

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 17, 2020

Worship Sheet and Bulletin



Greeting and Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

C: **And also with you!**

A: Let us pray together, **Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Verse 1

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down! Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Verse 2

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find thy promised rest. Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Verse 3

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, never-more thy temples leave. There we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Verse 4

Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee! Changed from glory into glory till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise!

“Zoom Reading”: Psalm 31: 1-5,15-16 (Text shown on screen)

First Reading: Acts 17:22-31

In Athens, Paul faces the challenge of proclaiming the gospel to Greeks who know nothing of either Jewish or Christian tradition. He proclaims that the “unknown god” whom they worship is the true Lord of heaven and earth who will judge the world with justice through Jesus, whom God has raised from the dead.

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God

and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ ²⁹Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel: John 14:15-21

In final words to his disciples on the night of his arrest, Jesus encourages obedience to his commandments and speaks of the Spirit, who will be with them forever.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹⁵“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude

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.

Final Blessing

P: May the One who brought forth Jesus from the dead raise you to new life, fill you with hope, and turn your mourning into dancing. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

A: Christ is risen, just as he said. Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

This Is Amazing Grace

Verse 1: Who breaks the power of sin and darkness, whose love is mighty and so much stronger?

The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Verse 2: Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder and leaves us breathless in awe and wonder?

The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

(Song Continued on next page)

Chorus: This is amazing grace, this is unfailing love, that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross. You laid down Your life that I would be set free. Oh, Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.

Verse 3: Who brings our chaos back into order, who makes the orphan a son and daughter?
The King of Glory, the King of Glory.

Verse 4: Who rules the nations with truth and justice, shines like the sun in all of its brilliance?
The King of Glory, the King above all kings.

Chorus: Yeah, this is amazing grace, this is unfailing love, that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross. You laid down Your life that I would be set free. Oh, Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me.

Bridge: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy is the King who conquered the grave!
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain! Worthy, worthy, worthy!

Chorus: Oh, this is amazing grace, this is unfailing love, that You would take my place, that You would bear my cross. You laid down Your life that I would be set free. Oh, Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me, all that You've done for me.

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May, 2020

The May issue of the STAR is ready. Copies are available in the Shooting Star box outside the church entry. Also check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

With Gov. Whitmer’s stay-at-home order now extended through May 28th and new guidelines by the Governor regarding different “phases” of safety regarding gatherings, etc, Bethlehem is working on plans to **hopefully start some sort of gatherings and/or worship sometime in June (note: this is an update from our information in the May STAR.)** We are exploring plans but have not yet settled in on a date to resume gathering. Safety is our primary concern. Details will be sent out as we get closer, and we give thanks always for your support, understanding and prayers.

Keep "Hope Spreading": Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to Pastor Paul at paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

The outdoor **"Shooting STAR Dispenser"** at BLC is now full with new DVDs for April and May virtual church services and several paper publications, including the May STAR.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is going virtual!!! Because of all the COVID-19 precautions and changes, BLC joins other churches in altering our VBS plans. We may still be looking for volunteers in some areas, so let Annie know if you are interested in helping out this summer. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Annie Slaubaugh at annie.slaubaugh@bethlehemtc.org

Pr Paul and the staff (Sharon, Phil, Annie and Barbara) pray that you are staying safe and healthy. We miss seeing you in person and look forward to being able to worship and have fellowship together.



Our next Jubilee service is scheduled for Sunday, August 30th at 10:00 am.

The Annual Chili Cook Off has been postponed to a later date, as was our May Jubilee service. Please stay on the lookout for more updates, and we can't wait to see you and share some chili with you all when we can (likely in the fall!)

ZOOM Fellowship Time continues and will start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 10:45am on Sundays and 7:45pm on Wednesdays. We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.



To login to our Zoom ministry sessions, you can type into your web browser (or click on) the weblinks provided via email. **You may need to have the ZOOM app (from Zoom.com) installed on your device. We now have the ability for you to dial into simply the audio portion on a landline.**

"Zoom Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship. Pastor Paul and Annie co-lead this study. Our subject matter is "Luke and Acts ToGather" and whatever life and ministry guides us as we meet... which gives us plenty of good stuff to talk about. *Please note that you don't need to be a biblical scholar to join us.* In fact, much of our time might be just as social as it is theological. Just remember to install the Zoom software on your PC, Mac, table or smart phone before you visit the links with ID and Password provided. Like the Sunday Fellowship, the meeting ID and password will be mailed out the day before the Bible Study. Contact Pastor Paul if you would like the login sent to you.