

Announcements

-The council has determined that our church building will be closed through June 30. Full details are in the June newsletter. Council will meet on June 16 to plan for July. Please share any concerns or hopes for worship with Pastor or a member of Council.

-Zoom Coffee Hour: Starting at 11 every Sunday, join in for conversation:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/601353237?pwd=YjhXSE5rZ2hPaUg1SIIzMUNMNVI2dz09>

-Sip & Scripture: If you're not ready for video calls at 11 on Sunday morning, or if you'd just like another opportunity to check in and have some time for reflection on the readings & sermon from the previous Sunday, Sip & Scripture is for you. Grab your favorite thing to drink and join on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-8:30 (come and go as needed) at this Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86015279481?pwd=b0o4SEwrZUxUZIYweWVyNU5WMy91QT09>

-Pastor Beth is taking vacation June 18-23. Please contact Jodi with any church needs or questions during those days.

-Today and on June 28, we will include Holy Communion in our online worship service. Lutherans teach that through the promises of God, Jesus is present in the bread and cup whenever the congregation assembles in faith. Even if we assemble in front of screens at home, God's promises still apply. I invite you to bring bread or crackers and wine or grape juice with you to online worship. At that point in the service, I will speak the Words of Institution and you may commune in your home. If you are unable to get bread and wine or juice, contact me: I have individually packaged wafers and juice which I will deliver at your home this weekend if you prefer. If you can't access online worship but want communion, call me about having a physically-distanced home communion visit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

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.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
 whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
 your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:
 whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

GATHERING HYMN



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
 Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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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

God, as your people of old were of one heart and spirit, unite us as your people. Let us see the needs of our neighbors and respond in love and faith. May our care for your people be a model for the world.

Amen.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



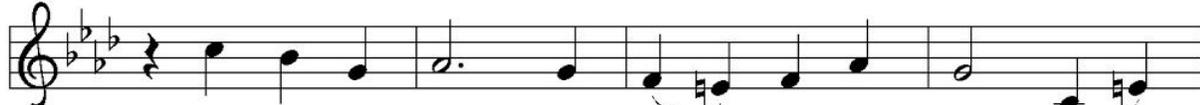
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
 2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
 Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

WORD

Acts 4:32- 5:11

The early believers chose to meet the needs of their communities by sharing all things in common. Particularly, those who held much property sold it so the proceeds could be used for the care of those in need. Ananias and Sapphira, out of selfishness or deceit, chose to keep some of their wealth for themselves. They wanted the reputation of generosity without the sacrifice of it.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the

apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!" Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. The young men came and wrapped up his body, then carried him out and buried him.

After an interval of about three hours his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you and your husband sold the land for such and such a price." And she said, "Yes, that was the price." Then Peter said to her, "How is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Immediately she fell down at his feet and died. When the young men came in they found her dead, so they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear seized the whole church and all who heard of these things.

SERMON

My friend has three kids under age 5. One is a newborn. When protests in Minneapolis led to some neighborhood grocery stores and public transportation being closed down, she started asking where she could deliver food, diapers, and baby formula so people living in those neighborhoods could get what they needed. People told her: *you have your own kids. Focus on them. You don't need to take care of other people right now.* My friend responded: "There's no such thing as other people's kids."

That's the attitude the early Christians had toward one another. In a time and place where so much of life was precarious, if you were one of the first believers, the most practical thing would be to hold onto whatever you had so you could survive the lean times. Your neighbors would expect you to save up for a rainy day. They'd do the same. Oh, sure, you'd all pitch in here or there if the neighbor's house burned down. But as for meeting their everyday needs? Well, that's on them.

But if you became a follower of Jesus? Something would change. You'd become one, heart and soul, with the other believers. You'd see their needs perfectly equal to your own, and you'd share what was yours. Actually, you'd go beyond sharing what was yours to seeing it all as belonging to the community of believers. Wild, right? Seems impossible, but that's what Acts tells us happened here.

Or, that's what almost happened here. Sin affects every community, no matter how idealistic and faithful it begins.

Enter Ananias and Sapphira. This couple decides that they will cheat the system. After selling a property, they each in turn report to Peter and the other believers that the sale price was lower than what they received. Each in turn is struck dead for "putting the Spirit of the Lord to the test."

How far are we, like Ananias and Sapphira, willing to test God's Holy Spirit? Are there parts of our lives that we think God just won't notice? Or are we seeking to be "of one heart and soul" with the believers around us and with God? Are we living lives that show the grace God has so freely given to us? If all we want is the reputation of following God without the work of it, we are trying to trick God and withhold what is God's- everything, including us.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Take My Life, That I May Be
Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad

Refrain/Estribillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;

To stanzas | Last time



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da_a ti, Se - ñor;
 at the im - pulse of thy love;
 not a mite would I with - hold;
 al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que_a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
 take my feet and let them be swift and
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
 take my lips and let them be filled with
 take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



pul - so de tu_a - mor.
 beau - ti - ful for thee.
 pow'r as thou shalt choose.
 mes - sag - es from thee.
 be thy roy - al throne.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, adapt.; Spanish text: Vincent Mendoza, 1875–1955
 Music: TOMA MI VOLUNTAD, William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956
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PRAYERS

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

God of community, you call us to be of one heart and soul. Take away our hardness of heart and teach us love for one another. May your church be a beacon of true unity in Jesus Christ. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of creation, you called your creation good. May we take delight in oceans and lakes, rivers and streams, hills and valleys, deserts and mountains. May we work to protect the creation you have made. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of truth, you see what we wish to hide in our hearts. Cleanse us from all sin and deceit. Turn us again to your people and to the life only you can give. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of care, you created us in your image; we are your beloved children. May we recognize your likeness in one another. Hold in your loving embrace all experiencing trauma, fear, uncertainty, and loss. Protect vulnerable children and adults from violence or neglect; provide what is needed for those lacking access to food, shelter, and other services. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, you accompany us in sickness and suffering. Bring relief to all afflicted with the coronavirus and all those suffering from isolation. Strengthen caregivers, health workers, and all whose work ensures the safety and well-being of others. Help us to continue to care for those who are sick in any way. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of generosity, you call us to share what we have with those in any need. Teach us to see our property as gifts to be shared, not wealth to be hoarded. Through the work of your church may all people's needs be met. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us join together in the prayer Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Think of a time you experienced being "of one heart and soul" with fellow believers in Jesus. May the memory of that experience fill your heart and soul with the peace of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

God has given to each of us- our selves, our time, and our possessions. God gives the warmth of summer sun, the comfort of a phone call from a loved one, the reassurance of prayer. What God has given to us, God expects us to share. If you are in a position to make a contribution to support our congregation's ministry, you can mail your check to the church; the mail is being checked regularly. Thank you for your support.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God, our ordinary gifts seem small, but you make of them an abundance, just as you do with our lives. Let all that we offer be in service to you to the glory of the risen Christ.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN

Lord of Light



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

Refrain



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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In our prayers this week:

Family & friends of Jen Johnson (THS teacher, died this week)

Millie Mracek (Sally Kruse's great-niece, cancer treatment)

Our members in nursing homes or assisted living: Ron & Carolyn Belitz, Marge Seebeck, Delores Werling