



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 24, 2020

**Inviting People to Journey with Christ's
Family in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God**

Gathering Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West



- 1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
- 2 In Christ shall true hearts ev-'ry-where their high com-mu-nion find;
- 3 Join hands, dis-ci-ples of the faith, what-e'er your race may be.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;



but one com-mu-ni-ty of love through-out the whole wide earth.
his ser-vice is the gold-en cord close bind-ing hu-man-kind.
All chil-dren of the liv-ing God are sure-ly kin to me.
all Christ-ly souls are one in him through-out the whole wide earth.

Text: John Oxenham. 1852-1941, alt.

Music: MCKEE. African American spiritual: adapt. Harry T. Burleigh. 1866-1949

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

FIRST READING

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:6-14

⁶When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

¹Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee.

²**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive them away;
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

³But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who rides the clouds;
I AM is that name, rejoice before God!**

⁵In your holy habitation, O God,
you are a father to orphans, defender of widows;

⁶**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in desert places.**

⁷O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,

⁸**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹You sent a bountiful rain, O God;
you restored your inheritance when it languished.

¹⁰**Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.**

³²Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

³³**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the ancient heavens;
you send forth your voice, your mighty voice.**

³⁴Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is in the skies.

³⁵**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O God of Israel
giving strength and power to your people! Blessed be God!**

SECOND READING

Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

^{5:6}Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation



GOSPEL

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.

The gospel according to Luke 24:36-53

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy

they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn

You Are Mine



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, cm - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. To stanza 2
 Come and rest in me. To refrain
 all will know my name. To refrain
 up, now walk and live! To refrain



Refrain
 Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine."

To stanzas 3 and 4

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.

O God, call your people to be one, as you are one. Unite your church in the truth of your gospel, the love of our neighbor, and the call to proclaim your reign to all people. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Breathe life into your creation. Guide your people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We pray for the work of scientists, health professionals, researchers, and mathematicians whose skills enrich our understanding. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Make your justice known among the nations of the earth. Protect the vulnerable, especially during this time of the coronavirus. Redirect those who use violence and greed as weapons. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Come to the aid of your children. We pray for those engulfed in grief, those without supportive families, and for all who are isolated, powerless, or afraid. May they rest their anxieties in your care, especially Katie, Carla, Dakota, Bill, Ruth, Judy, Alrita, Dick, Donna, Tim, Brad, Fred, Pam, Bob, and those we name aloud and in our hearts. We pray for all those affected by the coronavirus, whether directly or indirectly. We seek your assistance in guiding the researchers and doctors toward a vaccine. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give courage to all who embark on new ventures. We especially remember this day those who risked, of are currently risking their lives to serve in our armed forces. Grant safety to those serving at home or abroad, in any role, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Raise all your saints to eternal life. Until that day, we give you thanks for the faithful examples of those who have listened to your voice and now rest 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.

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Hymn

Blest Be the Tie That Binds



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Christ is risen, just as he said.

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Bill Collar, Dakota Holiday, Carla Von Haden, Ruth Johnson, Judy Bever, Alrita Ornes, Dick Krause, Donna Welch, Tim Welch, Brad Bever, Fred Baldwin, Pam Liefke Eaton, Bob Eaton.

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Robert Cale.

We will resume worship on Sunday, July 5, at 9:00 AM. More information will be forthcoming in the coming weeks.

CONTACTS DURING CORONAVIRUS CLOSURE

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever (608-387-2311).

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani or Louise Buchholz (608-435-6435).

Additional Contact Information:

Pastor Cathleen: cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu

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FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Tomorrow is Memorial Day. It is the holiday when we remember those who have lost their lives in service to our country. The American Legion will pay tribute to the veterans by reading their names and firing their guns. This will take place between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m., at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, the 5 other local cemeteries, the bridge, and the Veteran's Memorial across from the American Legion building in Wilton. This year, at St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, you will see the beautiful new cemetery sign donated by Mrs. Pam Eaton. It bears a lovely etching of St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

For many of us, Memorial Day brings reminders of family members who were in the military. Today, I am thinking of my late husband, who served in the Navy; my late father, who served in the Army; and my late uncle, who served in the Air Force. Thankfully, all returned from their time in the service. But, we know that not all return; some have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Memorial Day also reminds many of us of family members, church members, and other friends who are no longer with us here on earth. As a girl growing up, I recall preparations for Memorial Day. Prior to the day, we would make a trip to a local greenhouse to get geraniums. On the day, we would all climb into the car and head to the cemetery. Once we arrived, we would plant the flowers by the headstones of my grandmother's, grandfather's, and aunt's graves. Although none of them had served in the armed forces, they had certainly done their part on the home front. My grandfather and grandmother were farmers, and later supported the troops in other ways.

After this, we would walk around the cemetery and receive a brief history lesson. My mother was our family genealogist. As we walked, she would tell us about other relatives who were buried in the cemetery. We learned what it meant to be "cousins once-removed," and "third cousins," etc... But what my mother and father were doing on these Memorial Days, was instilling in us a love of history, family, and church ties. By remembering our ancestors and other friends in this special way, we felt a closeness to them that we might not have felt otherwise. Most of them had died long before we were born, so our Memorial Day walks provided a time for us to reflect on their lives and think about all that they had contributed during their time on earth.

Yes, it is true that without many of our ancestors, we wouldn't be here! But the message we received on our walks was far deeper than that. The church cemetery where they were buried, was a reminder to us of their faith, their hope, and their love for God. Without their faith, we might not have been raised in the church, and I might never have become a pastor.

This Memorial Day, may we remember all those who gave their lives in service to our country, and all those who are currently serving or have faithfully served in the past. May we also remember family members, church members and other friends who have passed away. And today, may we remember the many people who have died from the Coronavirus.

The flags at federal government buildings have been flying at half-staff since Thursday for the almost 100,000 people who have died in this pandemic. Let us pray for all those who have lost their lives and for all those who are or may become, infected. Let us pray for the safety and well-being of the first responders, healthcare workers, doctors, and others who are dealing with this virus each and every day. And let us pray for the scientists, researchers, and other health professionals, who are seeking to find a cure.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Cathy