

CHAPEL OF THE CROSS

LUTHERAN



FAITH • HOPE • LOVE

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

AS WE GATHER

God Who? What a strange question to Christians! We believe in God because He revealed Himself to us in Word and Sacraments. But what about non-believers? How are they to know? In the readings today, Paul tells the Greeks exactly who God is, and Peter tells us to be ready to witness to our faith. However, we are not alone in our witness because, as we hear in the Gospel reading, God did not leave us as orphans but sent the Counselor to be with us forever.

PRELUDE

"Pastorale in F Major"

G. P. Telemann

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN

821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (vv. 1-4)

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."

- 2 **Alleluia! Not as orphans**
 Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia! He is near us;
 Faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received Him
 When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget His promise:
 "I am with you evermore"?
- 3 **Alleluia! Bread of heaven,**
 Here on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia! Here the sinful
 Flee to You from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
 Earth's Redeemer, hear our plea
Where the songs of all the sinless
 Sweep across the crystal sea.
- 4 **Alleluia! King eternal,**
 Lord omnipotent we own;
Alleluia! Born of Mary,
 Earth Your footstool, heav'n Your throne.
As within the veil You entered,
 Robed in flesh, our great High Priest,
Here on earth both priest and victim
 In the eucharistic feast.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The three sad days have quickly sped,
He rises glorious from the dead.
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia! (*LSB 464:3*)

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Even as we glory in the gift of eternal life, in that hope we spend our days in joyful repentance and faith. Let us confess our sin, the sin that still so easily afflicts us, and receive the full forgiveness our Lord daily provides for us.

People: **Lord God, though the strife is over, the battle done, and now is the victor's triumph won, sin still hangs on. We are Your baptized people. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us into Your Easter joy.**

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

821 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (v. 5)

**Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the scepter, His the throne;
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
Has redeemed us by His blood."**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, You have assured us that our redemption is complete through the resurrection of Your Son. Give us the will to do in our lives what we profess with our lips through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING

Acts 17:16–31

(Paul in Athens)

¹⁶ While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷ So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸ A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to dispute with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbler trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹ Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰ You are bringing some strange ideas to our ears, and we want to know what they mean." ²¹ (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.) ²² Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "Men of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³ For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. Now what you worship as something unknown I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴ "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. ²⁵ And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. ²⁶ From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. ²⁷ God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

²⁹ "Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone--an image made by man's design and skill. ³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 66 (v. 8-20)

Leader: Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;

People: **he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping.**

Leader: For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver.

People: **You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs.**

Leader: You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.

People: **I will come to your temple with burnt offerings and fulfill my vows to you—**

Leader: vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke when I was in trouble.

People: **I will sacrifice fat animals to you and an offering of rams; I will offer bulls and goats.**

Leader: Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me.

People: **I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue.**

Leader: If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

People: **but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!**

(Suffering for Christ)

¹³ Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened."

¹⁵ But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷ It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, ¹⁹ through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison ²⁰ who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,²¹ and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand--with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Because He Lives"

Gaither

God sent His Son, They called Him Jesus

He came to love, heal and forgive.

He bled and died to buy my pardon

An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives. (refrain)

Refrain:

Because He lives I can face tomorrow;

Because He lives, all fear is gone.

Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living just because He lives.

How sweet to hold our newborn baby,

and feel the pride and joy he gives;

But greater still the calm assurance:

This child can face uncertain days because Christ lives. (refrain)

And then one day I'll cross that river;

I'll fight life's final war with pain.

And then, as death gives way to victory,

I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He reigns. (refrain)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15–21

(The promise of the Holy Spirit)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will obey what I command. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE WORD

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.

- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

+ + + Special Intercessions + + +

Each concluding: Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy, **People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: 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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

645 Built on the Rock

- 1** **Built on the Rock the Church shall stand**
 Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
 Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
 Longing for rest everlasting.

- 2** **Surely in temples made with hands**
 God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands,
 All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
 Making our bodies His temple.

- 3** **We are God's house of living stones,**
 Built for His own habitation.
He through baptismal grace us owns
 Heirs of His wondrous salvation.
Were we but two His name to tell,
Yet He would deign with us to dwell
 With all His grace and His favor.

4 **Here stands the font before our eyes,
 Telling how God has received us.
The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice
 And what His Supper here gives us.
Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim
Christ yesterday, today, the same,
 And evermore, our Redeemer.**

5 **Grant, then, O God, Your will be done,
 That, when the church bells are ringing,
Many in saving faith may come
 Where Christ His message is bringing:
"I know My own; My own know Me.
You, not the world, My face shall see.
 My peace I leave with you. Amen."**

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POSTLUDE

"Fantasia In C Major"

G. F. Handel

Prepare for next weekend's worship by reading:
Acts 1:12-26; 1 Peters 4:12-19; 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

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Serving at Chapel

Preacher:	Theodore Laesch
Lector:	David Funke
Singers:	Denise Koch & Mark Petersen
Instrumentalist:	Lynda Christian, oboe
Organist & Accompanist:	Ryan Meyer

Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran

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Worship and Christian Education

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday - 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service broadcast on KFUD 850 AM Sundays at 6:00 p.m.
Live internet streaming at www.chapelofthecross.org Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

*Holy Communion is celebrated the 1st and 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m.,
the 2nd and 4th and 5th Sundays of the month at 11:00 a.m.,
and the 1st and 3rd and 5th Saturdays of the month at 5:00 p.m.*

Sunday school for children, Sunday Bible classes for adults and youth – 9:45 a.m.

Chapel Ministry Staff

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Missions

Chapel of the Cross supports the ministry of the English District and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod as well as the Lutheran High School Association. We also assist the following ministries and organizations:

Day 3 Seeds*	Hope Center for Families*	Apple of His Eye*
Helping Hands Food Pantry	Concordia Seminary	Friend of Moms
Sidewalk Sunday School	Eric & Linda Funke in Tanzania	Lutherans for Life
Chapel Summer Camp	KFUD Radio	

** indicates special emphasis in 2020*

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran is affiliated with the
English District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*