

First Lutheran Church, Morris MN

Order of Worship for Sunday, June 7, 2020—The Holy Trinity

Gathering

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.” —Matthew 18:20

Prelude and Lighting of the Candles

Welcoming and Announcements

Hymn: “Jesus Loves Me!” #595

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| 1. Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong. Refrain | 2. Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven’s gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in. Refrain |
| 3. Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high. Refrain | Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so. |

Text: Anna B. Warner; Music: William B. Bradbury Public Domain

Kyrie *In peace let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.*

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord. Amen.

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” #836

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, full us with the light of day.

Text: Henry van Dyke; Music: Ludwig van Beethoven. Public Domain

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

Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Word

Reading: Genesis 1:1–2:4a

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Reading: Psalm 8

O Lord our Lord, **how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

You whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of infants and children; **you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe and avenger.**

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, **the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,**

what are mere mortals that you should be mindful of them, **human beings that you should care for them?**

Yet you have made them little less than divine, **with glory and honor you crown them.**

You have made them rule over the works of your hands; **you have put all things under their feet:**

all flocks and cattle, **even the wild beasts of the field,**

the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, **and whatever passes along the paths of the sea.**

O Lord our Lord, **how majestic is your name in all the earth.**

Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20 *(response after announcement of Gospel: **Glory to you, O Lord**)*

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

*(response after reading of Gospel: **Praise to you, O Christ**)*

Special Music:

Message

Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision" #793

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| 1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. | 2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word:
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power. |
| 3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art. | 4. Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, what every befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all. |

Statement of Faith: *Apostle 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 again 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.**

Offering/Offertory : *"Create in Me a Clean Heart" #185*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit with me.

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Prayers

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation, let us pray for our shared world. (a brief silence)

*God of community, you form us as your church. Guide our bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized in sharing your life-giving good news with all the world. Strengthen us to be bold in our proclamation. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*God of creation, you called everything into being. Sustain this world with your renewing care. Inspire us to see waterways, plant life, birds, fish, insects and mammals and call them good. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*God of counsel, all authority belongs to you. Encourage the leaders of this and every land to seek peace, equality, and unity. Instill wisdom in advocates who work towards justice in often ignored communities. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*God of care, you created us in your image. Help us see your likeness in one another. Open our eyes to see and attend to all who face oppression and suffering. Console, heal, and nourish all in need. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*God of companionship, you accompany this body of faith. As the rhythms of summer begin, protect all who travel, renew all who will enjoy a time of sabbath, and shelter all who will not be protected from the sun's heat. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*God of compassion, you comfort us in our grief with the promise of the resurrection. We give you thanks for the saints of all time and in our lives. Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.***

*Receive these prayers, O God, and those too deep for words; 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.**

Sharing the Peace *Please share a sign the peace with one another*

Sending

Hymn: "Day by Day" #790

1. Day by day, your mercies Lord, attend me,
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me
draw me nearer to my heavenly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,
where at last I'll find eternal rest.
2. Day by day, I know you will provide me,
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
over the paths I struggle day by day.
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow
till in glory I behold your face.
3. Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
when my burdens grow too great to bear;
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me,
you will hold me in your hand.
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.

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Benediction

Sermon for Sunday, June 7, 2020 by Pastor Dan Belgium

Fire and wind – signs of the Holy Spirit – descended on the disciples at Pentecost and push them out to preach and bear witness to a gathered crowd that day; and to people everywhere in weeks and years to come. Fire and Wind are powerful symbols, *and* powerful realities that have potential for both *creation and for destruction*.

At creation's dawn, a *wind from God* (Heb. *ruach*) swept over the face of the deep, bringing order out of chaos; life into being. The Spirit continues to create. The Wind, the Spirit, blows where it will. The Spirit gathers us into community, and sends us out, to bear witness to life and salvation in Jesus Christ.

Wind and Fire. We know that fire can be creative, as when prairies were burned by the Native Americans, to burn *the old brown growth* down to ash, creating fresh growth, attracting buffalo and other creatures; helping the people to find food easier. Moses met God in fire at the burning bush, where he received his "call" to lead a people out of bondage into freedom and a new communal life. While fire is a symbol of purifying and cleansing, and wind is like the Spirit in many ways; we also know that the wind and fire can be destructive; as we have seen in Minnesota this last week.

As we celebrate Pentecost and the coming of the Spirit, it couldn't come at a more important time, just as the world seems to be unraveling. Like most everyone, I was shocked and incensed by the murder of George Floyd, an African American, in broad daylight, by a white Minneapolis cop. Floyd was in handcuffs and unarmed. The rage was predictable. The violent riots and burning buildings right in the heart of the Twin Cities was shocking; what has ensued has troubled the heart of the nation. A powder keg was lit and is still burning. Fire can be destructive. So can hatred.

