

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2020
TUNE TO 107.1 FM



Church Office: (260) 244-5513

Email: zionccdq@embarqmail.com

Web Page: www.zionlutherancc.com

Facebook: Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbia City

YouTube channel: Pastor Phil Preaching the Gospel

Rev. Philip R. Rittner II

Cell Phone: (260) 415-9078

Email: revrittner@reagan.com

Michaela (Strelow) Dub, Deaconess Fieldworker

Tonya Holle-Stanford, Secretary

Prayer Chain Chairperson: Kathaleen Reese (260) 327-3911

(Call Pastor Phil so he is aware of the situation.

Pastor is *not* part of the prayer chain)

A personal prayer before worship: Heavenly Father, this morning—and all of history—is about you. Please help me worship you with an undistracted heart. You know how my mind wanders to my upcoming week, present worries, and thoughts of others and other things. Help me put those thoughts away and focus on You and Your glory. I ask that the Holy Spirit would cause my heart, soul, mind, and strength to exalt your Holy Name in my singing, listening to Your Word, and interacting with your people. I pray this in the precious name of Jesus, my risen Lord and Savior. Amen.

+ DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE +

594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

LSB 594

- 1 God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free
Lasting to eternity!

- 2 Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my Baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

- 3 Satan, hear this proclamation:
I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation,
I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled,
All your might has come unraveled,

And, against your tyranny,
God, my Lord, unites with me!

4 Death, you cannot end my gladness:
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.

5 There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of paradise!

Text: © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001568

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their
Baptism.*

Invocation

LSB 184

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Exhortation

LSB 184

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and
confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in
the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

Introit

Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14

- P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
C **Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;**
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

- P** Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.
- C** **But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.**
- P** Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have
seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace
and truth.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186

- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Kyrie

LSB 186

- C** **Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

- P** Glory be to God on high:
C **and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great
glory.
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 17:16–31

While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived

there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for

“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;

as even some of your own poets have said,

“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:8–20

Psalm 66:8–20

P Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,

C **who has kept our soul among the living
and has not let our feet slip.**

P For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.

C **You brought us into the net;**
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;

P you let men ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

C **I will come into your house with burnt offerings;**
I will perform my vows to you,

P that which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

C **I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,**
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

P Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

C **I cried to him with my mouth,**
and high praise was on my tongue.

P If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.

C **But truly God has listened;**
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

P Blessèd be God,
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast love from me!

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle

1 Peter 3:13–22

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

John 14:15–21

P The Holy Gospel according to **St. John**, the **fourteenth** chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth,

whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C 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.**

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.
- 4 Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

Text: © Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001568

Sermon

You Know the Holy Spirit

Offertory

LSB 192

- ☐ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

**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.**

Salutation

LSB 201

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**

Benedicamus

LSB 202

- P** Bless we the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious
unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give
you peace.
C **Amen, amen, amen.**

578 Thy Strong Word

LSB 578

- 1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;
At Thy speaking it was done.
For created light we thank Thee,
While Thine ordered seasons run.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia without end!

- 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,
 Dark as night and deep as death,
 Broke the light of Thy salvation,
 Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.
Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!
- 3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;
 Bright with Thine own holiness,
 Glorious now, we press toward glory,
 And our lives our hopes confess.
Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!
- 4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining
 Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
 From the cross forever beameth
 All Thy bright redeeming light.
Alleluia, alleluia!
 Praise to Thee who light dost send!
Alleluia, alleluia!
 Alleluia without end!
- 5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
 Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
 Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
 Mouths to speak Thy holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!
 May the light which Thou dost send
 Fill our songs with alleluias,
 Alleluias without end!

△ 6 God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001568

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor is *not* part of the prayer chain. Please contact Pastor directly so he can care for your spiritual needs.

