

Announcements

-Worship in July: we will offer two opportunities for in-person worship in July, on July 12 & 26. These will be outdoor services, with social distancing & other precautions for safety. Full details will be in the July Newsletter.

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

-Today, 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.

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.



Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Music: ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

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, you have given to the church members with diverse gifts, blessings of the Holy Spirit. Help us to use those gifts for the sake of our most vulnerable members. Make us obedient to the faith you have given us. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our savior and lord.

Amen.

Refrain



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

I Corinthians 12:4-13

Written about twenty years after the events described in Acts, I Corinthians reflects on the idea that the diversity among believers is a gift from the Holy Spirit, and that all work together to God's glory and the service of the body of Christ.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Acts 6:1-7

Another conflict has come up among the believers: this time, along racial lines. The Hellenists (Greeks, immigrants to Judea, and relative newcomers to faith in God) have noticed that their widows are not getting enough to eat, but the Hebrew widows are. They complained. Learning of the inequality, the disciples called a community meeting. They find a solution: appointing Hellenist men to administer the food, trusting that they will make sure the widows eat.

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

SERMON

Do you know that feeling of getting a piece of popcorn stuck in your teeth? When it's wedged in there and you can't get it out and it drives you absolutely bonkers? It's a small problem in the scale of the whole body, yet it dominates your attention until you can get it out.

As Paul wrote so clearly in I Corinthians 12, we Christians are all members of one body. In the body, each has its own role and purpose, but the whole body suffers if one part suffers. If the popcorn example doesn't make that connection for you, just think of the feeling of a stubbed toe or sunburned shoulder. One part of the body in pain demands the attention of the rest of the body.

In Acts, the part of the body that's hurting is the Hellenist widows. These Greek-speaking widows, part of a racial and cultural minority among the believers, were not receiving the food handouts the majority-Hebrew widows got. They complained. When the Twelve (that's the leaders of the group, Peter and John and the rest) heard about it, they set out to fix the problem. They got everyone together for a congregational meeting, and pointed out that they're busy full-time spreading the news about Jesus. In order to make sure that the food issue is resolved, the community selected seven men to administer the food program- and all seven have Hellenist names. The problem with inequality is resolved, not only by paying attention to it, but also by making sure that the people working to fix it have a stake in it being resolved well. Once the injustice has been resolved, the Twelve can continue their work of spreading the word of God. The hurt in the body has been tended, and all the members are doing what God needs from them.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest
 4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
 of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
 char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have
 as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
 thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
 done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—
 men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,



bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
 warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
 in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your
 hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

PRAYERS

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

We call on your spirit of unity, giving thanks for our different vocations. Activate and utilize the diverse gifts present in your church, that they reveal your love for all. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We call on your spirit of life, present in air, wind, humidity, storms, and oxygen in our atmosphere, breathing energy into all things. Heal with your breath the whole creation, especially those who struggle to breathe due to air pollution. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We call on your spirit of righteousness. Wherever we as a people are divided, unite us. Wherever we are prideful, humble us. Give each one of us a heart for justice and empathy. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We call on your spirit of healing. Bless nurses, doctors, midwives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who long for comfort (especially). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We call on your spirit of friendship. As the early believers cared for one another, give us a spirit of compassion for those whom we meet in this congregation and outside our doors. Surprise us daily with unexpected grace, that we rejoice in every blessing you send. Help us to share our blessings with those who need them. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We call on your spirit of hope. As you have led your saints in all times and places, stir in us the desire to follow their example, leading us from death to new life 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 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.

The early believers resolved division by making sure all members had what they needed, no matter their background. Today, think of a Christian with whom you've had disagreements and pray for God to care for and bless them, and for you to gain understanding toward them.

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Gathered in a home, the disciples received Jesus' promise that the bread and cup was his presence with them. In our homes, we gather around smaller tables, trusting that Jesus Christ is with us and the grace of this meal reaches us here.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took the bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said: Take; eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. In the same way he also took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, Take and drink. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

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

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal



1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: JESUS, FEED US, Ray Makeever

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In our prayers 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