

Sunday, May 17, 2020
Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A



All Saints Lutheran Church, ELCA

Reverend Kim A. Stover, Presiding

Reverend Karen Boda, Preaching

Mr. John Womack, Music

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Introduction

Jesus does not abandon his followers. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes to abide with his disciples of every generation. As Pentecost draws near, we are reminded that the risen Christ dwells in us as the Spirit of truth. We receive this Spirit in baptism and pray that in our gathering around the Lord's table the Spirit will transform us to be the body of the risen Christ in the world.

May 17 —Zoom

Assisting with Worship

In order of appearance

May 17 Zoom

Altar Guild:	Everyone
Children's Sermon:	Kevin S
Lector:	Amy C
Worship Assistant:	John H
Com. Assts:	Everyone
Ushers:	Everyone
Greeter:	Susan L
Projectionist:	Jack B
Counters:	Tom & Lorraine H

Gathering

Greeting & Welcome

Welcome to Guest Preacher, Rev. Karen Boda

Reverend Boda serves as Assistant to Bishop Strickland and will be working with All Saints in the Call process.

Susan Lystad

Pastor Stover

Announcements

Lisette Branscomb

Congregational President

Pastor Stover: In our Communion today, we return to the past as we move towards the future! COVID-19's disruption has pushed us in to new ways of gathering as the Body of Christ in this world. Looking to the past, we remember Moses' instructions to God's people to prepare a meal, then wait for the Angel of Death to pass over their homes. As you know this is the first Passover. We look back to Jesus' celebration of this first Passover, with some of his followers, in which he said, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you."

Looking ahead to an ambiguous future, we utilized modern technology to gather virtually, and as the Exodus people gathered under temporary tents on their way to the Land of Promise, so also, we prepare bread and wine at home, and gather in our virtual tent to celebrate as Jesus commanded us, until that day of promise when we shall return to sanctuary. May the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing keep you in faith, hope, and love.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Pastor Stover

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

Today

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Today it is especially significant that we utilize “Thanksgiving for Worship” in worship. In our second reading, St. Peter tells the Church to hold Christ sacred in our hearts and respond to accusations with reverence and kindness, because through baptism, we can appeal to God with a clean conscience.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are raised with him to new life.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Candle Lighting and Water Pouring

Olivia Johnson

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning you created us in your image
and planted us in a well-watered garden.
In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,
and you gave us water from the rock.
When we did not know the way,
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.
At the cross, you watered us from Jesus’ wounded side,
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.
We praise you for your salvation through water,
for the water in this font,
and for all water everywhere.
Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.
Satisfy the thirsty and give us the life only you can give.
To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Apostolic Greeting

Pastor Kim Stover

Prayer of the Day**Pastor Kim Stover**

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.**Gathering Song The Majesty and Glory of Your Name****Solo***John Womack, Piano Solo.***WORD****Especially for Children****Kevin Swanson****First Reading: Acts 17:22-31**

Preaching 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.

A reading from Acts, chapter 17.**Amy Cauble**

²²Paul stood in front of the Areopagus (/æri'ɒpəgəs/) 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."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:8-20

Amy Cauble

⁸Bless our God, you peoples;
let the sound of praise be heard.
⁹Our God has kept us among the living
and has not allowed our feet to slip.

¹⁰For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
¹¹You brought us into the net;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
¹²You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water,
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
¹³I will enter your house with burnt offerings
and will pay | you my vows—
¹⁴those that I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats.
¹⁶Come and listen, all you who believe,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.
¹⁷I called out to God with my mouth,
and praised the Lord with my tongue.
¹⁸If I had cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me;
¹⁹but in truth God has heard me
and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

²⁰Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer,
nor withheld unfailing love from me.

Second Reading: I Peter 3:13-22

Amy Cauble

The author of I Peter encourages Christians to remain faithful even in the face of defamation and persecution. In baptism we are made clean to act in accordance with what is right.

A reading from 1st Peter, chapter 13.

(The Problem of Unjust Persecution)

¹³Who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good?

¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed.

Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated,

¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.

Always be ready to make your defense to anyone

who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;

¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence.

Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned,

those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good,

if suffering should be God's will,

than to suffer for doing evil.

(The Example of Christ)

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all,

the righteous for the unrighteous,

in order to bring you to God.

He was put to death in the flesh,

but made alive in the spirit,

¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison,

²⁰who in former times did not obey,

when God waited patiently in the days of Noah,

during the building of the ark,

in which a few, that is, eight persons,

were saved through water.

(The Significance of Baptism)

²¹And baptism,

which this prefigured, 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,

²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God,

with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Pastor Stover

Alleluia. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them,* and we will come to them and make our home with them. *Alleluia.* (John 14:23)

Gospel: John 14:15-21

Rev. Karen Boda

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.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter 15.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Karen Boda

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

Prayers of Intercession

John Holdrich

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Uplifted by the promised hope of healing and resurrection, we join the people of God in all times and places in praying for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Abiding God, you have revealed yourself to us in the form of your Son, Jesus Christ. Embolden your church, as your followers, to reveal your love to everyone in our speaking and in our living. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You are the creator of heaven and earth. Revitalize the health of oceans, rivers, lakes, springs, glaciers, and other bodies of water that give life to your creatures, the Yellow River, the Gulf of Mexico, and Lake Lanier. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You call all people of the world your children. Judge the nations justly, show mercy to the oppressed, and speak truth to power through your prophets. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

You come near to us when we are lost, and you hear our distress. We pray for those who suffer in any way (See *end notes*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Your commands are good and merciful. Give us courage to take hold of our baptismal promises to work for justice, advocate for the voiceless, and free the oppressed and imprisoned in body, mind, or spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You remain with us always, O God, and your kingdom has no end. We remember the saints who have gone before us especially *Margit*. Unite us forever in your final victory over death. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

With bold confidence in your love, almighty God, we place all for whom we pray into your eternal care; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

PM The Peace of Christ be with you always.

