nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

L: For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,

C: but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

God has borne witness to the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Whoever believes in the Son of God believes in the witness of God and has the promise of eternal life.

Second Lesson: 1 John 5:9-13

⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son.

¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation

Red Worship Book pg. 151

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

The Holy Gospel according to St. John

C: Glory to you, O Lord. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

In this reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.

Gospel: John 17:6-19

[Jesus prayed:] 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. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

The Gospel of Our Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ. (spoken)

Red Worship Book pg. 151

Children's Sermon

Sermon: Jesus Prays: John 17:6-19

Pastor Brenda Wicklund

As we gather this day we do so with joy and gratitude as these four young kids are making their Affirmation of Baptism, their confirmation. Now, these three years have gone by fast, and our last year has been a roller

coaster ride, with the entire whole gambit. With one week of in person confirmation, and a shut down. With Zoom meetings they graciously attended, and some homework as we took a break. Our last few months in person, yet with some on quarantine. My thoughts this week went a bit like this: What did the kids think of this? How did they grow? Did they grow? And above all, why did we do this?

I refer now to this God, who loved us so much, remember how many times I have told you, God loves you so much, whether you make a mistake or are perfect you are loved and forgiven. God sent Jesus Christ into the world and he taught us how to be loved and love others, and laid down his life for each of us so that we might have new life and forgiveness of sins. He then died on the cross, only to overcome death so we might have an abundant life now and an abundant life forever.

Just before all this happened, Jesus prayed. Jesus prayed first for himself and then for his disciples as we heard today. Listen to Jesus prayer, listen for these things, joy, the word, hate, protection, evil one the world and sanctify.

“¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.[c] ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.[d] ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

Jesus wants you to have joy, when things are hard and when they are just joyful, like today. Jesus has given the disciples his word, this word, this bible, who and what to follow, even when we have a play that has boo in it,(ask the kids about the book of Esther) the word...God coming to us as we learn and grow. When he says these things like, love everyone, you may experience hate and evil so he prays for protection. Keep them from the evil one and sanctify them in the truth. Remember sanctify is set apart, made holy, it is as if Jesus has set you apart to hear God’s word and know the truth. Jesus prayed that for his disciples and he prays it for you. He prays for all of us, his future witness and disciples.

The Word of God is truth; these 66 books, never taught in 3 years. This is the beginning for you. Jesus love and compassion is all in here, and the God who created is all around us. The Holy Spirit walks with us, a friend, a companion, someone holding our hand, nudging us, or pushing us forward in our life. This marvelous God cannot be figured out in three years, or I might say even in a lifetime so we continue to learn, grow, hear the Good News and walk with God. This is not the end just the beginning. If you believe, God is as big as a couple of inches, well maybe is, yet if God is this big, it will take your lifetime. Remember your verses and that God is with you.

Evelyn: Psalm 95:2-3 ² Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!. ³ For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.
Griffin, Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my right hand of righteousness. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Ben, Hebrews 1:5, 14 ⁵ For God never said to any of his angels, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.” Nor did God say about any angel, “I will be his Father and her will be my Son.” What are the angels, then: They are spirits who serve God and are sent by him to help those who are to receive salvation. Cody, John 13:7 ⁷ Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Just as Jesus prayed for you, remember you do not go at this alone. The community of believers all of us, we have your back just as God has your back. We will continue to pray for you. Continue to grow, learn and know the truth. Amen.

Hymn

“Borning Cry”

Red Worship Book 732

1 "I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized

to see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

- 2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."
- 3 "In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun. When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise."
- 4 "I was there to hear your bawling cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

Presentation of Confirmands-Troy Tvedt

Affirmation of Baptism-Cody Klein, Evelyn Klein, Griffin Stiel and Benjamin Strauch.

Profession of Faith

L: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

L: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draws you from God?

C: I renounce them.

L: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

L: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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 to the dead.* 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.

L: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

Affirmation in the Presence of the Assembly

L: You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the Covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

C: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

L: People of God, do you promise to support these sisters and brothers and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

L: Let us pray.

C: Amen.

Bible Verse and Blessing

Stir up in (name) the gift of your Holy Spirit; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

L: Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

Offering Prayer –You may leave your offering as you exit the church, table with offering plates are there.

L: God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **C: Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

L: Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love. *(A brief silence.)*

L: Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need. Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Creator God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Words of Institution

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

The Lord's Prayer

Red Worship Book pg. 154

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.

Hymn "Come and Fill Our Hearts" (sing 3 times)

Red Worship Book 528

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia

Prayer after Communion

L: Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing

L: 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.

Hymn "Shine Jesus, Shine"

Red Worship Book 671

Refrain: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your Words; Lord, and let there be light!

1. Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining; Jesus light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain

2. As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story. Shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain

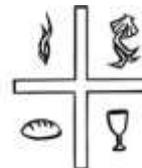
Dismissal

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



the worship is ended ... let the service begin...

The Noisy offering this month is for Altar Guild, there will be a bowl as you exit the church.



Prayer Concerns and Sympathy ~ Carol Winson (Marina Vork's daughter), Don Huntington (nephew of Virgil Seegebarth), Tyler (son of Jan Peura), Jeremy (friend of Sheila Jensen), Adam Alexander, Christine Baker (granddaughter of Judy Smith), Marsha Skoog (friend of Patty Sweeny), Larry Lammers (brother-in-law of Elaine Garaghty), Sue Youngblom, Max Tatting, Pearl Anderson (sister of Joyce Seegebarth), John Bassett, Peter Thorvig, Eric Mettling (deployed for service), Jessica Lindahl, Carol Bostrom, and Leigha Ness (Pastor Brenda's great-niece.)

For our members in care facilities ~ Ruta Kalnins, Freida Pfahl, Dorothy Svendsen and Max Tatting.

For firefighters, EMT's, those who serve to protect Policemen and women and military.

For world peace. For our companion synods.

For our missionaries: Jacqueline and Patrick Bencke



May many blessings come to you on this,
your Confirmation Day.
And may God's love be in your heart to strengthen you
along life's way.

Cody William Klein

Parents: Joe and Staci Klein

Baptismal Sponsors: Sarah Chamberlain; Bob Klein

Baptismal Date: July 28, 2007

Bible Verse: John 13:7

Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Evelyn Marie Klein

Parents: Joe and Staci Klein

Baptismal Sponsors: Matt Chamberlain; Katie Gunther

Baptismal Date: May 9, 2004

Bible Verse: Psalm 95: 2, 3

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with
songs of praise!

³For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

Griffin Daniel Stiel

Parents: Tony and Shana Stiel

Baptismal Sponsors: Zak Kroschel; Tom and Stephannie Stiel

Baptismal Date: March 31, 2005

Bible Verse: Isaiah 41:10

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will
strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Benjamin Thomas Strauch

Parents: Thomas Strauch; Robin Johnson.

Baptismal Date: June 11, 2006

Sponsors: Ken and Connie Pederson; Don and Jennifer Anderson.

Bible Verse: Hebrews 1:5, 14

*For God never said to any of his angels, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."
Nor did God say about any angle, "I will be his Father and he will be my Son." What are the
angels, then: They are spirits who serve God and are sent by him to help those who are to
receive salvation.*