Like many young boys in America, my friends and I collected and traded baseball cards while we grew up. One friend, Larry and I were looking at his and my cards one day when his dad walked in and told us that my favorite player, Willie Mays, a black athlete of great talent, was a good player; then, with a grin, "but, unfortunately, he has a skin disease." I argued that this wasn't true. Later, being baffled by this, Larry informed me his dad meant Willie was "black" or, as we say today: African American. I was shocked by this news. Even at 11 or 12 years of age, I knew what his dad said was perverted. It turns out Larry's dad had the "disease." The disease of racism and discrimination.

At that same time, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., filled with the power and courage generated by the Spirit, was leaving a legacy. A life of courageous witness and non-violent action and organizing. He bore witness to God's relentless love for all people, and riveted a nation with his oratorical gifts. Dr. King called on *all Americans*, black and white, to come to grips with our history, and work toward a future where all Americans could enjoy what our pledge of Allegiance stated: "with liberty *and justice* for *all*..." He understood the power of non-violence action; of taking a stand for justice. He has earned, by his merits and witness, death by martyrdom, and a holiday in his honor.

Dr. King's witness is more important today than ever. On Friday, in an impassioned speech, the black mayor of Atlanta, Keisha Lance Bottoms, referenced Dr. King and reminded us of his legacy. She called out those looting and burning, while also acknowledging the pain of the black community. After talking about her fear for her own 18 year old son, and younger sons, if they are on the streets. and confirming her lament for George Floyd's death, she angrily declared to looters and people destroying property: "You're not honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.; this is not the legacy of the Civil Rights movement in America....this is chaos! And we're buying into it." She challenged those burning cars and looting "Go home! Go home!" I almost stood up and cheered her entire speech.

Dr. King is the most important Christian voice in my lifetime. I wonder how he would respond to the situation we find ourselves in? Dr. King declared: "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." And, he said: "Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." And, he even said: "A riot is the language of the unheard."

There is a reason for the riots. Yes, some are just rabble rousers. Yet, there is deep pain in America right now. Pain from a pandemic that has led to over 100,000 deaths; the pain of racism; the pain of wealth inequality that has left millions without any health care or adequate food to feed their children. While others have amassed unbelievable wealth,

I believe this time is an *apocalypse*. An apocalypse means an “unveiling” – a moment when things are revealed. It’s like when a rug is lifted up after lying too long in one place. Usually there’s a lot of ugly stuff underneath. So is this a time of unveiling in American. A lot of ugly realities are being revealed by pandemic.

Jesus, like Rev. King, and many other Christians spoke about economic conditions and social conditions, saying “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to bring relief to the captives and recovery of the sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Jesus confronted Zacchaeus who had ripped off many people, and many who were “poor,” with shady taxation. And Zacchaeus vowed to restore to each, “Look half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” To which Jesus replied: “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.” Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom was at hand and should impact every area of our lives, including economics, relationships and our politics – not just our eternal destiny.

Our nation is at a critical turning point. This widening gulf between the “haves” and the “have nots”; the millions of people lacking health care (in the wealthiest nation in history), the educational inequity, are all issues crying out to be addressed. Structural racism is hidden but real. These are issues many of us do not contend with. Yet, if we do not address these issues proactively, as well as implicit bias (racism) in our structures, I fear we will see more riots in the future, leading to more social chaos.

As Christians we must do something. We can choose to hope, or lose hope. “Now faith hope and love, these three, abide, and the greatest of these is love,” wrote the Apostle in I Corinthians 13. The Holy Spirit is the power we need to renew hope, bring unity and understanding, and the “brotherhood/sisterhood” of all people to fruition. God’s power in the Spirit can move mountains, *even through us*. We do have agency and choice. “The old world is dying and a new world is being reborn,” writes author Heather Cox Richardson. I think it’s true.

The Spirit is moving toward a *new world*; a world where the poor hear good news; the deaf hear; the blind see; the lame leap for joy; the world is colorblind; the gifts of many work together for the common good; all children have enough to eat and equal opportunity; and all are treated with dignity. The Spirit invites us and calls us to join God’s movement toward restoration, mercy and justice.

As Apostle Paul proclaims in I Corinthians 12: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. May the Spirit activate these gifts in each of us! Amen.

Remember in your prayers

Angie Staples, Mick Rose, those affected by COVID-19, those who serve in the military, families of victims of war, terrorism and violence, those in our nursing homes and those who are homebound. Continue to pray for the overseas missionary we support. Pastor Alex LaChappelle serving as a pastor of Nairobi International Lutheran in Kenya, Africa. Note: you may honor a loved one and support Pastor LaChappelle in Kenya. Contact the church office for information.