Pastor Stover

C **And also with you.**

Offering

Pastor Stover

Preparing the Bread and Wine

All

Preparing other Offerings: Finances, Shawls, Food, Prayer, etc.

Offering Prayer

John Holdrich

Merciful God,

our ordinary gifts seem small for such a celebration,

but you make of them an abundance,

just as you do with our lives. Grant us vision to see them!

Feed us again at this table

for service in your name on which we call,

in the strength of the risen Christ.

Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Stover

+Dialogue

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+PREFACE (ELW p. 108)

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ,
the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin;
who in dying has destroyed death,
and in rising has brought us to eternal life.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the
resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,
and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

+Holy, Holy, Holy

All

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

+Thanksgiving at the Table

The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.

We give you thanks, Father,
through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,
whom you sent in this end of the ages
to save and redeem us, and to proclaim to us your will.

It is Jesus whom you sanctify in our hearts
that our actions toward others would be reverent and kind.

It is with Jesus, Father and Holy Spirit, into whom we were baptized,
that we might stand before you with a good conscience.

And it is Jesus to whom we turn in this time of COVID crisis.
Save us, Lord Christ, from arrogance, distrust, fear, and sickness,
—our own and that of others,
that we might serve our neighbor
as you humbly serve us simple bread and wine this day.

It is Jesus, who, though good and loved by you, Heavenly Father,
suffered mightily,
enduring injustice and irreverent abuse,
until death itself freed him from such cruelty,
until Life itself raised him to life anew.

Beyond death, beyond suffering and injustice,
it is Jesus who established his covenant,
taking bread and giving thanks to you, who said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send, now the Spirit of the Father and the Son
upon these gifts of your church.

Do not abandon us or leave us as orphans,
but gather all into one as we share this bread and wine.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ;
through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

+The Lord's Payer

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

Remember us in your kingdom and keep teaching us to pray.

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

Pastor Stover

Alleluia! Come to the banquet. Behold the risen Christ.

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Lamb of God

John Womack

Prayer after Communion

John Holdrich

Life-giving God,

you have fed us with your word,
and our hearts burn within us.

Through this meal you have opened us to your presence.

Now send us forth to share the gifts of Easter with all in need;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Post-Worship Notes

Pastor Stover
Others

Blessing

Pastor Stover

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.

Sending Song Peace Like a River

John Womack

Piano/Handbell Duet by Amy Cauble and John Womack

Dismissal

Susan Lystad

Christ is risen, as he said.
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

End Notes

These are those for whom we have been praying.

Comforting God, you carry us tenderly. We pray for those who walk through dark valleys overshadowed by anxiety and overwhelmed with suffering especially.

- Sue Silver, as she recovers from Covid-19. Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Gracious Lord, consider the concerns of those we also love, especially

- Amanda and Amanda, as they await the births of their babies.
- Ciji (See-jee, and friend of Rica Kelly's daughter) who is expecting and very soon to deliver; and friend Jenny, an ICU nurse.
- Joann's friend Stephanie in her medical work at Northside Gwinnett
- John and Joyce's grandson Chris Holdrich in his medical work in Florida
- Family and friends of Sandra Robinson in their illness and recent deaths, especially Margaret Robinson, Rick Robinson, Sondra Fowler, and Bob Xander.
- Thanks be to God who has restored Kyle Jenkins, Sandra's father. Bless Margaret Robinson, Rick's mother, hospitalized after fall and broken hip.
- Stephanie Sanders in her illness, and her mother (Sarah Catham) as she recovers from a broken hip, and Marie Zagaglia, post-procedure.
- Myrna Mamaril, Al Kates' sister and John Hopkins ICU health professional, as she escorts COVID 19 patients from ICU to the quarantined areas of the hospital.
- Continue to bless the family of Gary Berry (deceased), especially his wife Susan, as they wait to gather for his Celebration of Life service.
- Watch over all who grieve in these difficult days, especially those whose loved ones died while in nursing homes.
- Comfort Miriam and Mac McCann and family as they wait longer still to gather and celebrate the life of Cathi, Miriam's sister.
- Comfort Charlene Adams in grief over the death of her mother.
- Comfort the friends of Margit Mallok, especially the Cauble family, upon Margit's death.

Comfort children and teens in this most difficult time of sickness and death; but especially bless...

- Jarixa with the sense that you created her for purpose and joy.
- Kayla until she returns home, and
- Savanah.

Good Shepherd: there are those who live on the outer edges of your green and lush pastures. Provide for those who do not have enough to eat, those who are unemployed, or underemployed, especially Ingrid, Sonya, Connie, and Phillip, and Shirley.

- Comfort those who live in nursing homes, care centers, and retirement villages where Covid is present. We especially ask this on behalf of Doni Saunders, and Joanne Heckman.
- Strengthen those with cancer, in particular your servant Hilton Austin; and those who love him, especially Patti.
- Restore strength and confidence to John, Sandy, and Todd as well as Pastor's cousin Susan Hauptmeier (stroke #2); and continue to strengthen Sister Roberta.

Upcoming Commemorations

Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160

Monday, May 18, 2020

Erik is considered the patron saint of Sweden. As king of that nation, he tried to bring peace in the region, and to spread Christianity in Scandinavia. He was also known for his attempts to make fair laws and to protect those who were poor or sick.

Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

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