Prayers - Please remember in your daily prayers our Members in Nursing Homes and those at home: John & Lois Duffy, Linda Hobkirk, Gene & Janice Klopfenstein, Dortha Marsh, Maxine Lott, Bill Niedermeyer, Tim & Sandra Rueger, John Myers, Willie & Karen Scheumann, Jeannine Slavicek, Jack & Joanne Lane, Shane Hoffman, Ralph & Barbara Keiper, and Lynn Kyler.

Those serving our Country in the Armed Forces: Joshua Rittner, Jason & Ashley Weatherly.

Pastor is on YouTube!!! If you go to YouTube and search "*Pastor Phil Preaching the Gospel*" you will find services and devotions for you to view anytime. You can subscribe to the channel if you like to find it easier.

We will be welcoming Vicar-elect Timothy Benzinger and his family August 1, 2020! We are excited to meet Tim, April, Trent, Kayla, Jakob and Hadassah (Dess) when they come.

The Lord's Supper is available for anyone who wants to partake after the worship service this morning. You may also call pastor to schedule private communion if you desire.

PLEASE NOTE: Your Elders and Pastor met to discuss the reopening of worship services inside the church's Sanctuary. It was decided to attempt to begin having worship services again beginning on **June 7th, 2020**. Of course, things could change between now and then, but we will keep everyone up to date as the time approaches.

Also, please note that the following items were considered for reopening:

- Signage will be provided to require hand sanitizing before entering the church. Face masks will be suggested to be worn by those entering the church. Also, those symptomatic of COVID19 should stay home to avoid problems for your neighbor. The church building itself will have to undergo some sanitation procedures recommended by the state and the Indiana District-LCMS, all of whom we've been getting guidance. This will include items in the Sanctuary you may come into contact with (pews, door handles, etc.) as well as Communion Ware. The entire service will of course be made available on the PowerPoint screen, to avoid the use of using the hymnals (which would need cleaning after each service.)
- Persons 65 years old and older will have a service for them only. This will mean probably 2 worship services or more on Sundays.
- Holy Communion will be practiced differently than we have done it in the past, and for as long as necessary until we can safely return to everyone coming to the Communion Rail to partake of the Lord's body and blood. We will have a table set up before the steps to the Chancel with the elements upon it. Pastor will Consecrate them, and then the congregation will be invited to approach (observing social distancing guidelines) and take the host and individual cup of wine to commune. This will effectively be a non-contact manner of distributing the Lord's Supper.
- Social Distancing guidelines will be in place in the Sanctuary by a marking system (probably a tape) in the pews.

- A devotional video by the Pastor will continue to be provided, though notification means should be limited to those who desire them (a sign-up system will be developed).
- The Thursday Evening Bible Study will continue to be conducted via Zoom video/audio conferencing. If you don't have means of getting the video feed, you can always call in on your phone and participate that way! It is encouraged that everyone is welcome to join us from your home on Thursday for wonderful discussion and learning more about Jesus!
- Sunday School will not resume until public schools are reopened by the Governor of Indiana. That date is yet unknown.
- There will be shortly a questionnaire going out to the Voters of Zion asking your opinions/suggestions/etc. regarding the reopening of the church. We realize the Voters have not met as we were supposed to in April, but it is the strong desire of your Church Council and Elders that you have a voice in how things are being done.
- There will also be a call out to everyone for volunteers to assist with the cleaning/sanitizing of the church for your fellow members.
- We'll continue with worship outdoors as often as we can! Let us know if there's anything we can help you with!

Your elected officials and Pastor have been working diligently in the time we've been closed to maintain the church building and keep in touch with everyone. The priority will and continue to be the sharing of the love of Christ for all people, doing so by the proclamation of the sweet Gospel message of Christ's Resurrection from the tomb, atoning for the sins of all mankind; and by the administration of the holy Sacraments as commanded by our Lord. Know this, God loves you so much, He sent His Son to pay the price for your forgiveness! Bless and praise Him!

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2018 Concordia Publishing House.