Incarnation Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

During this time of quarantine due to the COVID-19 virus, this bulletin is designed for your participation in the worship service from your individual homes. We hope you will join with your church family at 10am each Sunday as we worship separately together as the people of God. It’s exciting to see people sign in, greet one another, send little messages, etc. The service is also posted on Facebook should the 10am time not work for you on any particular Sunday. Thank you for being here. Thank you for worshipping together separately this day!

**GATHERING**

**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 may be 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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**WORD**

**FIRST READING**

 **A Reading from Acts**

55Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” 57But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. 58Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 60Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

 **The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 The Psalm will be read responsively.**

 1In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
  deliver me | in your righteousness.
 2**Incline your | ear to me;**
  **make haste to de- | liver me.**
 3Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold;
  for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.
 4**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**
  **for you are my tow- | er of strength.**
 5Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
  for you have redeemed me, O Lord, | God of truth.
 15**My times are | in your hand;**
  **rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**
 16Let your face shine up- | on your servant;
  save me in your | steadfast love.”

**SECOND READING**

 **A Reading from First Peter**

2Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—3if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
  4Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and 5like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6For it stands in scripture:
 “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious;
 and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”
7To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,
 “The stone that the builders rejected
  has become the very head of the corner,”
8and“A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.”
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.
  9But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
 10Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

 **The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING**

**The Holy Gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4And you know the way to the place where I am going.” 5Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”
  8Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. 12Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. 13I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

 **The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Jane**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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. 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.*

Build us up, mothering God, as living stones united in your spiritual house. Continually strengthen your church as it is sent forth to proclaim your love. We pray especially for new congregations and those in redevelopment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Humble us, creator God, as part of your creation. Fill us with respect and awe for the world you have made, including volcanoes, ocean currents, tropical rainstorms, glaciers, and other forces that both destroy and create. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Align our ways to your love, O God. We pray for countries, leaders, and other organizations as they prepare places for those seeking refuge and safety. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing and rest, help those whose hearts are heavy and weighed down by many troubles. Comfort their suffering, ease their distress, and carry their burdens especially, Sivi Middelstaedt and Family, Jenny Gantt, and all those that are home bound. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Inspire, Renew, and Empower those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries this week especially, Mary Karl Boepple, Janet Hoffmann, Charles Keating, and Amy Kinard. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give joy to those who celebrate birthdays this week, especially, Philip Muller, Aubrey Sowell, and Dargan Thebo. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open the ways of love, O God, in the pursuit of peace throughout the world, and bless the efforts of missionaries, healthcare professionals, activists for women and children, and relief workers, especially, Jason Harris, Dr. Jordan Shealy, Katelyn Shealy, Melissa Corbett, Maureen Kelly, Sue Hoffmann, Ashley English, Dr. Duncan Norton, Ashton Rabern, Kathy Kehl, and all those who find themselves in harm’s way*.* Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Nurturing God, we pray for those who tend and teach young children, for the safe pregnancies of expectant parents, and for families who struggle with infertility and miscarriage. We give thanks for all who have shown mothering care, and we remember all for whom this day is difficult. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Generous God, you call into your brilliant light all who have died. Give us faith to take hold of the promise of your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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

**Amen.**

**THE 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.**

**OFFERING**

*So that the various ministries of the congregation may continue, please take a moment to place your weekly offering in a basket and then mail to the church or give your weekly offering online at this time.*

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**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.**

**DISMISSAL**

Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Announcements!**

**Weekly Worship Schedule!**
**Morning Watch** Weekday Mornings at 9:30 am via Facebook Live!

**Sunday Morning Worship** at 10:00 am via Facebook Live!
Materials for Worship are emailed out each Friday
and posted to Facebook each Saturday!

**Online Giving!**

We look forward to the day when we can worship together as a family again, but until then, please continue to support the mission of the church. You can use this image by scanning

the QR Code with your smart phone’s camera which will lead you to our Website for Online Giving!

**If you would like to meet Pastor Emily** prior to voting, please contact the church office.

**Prayer List**

**Current:** Congregational sympathy expressed to Rick and Jennifer Richardson at the death of his sister Betty, Sivi Middelstaedt and Family, Jenny Gantt, and all those that are home bound.

**Birthdays:** 05/12 Philip Muller, 05/14 Aubrey Sowell, 05/15 Dargan Thebo

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Mary Karl Boepple 05/11, Janet Hoffmann 05/13, Charles Keating 05/12, Amy Kinard 05/14

**Dear Incarnation Family,**

Bishop Yoos has informed us that, even though he earlier approved our plan for a mail-in vote, now we must first have a called congregational meeting with as many members present as possible in a conference call or online meeting.

We will still vote via the ballots received in the mail, but **please don't send them in** until after the called congregational meeting. If you have already sent yours in, it will be torn up and we will send you a blank copy.

Council will let you know as soon as possible the date for the called meeting.

Here is a direct message from the Bishop regarding this:

"Dear Incarnation Family of God,

I am writing to apologize to you for the frustration I caused about the calling your new pastor.  This was the first congregational vote to call a new pastor since this Covid 19 Pandemic.  Your call committee did an excellent job in their search but I failed to inform them of the need for a congregational meeting with open conversation to occur before a vote is taken.

Please know that I regret the confusion I caused and pray that your vote to call Pastor Emily Willhide will be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Peace
Bishop Herman Yoos"