

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 5th, 2020

Virtual/Online and Parking Lot Worship (10:15)



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,

C: **You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Children's Message (Online service only)

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty (verses 1-4)

Verse 1

“Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give. If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live.” Jesus, ever-flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

Verse 2

“Come to me, all trav'lers weary; come that I may give you rest. Drink the cup of life I offer; at this table be my guest,” Jesus, ever-flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

Verse 3

“Come to me, believers burdened; find refreshment in this place. Come, receive the gift I offer, turn to me and seek my face.” Jesus, ever-flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

Verse 4

“Come to me, repentant sinners; leave behind your guilt and shame. Come and know divine compassion, turn to me, I call your name.” Jesus, ever-flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

First Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

Life captive to sin is a catch-22 existence in which we know good but do not do it and do things we know to be wrong. Through Jesus Christ, God has set us free from such a futile existence.

¹⁵I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. ²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? ^{25a}Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

L: The Word of the Lord C: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Jesus chides people who find fault with both his ministry and that of John the Baptist. He thanks God that wisdom and intelligence are not needed to receive what God has to offer.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus spoke to the crowd saying: ¹⁶“To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ¹⁷“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ ¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; ¹⁹the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.” ²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon – Pastor Paul

Apostles Creed (10:15 service only)

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 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.

Prayers of the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude (10:15)

Communion Word’s of Institution (10:15 service only)

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: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

Amen.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Be Still My Soul (In You I Rest)

Verse 1

Be still, my soul, the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide.
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul, thy best thy heav'nly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Verse 2

Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake
to guide the future as He has the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake.
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul, the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

Chorus

In You I rest; in You I found my hope.
In You I trust; You never let me go.
I place my life within Your hands alone.
Be still my soul.

Verse 3

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord.
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, Love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past;
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Chorus

In You I rest; in You I found my hope.
In You I trust; You never let me go.
I place my life within Your hands alone.
Be still my soul. Be still my soul. Be still my soul.

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July, 2020



Bethlehem
LUTHERAN CHURCH

"2.0" is coming! We are excited to announce that a new experience is coming soon for our online worship, and we're calling it "2.0"! On **Wednesday Nights** later this summer, join Pastor Paul and others for an online **Holden Evening Prayer**, as we begin melding some of our typical "Celebrate!" content, along with footage from outdoor communion and other gatherings into a new Wednesday experience. More info coming soon! We may also look to YOU for help with readings if you are willing/able!

The JULY issue of the STAR is here! Thanks to an anonymous donor, printed copies of our STAR newsletter will be mailed to members this week. Printed STARS will also be available in the “Shooting Star box” outside the church entry later this week. Feel free to 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 the recent rescinding of Gov. Whitmer’s full stay-at-home order and new guidelines by the Governor regarding different “phases” of safety for re-opening gathering venues, **we continue this week with our 2nd “Parking Lot Worship” service**, offering Parking Lot Communion after worship. **We hope to move outside of our cars to the West Lawn (aka “Greenspace Worship”) on July 19th.** Safety is our primary concern.

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 June STAR. More recent DVDs on the way.

Altar flowers have returned to our worship services. If you would like to sign up for a particular weekend, you can call Sharon at 231-947-9880 or email her at admin@bethlehemtc.org.

Today’s altar flowers are donated by: *the Congregation in thanks for all of God’s blessings*

Share your name please. Some of us are finding that not seeing an entire face and dealing with sunglasses causes us to have more difficulty knowing and calling other BLC members by name. If you enjoy being greeted by name please consider placing your name on your dashboard while drive-through communion is occurring. If you have an extra name tag at home you may want to consider wearing it when green space services occur. And please be sure to wear your name tag when the time comes to re-enter church.

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!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is now virtual!!! Introducing “Bible Stories” each Monday at 6PM on Zoom. Registration open all summer long. Visit myvbs.com/blcbiblestories and register your child TODAY to get the Zoom Link! Please contact Annie Slabaugh at annie.slabaugh@bethlehemtc.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Our next Jubilee service is scheduled for Sunday, August 30th.

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 share some chili with you all when we can (likely in the fall!)

Online Fellowship Time on ZOOM continues and starts when worship concludes, or approximately 9:45am 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. Zoom login information is “recurring” so they don’t change each week. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or Bible Study, feel free to share Zoom info with them. **"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. We will likely switch to become a book study in late July, using the Walt Wangerin book **Paul: A Novel**, on the famous apostle.

Our Congregational Meeting is next Sunday, July 12th – held outdoors following Parking Lot Worship and Communion at approximately 11:45am. We hope to see you there!