

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA**

**LEWISTOWN, MONTANA**

**Sunday, May 24, 2020**

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year A**

Scripture readings not included in today's worship:

Acts 1:6-11; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; John 17:1-11

*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.*

### **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **MINISTRY OF ZION**

#### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the + Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **GATHERING SONG *Jesus, We Are Gathered* (ELW 529)**

### **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. 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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **SCRIPTURE 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.*

A reading from 1 Peter.

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, 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. <sup>13</sup>But 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. <sup>14</sup>If 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.

<sup>5:6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *This Little Light of Mine* (ELW 677)



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
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let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

**BLESSING OF GRADUATES**

*Collin Comes, Logan Errecart, Libby Jenness, Macy Mangold,  
Stephanie Olson, Bradley Vaughn, Nicole Woollett*

As you go on your way  
**May God go with you.**

In the storms of life,  
**May God be your shelter.**

In the whirlwind of activity,  
**May God be your secure center.**

In the onslaught of tempting words and images,  
**May God be your foundation of solid rock.**

In the rush of tears and fears,  
**May God be your refuge and strength.**

In all the days of your life,  
**Let God's praise be on your lips. Amen**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.

O God, call your people to be one, as you are one. Unite your church in the truth of your gospel, the love of our neighbor, and the call to proclaim your reign to all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Make your justice known among the nations of the earth. Protect the vulnerable especially those affected by the Covid-19 virus. Guide leaders of nations, states, and communities to seek the well-being of all people. Shower us with your compassion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Come to the aid of your children. We pray for those engulfed in grief, those without supportive families, and for all who are isolated, powerless, or afraid, that all may rest their anxieties in your care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give courage to all who embark on new ventures. We especially remember this day those who gave their lives in military service to our country. Grant safety to those serving at home or abroad today, and assure them of your never-failing strength. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Raise all your saints to eternal life. Until that day, we give you thanks for the faithful examples of those who have listened to your voice and now rest in you. 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.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

*We give thanks to God for every good gift.*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

## **AN INVITATION TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*Spiritual communion is a personal devotion that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

Jesus, our savior and friend, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion and truly present to us here and now. Since we cannot now receive you in the bread and wine, we remember and trust your words, “This is my body; this is my blood—given for you.” We love you and ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. As though you have already come, we embrace you and unite ourselves entirely to you. Keep all of us strong in faith, hope and love until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

## **LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

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 *Now Thank We All Our God (isometric) (ELW 840)***



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voic - es,  
2 Oh, may this boun - teous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Fa - ther now be giv - en,



who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es;  
with ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en,



who, from our moth - ers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,  
the one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



with count - less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878  
Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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The Prayer for Spiritual Communion was written by Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696–1787) a Catholic Bishop who wrote the popular Lenten Devotional “The Way of the Cross”. Pastor Lynne Ogren edited it for corporate worship.

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