



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Bethel & Hennes Lutheran Churches

May 24, 2020

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.

Today the church commemorates Nicolaus Copernicus, d. 1543, and Leonhard Euler, d. 1783, scientists.

✝ GATHERING ✝

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

P. We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. **Amen.**

P. Rejoicing in the resurrection, let us seek God's forgiveness, that dying to sin, we may walk in newness of life.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P. Loving God,

C. we fear, we doubt, we do not trust You; we do not love our neighbors as ourselves; we have failed to recognize You in the poor and needy; we sin against You in thought, word, and deed. We pray for Your mercy, forgiveness, and grace. We hope in the gift of Your Spirit and we rejoice in the resurrection promise of Jesus Christ, our living Savior. Amen.

P. God, Who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. May you be strengthened daily with the power to walk in God's light and love.

C. **Amen.**

GREETING

P. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C. **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P. The grace of our risen Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *This is the Feast of Victory for Our God*

P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia

C. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who was slain, Whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are His.**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation.
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb Who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Almighty and eternal God, Your Son Jesus Christ ascended to Your right hand and is with You in eternal glory. 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 Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING: Acts 1:6–14

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.

When [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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 68:1–10, 33–36

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered;
let those who hate Him flee before Him.

²Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;
as the wax melts at 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.

⁴Sing to God, sing praises to His name; exalt Him who rides upon the heavens;
YAHWEH is His name, rejoice before Him!

⁵Father of orphans, defender of widows,
God in His holy habitation!

⁶God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in dry places.

⁷O God, when You went forth before Your people,
when You marched through the wilderness,

⁸the earth shook, 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 gracious rain, O God, upon Your inheritance;
You refreshed the land when it was weary.

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

³³Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.

³⁴He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
He sends forth His voice, His mighty voice.

³⁵Ascribe power to God;
His majesty is over Israel; His strength is in the skies.

³⁶How wonderful is God in His holy places,
the God of Israel giving strength and power to His people! Blessed be God!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hallelujah! Jesus lives! He is now the Living One;
From the gloomy halls of death Christ, the Conqueror, has gone,
Bright forerunner to the skies of His people, yet to rise.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 17:1–11

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus prays to His heavenly Father, asking that those who continue His work in this world will live in unity.

C. (*spoken*) Glory to You, O Lord.

After Jesus had spoken these words [to His disciples], He looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son so that the Son may glorify You, ²since You have given Him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴I glorified You on earth by finishing the work that You gave Me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory that I had in Your presence before the world existed.

⁶“I have made Your name known to those whom You gave Me from the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷Now they know that everything You have given Me is from You; ⁸for the words that You gave to Me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom You gave Me, because they are Yours. ¹⁰All mine are Yours, and Yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them in Your name that You have given Me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

P. The Gospel of the Lord.


C. (*spoken*) Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON


HYMN OF THE DAY *Son of God, Eternal Savior*




1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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

✠ PRAYER ✠

OFFERING

If you have not signed up for electronic giving, you can mail your offering in to Bethel (P.O. Box 126, Porter, 56280), you may drop it in the offering box at the church, or you may make your offering online at our website (www.bethelofporter.com).

OFFERTORY *He Is Arisen, Glorious Word*

He is arisen! Glorious Word! Now reconciled is God, my Lord;
the gates of heav'n are open. My Jesus rose triumphantly,
and Satan's arrows broken lie, destroyed hell's fiercest weapon.
Oh, hear, what cheer! Christ victorious, rising glorious,
life is giving. He was dead, but now is living!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P. Blessed are You, O God, ruler of heaven and earth.

C. Day by day You shower us with blessings. As You raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise You and to respond to those in need through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

On this seventh Sunday of Easter, we gather in our homes and yet together as one and uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and all places praying for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

In this time of troubling separation, we pray to You, triune God, for the unity of Your churches. Bind us together in the truth of Your gospel. Make us witnesses of Your mysterious might. As You blessed the early disciples for their unfolding ministry, bless Your church as we follow the call to proclaim Your love to all people. Lord in Your mercy,

C. hear our prayer.

Nurture the life of Your creation. Guide Your people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We praise You for Nicholas Copernicus and Leonard Euler, whom we commemorate today, and for all the scientists and mathematicians who have enriched our understanding of creation. Help all online teachers to instruct our children in the ways of nature. Lord in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

