

Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's eternal love for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

- Restrooms are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.
- . If you have young children with you today, great! We encourage families to worship together. We do have a nursery area available just outside the chapel near the bathrooms, should you feel the need to step out of worship with your child for a moment.

SEASON OF EASTER 2020

Our worship series during the season of Easter is called "Witness." We will follow the appointed lectionary readings from the book of Acts and see how the disciples carried out the instructions Jesus gave them to be his witnesses, through the power of the Holy Spirit. They were eyewitnesses of the resurrection. Not even the threat of death could stop them from faithfully witnessing to others. Our prayer is that through this worship series, we will be encouraged and empowered to witness to the people around us, starting right here where we live, and reaching out to the ends of the earth. We'll see where our witnessing power comes from, get practical advice on how to share Christ, and get an idea of what to expect when we proclaim the wonderful Easter message of the risen Savior. God bless you as you witness!



TODAY'S FOCUS

"You will be my witnesses...**to the ends of the earth**" (Acts 1:8). Jesus gave his apostles a global mission, but they were to wait for God's good timing and for the gift of the Holy Spirit (poured out upon them on the Day of Pentecost). As Christ's Church, we have a similar mission as they, but in different circumstances. What tests our patience today? Is it uncertainty? Authority? Insecurity? Others' opinions? Today, with eyes focused on the ends of the earth, Jesus blesses us with the ever-urgent virtue of patience as we go about our mission-minded lives.



ORDER OF SERVICE

OPENING MEDLEY

The Wonderful Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of glory died;
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

Refrain:

Oh, the wonderful cross, Oh, the wonderful cross,
Bids me come and die, and find that I may truly live.
Oh, the wonderful cross, Oh, the wonderful cross,
All who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Refrain

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Refrain

Christ Is Risen

Let no one caught in sin remain, Inside the lie of inward shame,
But fix our eyes upon the cross, And run to Him who showed great love
And bled for us; Freely You've bled for us.

Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling over death by death.
Come awake, come awake! Come and rise up from the grave!
Christ is risen from the dead. We are one with Him again.
Come awake, come awake! Come and rise up from the grave!

Beneath the weight of all our sin You bowed to none but heaven's will.
No scheme of hell, no scoffer's crown, No burden great can hold You down.
In strength You reign; Forever let Your church proclaim:

**Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling over death by death.
Come awake, come awake! Come and rise up from the grave!
Christ is risen from the dead. We are one with Him again.
Come awake, come awake! Come and rise up from the grave!**

**O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light. The glory of God has defeated the night!**

**O death, where is your sting? O hell, where is your victory?
O church, come stand in the light. Our God is not dead – He’s alive! He’s alive!**

**Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling over death by death.
Come awake, come awake! Come and rise up from the grave!
Christ is risen from the dead. We are one with Him again.
Come awake, come awake! Come and rise up from the grave!**

**Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling over death by death.
Come awake, come awake! Come and rise up from the grave!
Christ is risen from the dead. We are one with Him again.
Come awake, come awake! Come and rise up from the grave!**

STAND

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of God the Father, who is not the God of the dead, but of the living.

Congregation: Praise the Lord!

M: In the name of Jesus Christ, + powerfully proclaimed to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead.

C: Who was put to death for our sins and raised for our justification.

M: In the name of God the Holy Spirit, who gives new life to all who trust in Christ.

C: We are born again by water and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BE SEATED

CONFESSION

M: In his Small Catechism, Luther writes: “Baptism means that the Old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death.” So let us humble ourselves before God, repent of our sins, and seek his forgiveness.

C: Merciful Father, I confess my sin to You. I acknowledge that I deserve your anger and punishment – both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and I admit my helplessness to overcome my sinful nature or to atone for my wrongs. But, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for me, I seek your mercy and forgiveness. Cleanse me from my sin, and give me your Holy Spirit to help me change my sinful life.

(silence for reflection on what we have said)

M: Is this your sincere confession? Do you repent of your sins, renounce the devil and all his wicked ways, and do you earnestly intend, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to change your sinful life?

C: This is my confession, and this is my intention.

ABSOLUTION

M: As a called servant of the Lord, I assure you of God’s mercy. Saint Paul says in Romans, chapter 6, “We were buried with Christ through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now, cleansed from your sin through Jesus Christ, live a new life of kindness, obedience, service, and faith, as the forgiven children of God.

C: Thank you, Lord, for forgiveness and new life. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Almighty God, your Son our Savior was taken up in glory and intercedes for us at your right hand. Through your living and abiding Word, give us hearts to know him and faith to follow where he has gone, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WORSHIP PRAISE

Holy Spirit, Light Divine

**Holy Spirit, light divine, Dawn upon this soul of mine;
Let your word dispel the night, Wake my spirit, clear my sight.**

**Holy Spirit, grace divine, Cleanse this sinful heart of mine;
In your mercy look on me, From sin's bondage set me free.**

**Holy Spirit, power divine, Fortify this will of mine;
Bend it to your own pure will, All my life with graces fill.**

**Holy Spirit, peace divine, Still this restless heart of mine;
Speak to calm the tossing sea, Stayed in your tranquility.**

**Holy Spirit, all divine, Dwell within this self of mine;
I your temple pure would be No and for eternity.**

THE WORD

LESSON

1 Peter 4:12-17; 5:6-11

What stands between us and witnessing to the ends of the earth? Trial. Suffering. Anxiety. Even the Devil himself! Yet, we lift our eyes beyond hardship to the glory that awaits us.

¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised by the fiery trial that is happening among you to test you, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³Instead rejoice whenever you are sharing in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

¹⁴If you are insulted in connection with the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or as a meddler. ¹⁶But if you suffer for being a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God in connection with this name. ¹⁷For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God. Now if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who disobey the gospel of God?

...

⁶Therefore humble yourselves under God's powerful hand so that he may lift you up at the appointed time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Have sound judgment. Be alert. Your adversary, the Devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him by being firm in the faith. You know that the same kinds of sufferings are being laid on your brotherhood all over the world.

¹⁰After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who called you into his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you.

¹¹To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

*Jesus prays for those he sends to the ends of the earth.
We are assured that God is with us as we serve as his witnesses.*

^{17:1} After Jesus had spoken these things, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you. ²For you gave him authority over all flesh, so that he may give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent. ⁴I have glorified you on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵Now, Father, glorify me at your own side with the glory I had at your side before the world existed.

⁶“I revealed your name to the men you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me, and they have held on to your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me, and they received them. They learned the truth that I came from you. They believed that you sent me.

⁹“I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All that is mine is yours, and what is yours is mine. And I am glorified in them. ¹¹I am no longer going to be in the world, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by your name, which you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

BE SEATED

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE *Children remain seated with their families as pastor shares a message.*

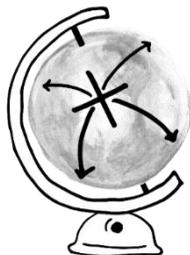
Hark! The voice of Jesus crying, “Who will go and work today?
Fields are ripe and harvests waiting; Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward he offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I – send me, send me?”

If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus; You can say he died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the Judgment’s dread alarms,
You can lead the little children To the Savior’s waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion’s wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off’ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your off’rings You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet’s hands.

Please Rise

Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,”
While the multitudes are dying, And the Master calls for you.
Take the task he gives you gladly; Let his work your pleasure be.
Answer quickly when he calleth, “Here am I – send me, send me!”



¹I wrote my first book, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began doing and teaching ²until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After he had suffered, he presented himself alive to the apostles with many convincing proofs. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and told them things about the kingdom of God.

⁴Once, when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for what the Father promised, which you heard from me. ⁵For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they were together with him, they asked, “Lord, is this the time when you are going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons 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.”

⁹After he said these things, he was taken up while they were watching, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently into the sky as he went away. Suddenly, two men in white clothes stood beside them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called the Mount of Olives, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

¹³When they entered the city, they went to the upstairs room where they were staying. Peter and John were there, also James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All of them kept praying together with one mind, along with the women, with Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Have Patience; It’s Urgent!

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. However, we do ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Whether you are worshiping in person or watching online, please fill out our Connection Card on our web site at www.eternal-love.org/onlineworship.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Ascended Lord Jesus, you powerfully reign over all things, yet you choose to rule your Church in grace through the outwardly humble means of Word and sacrament. Help us to look to you for strength and peace, patient in your good timing and your Spirit's wisdom. Accomplish your will *in* us throughout the span of our lives.

C: Accomplish your will *through* us, that we may be your witnesses to the ends of the earth.

M: Almighty God, Ruler of all the peoples of the earth, forgive our shortcomings as a nation, purify our hearts to see and love the truth, give wisdom to our leaders and steadfastness to our people, and bring us at last to that fair city of peace whose foundations are mercy, justice, and goodwill, of which you are the designer and builder.[†]

C: Give wisdom to our federal, state, and local governments.

* In this phrase of our ancient Christian creed (statement of faith) we celebrate Jesus' being exalted as King, ruling in glory over all things for our good! Jesus ascended into heaven 40 days after his resurrection (celebrated May 21 this year). See Acts 1.

[†] Attributed to Woodrow Wilson. See acknowledgements.

Special intercessions may be spoken by the minister.

M: O Father in heaven, look upon all your people who struggle with anger, anxiety, doubt, frustration, guilt, hopelessness, loss, memories, lack of patience, pain, regret, sadness, selfishness, temptation, and weakness. Your holy Word tells us “All things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” And that means that you make all these things work for your good purpose in our lives, even when we do not understand. Remind us of your invitation, “Cast all your cares upon me,” and of your assurance that goes with it, “because I care for you”...through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.†

C: Amen.

STAND

LORD’S PRAYER

**C: 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.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

† See acknowledgements.

BLESSING

Based on Ephesians 3:14-18

M: Go in peace.

May the Father strengthen you with the power of the Holy Spirit,
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,
and that you may have power to grasp
how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

C: To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

BE SEATED

CLOSING SONG

There Is A Redeemer

**There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

Refrain:

**Thank, You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son
and leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain.**

Refrain

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
There I'll serve my King forever In that holy place.**

Refrain

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our songs of praise today are accompanied by **Cross Rhythms**,
one of our congregation's own musical groups.
Liturgist and Preacher: Pastor Dave Backus
Scripture Reader: Pete Neuberger

The Wonderful Cross

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Christ Is Risen

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Holy Spirit, Light Divine

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Hark! The Voice Of Jesus Crying

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There Is A Redeemer

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Prayer of the Church

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Holy Bible

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