

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

606 Orchard, Mediapolis, IA 52637

Praising God and Serving People

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Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA

Pentecost

May 31st, 2020

Gathering Hymn “Amazing Grace” v. 1-2, 4

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Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Greeting

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

All: Amen.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

P: 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.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

P: 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.

All: Amen

Feeding of the Lambs (Children's Sermon)

Jesus' promise of the Spirit is fulfilled on Pentecost. Tongues of fire come upon all gathered, filling them with the Spirit's power so all may call on the name of the Lord and be saved.

First Lesson

Acts 2:1-21

^{2:1} When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

⁵ Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷ Amazed and astonished, they asked, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” ¹² All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³ But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

- ¹⁷ ‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.
²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b (Read responsively.)

- ²⁴ O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
²⁵ **Yonder is the sea, great and wide,**

**creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.**

²⁶ There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

²⁷ **These all look to you**

to give them their food in due season;

²⁸ when you give to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

²⁹ **When you hide your face, they are dismayed;
when you take away their breath, they die
and return to their dust.**

³⁰ When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the ground.

³¹ **May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—**

³² who looks on the earth and it trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.

³³ **I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.**

³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
for I rejoice in the LORD.

³⁵ **Bless the LORD, O my soul.
Praise the LORD!**

God is radically welcoming, a God of all creatures, who does not choose us by our works or any pious rituals, but by our choice to live faithfully in companionship with all.

Epistle Lesson

Romans 3:21–26

²¹ But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed;

²⁶ it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

Jesus comes as risen Lord, bringing peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit to the fearful disciples. He commissions them to carry out his mission of forgiveness.

Gospel

John 20:19-23

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Sermon

Pastor Jerleen

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How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Confession of Faith

P: As a community, we gather to confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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

P: 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.

P: We call on your spirit of unity, giving thanks for our different vocations. Activate and utilize the diverse gifts present in your church, that they reveal your love for all. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

P: We call on your spirit of righteousness. Whatever we as a people are divided, unite us. Wherever we are prideful, humble us. Give each one of us a heart for justice and empathy. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

P: We call on your spirit of healing. Bless nurses, doctors, mid-wives, chaplains, counselors, and hospice workers as they care for those in need. We pray for all who long for comfort. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

P: Surprise us daily with unexpected grace, that we rejoice in every blessing you send. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

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

All: Amen

Sending of Pastor

L: *Pastor Jerleen Schlessler, on February 20, 2005 we called you to be our pastor: to proclaim God's Word, to baptize new members into the Church of Jesus Christ, to announce God's forgiveness to us, and to preside at our celebration of the Lord's Supper. With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of our loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows, you have been important to our life together in the Church of Jesus Christ and in our service to this community.*

You have served our congregation faithfully for 15 years. You are now leaving our midst to retire. As your fellow members of this congregation we wish to honor your ministry among us and bid you farewell and Godspeed in your new endeavor, bringing closure to your ministry at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

P: I thank the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church for the love, the kindness, and the support shown to me during my active ministry among you. I ask forgiveness for the ways I have sinned against you. I am grateful for the ways my ministry has been accepted. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

All: We receive your thankfulness. We offer you our forgiveness and accept that you now leave to retire. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask forgiveness for the ways we have sinned against you. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.

P: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

L: *Do you, members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, release Pastor Jerleen Schlessler from the duties as your pastor?*

All: We do, with God's help.

L: *Do you offer encouragement for her ministry as it unfolds in her retirement?*

All: We do, with God's help.

L: *Do you, Pastor Jerleen Schlessler, release Immanuel Lutheran Church from turning to you and depending on you?*

P: I do, with God's help.

L: *Do you offer your encouragement for the continued ministry here?*

P: I do, with God's help.

L: *We will hold you in our prayers as you retire. We pledge our support and love to you and wish you God's blessing. Let us pray:*

God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move us in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

L: *Let us bless the Lord.*

All: Thanks be to God.

L: *The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.*

All: Amen.

Benediction

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.

All: Amen.

Sending

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

All: Thanks be to God!

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Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

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