As we prepare for Memorial Day, we pray for peace around the world. Protect all soldiers, and assure them of Your never-failing strength. Shield the vulnerable who live in paths of violence. We pray especially for the people of Afghanistan and Syria. Lord in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

Come to the aid of all who suffer. We pray for those who are laden with grief, overwhelmed by anxiety, or struggling without medical care. Uphold all health-care workers who attend to coronavirus patients. Comfort all families and friends who cannot embrace their loved ones at the time of death. We give into Your care all the sick, especially those we name here before You, especially Merv, Emily, Angie, Shirley, Lynette, Tom and Bruce. Lord in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

Again we pray: give the world a vaccine. Lord in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

Grant Your unity to humankind, so marked by isolation and division. Bring harmony to families, distraught citizens, and members of our legislatures. Give to each individual a wholeness that is birthed in You. Make us one, as You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, are one. Lord in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

To know You is to have eternal life. We praise You for the lives of all who have died in the faith and who now live in You. At the end, bring us with all Your saints into Your presence. Lord in Your mercy,
C. hear our prayer.

Almighty God, You give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. With bold confidence in Your love we place all for whom we pray into Your eternal care. Give us the joys of life in Your service, and bring us at last to the fullness of joy in Your presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C. 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.

† SENDING †

BLESSING

P. The God of all grace, Who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support, strengthen, and + bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. C. Amen

CLOSING HYMN *In Christ There is No East or West*

1. In Christ there is no east or west, In
2. In Him shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where Their
3. Join hands then, broth - ers of the faith, What-
4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In

Him no south or north, But one great fel - low -
high com - mu - nion find; His ser - vice is the
e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther
Him meet south and north; All Christ - ly souls are

ship of love Through - out the whole wide earth.
gold - en cord Close - bind - ing all man - kind.
as a son Is sure - ly kin to me.
one in Him Through - out the whole wide earth.

DISMISSAL

P. Christ is Risen!

C. He is Risen indeed!

P. Go in peace. Share the good news.

C. Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia

Those who Serve:

Ministers: All the People of God

Presider: Pastor Ellen Munter

Organist: Lou Knutson

Reader:

How to reach us:

Church Office: 507-296-4658 Pastor's House: 507-296-4558
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Offering: During this period of suspended in-person worship services, Bethel and Hemnes continue to have recurring expenses. Please remember to give financially to support the ministry of our congregations. For Bethel, you may mail your offering to the church office or give online at <http://bit.ly/givebethel>

May 17, 2020

General: \$1,849.50 (\$499.50 received through eGiving)
Savings: \$3,000.00 to Funding Reserves from Federal COVID-19 Response Grant.



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Prayers of Intercession by Gail Ramshaw and *Sundays and Seasons*, lightly edited by Pastor Munter.

Dylan Bruns invites you to his graduation open house on Friday, May 29th at his home, 2430 230th St, Canby, From 5-8 pm.

His family completely understands if people aren't comfortable coming to celebrate with Dylan in person.



A Prayer for Unity

When Jesus asks the Father to give His little band of followers what they need to “be one, as we are one,” He is asking that those who bear His name may be enriched both in terms of bonding among themselves and bridging to others. It is a prayer we can echo today.

What sociologists call “bonding capital” is the good feeling or camaraderie that is created among people who have a task, an interest, or a heritage in common. It is what we have when we say we feel a special bond with people who are like us or have shared life experiences like ours.

“Bridging capital” is what makes it possible to connect with people who are different from us in one way or another. We bridge to a new hire on the job, to the new kid in our class, or to a visitor to our congregation. When we make a connection across differences, we are creating the bridging kind of social capital.

In our prayer for unity, we pray for bonding: may God grant that we will know a deepening sense of community with those who join us at the Lord’s table. “Unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food” (*LBW*, post-communion prayer).

We pray for this bonding, and for more. In order to draw us into the very relationship He had with God, Jesus had to bridge to us. Following Him, we pray not just for bonding with those near to us, but for the courage and the wisdom to bridge to others as well. May God grant that as we meet people different from us, we may recognize them as brothers and sisters of the one who gave us all “power to become the children of God” (John 1:12). May we all be one.

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