

Service of Prayer and Proclamation

May 17, 2020 • The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Redeemer Lutheran Church-LCMS
Charleston, WV

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

ON BAPTISM – AN EXCERPT FROM LUTHER'S LARGE CATECHISM

Although we have finished with the main teachings of the Small Catechism, now we hear from Dr. Luther's Large Catechism: "First we shall take up baptism, through which we are initially received into the Christian community. In order that it may be readily understood, we shall treat it in a systematic way and limit ourselves to that which is necessary for us to know. How it is to be maintained and defended against heretics and sectarians we shall leave to the scholars.

In the first place, we must above all be familiar with the words upon which baptism is founded and to which everything is related that is to be said on the subject, namely, where the Lord Christ says in the last chapter of Matthew [28:19]: 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit ...' Likewise, in the last chapter of Mark [16:16]: 'Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.'

Observe, first, that these words contain God's commandment and institution, so that no one may doubt that baptism is of divine origin, not something devised or invented by human beings. As truly as I can say that the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer were not spun out of anyone's imagination but are revealed and given by God himself, so I can boast that baptism is no human plaything but is instituted by God himself. Moreover, it is solemnly and strictly commanded that we must be baptized, or we shall not be saved, so that we are not to regard it as an indifferent matter, like putting on a new red coat.

It is of the greatest importance that we regard baptism as excellent, glorious, and exalted. It is the chief cause of our contentions and battles because the world is now full of sects who scream that baptism is an external thing and that external things are of no use.

But no matter how external it may be, here stand God's Word and command that have instituted, established, and confirmed baptism. What God institutes and commands cannot be useless. Rather, it is a most precious thing, even though to all appearances it may not be worth a straw... we ought to regard baptism as much greater and more precious because God

has commanded it. What is more, it is performed in his name. So, the words read, “Go, baptize,” not “in your name” but “in God’s name.”

To be baptized in God’s name is to be baptized not by human beings but by God himself. Although it is performed by human hands, it is nevertheless truly God’s own act. From this fact everyone can easily conclude that it is of much greater value than the work of any human being or saint. For what human work can possibly be greater than God’s work?

[So], we must also learn why and for what purpose it has been instituted, that is, what benefits, gifts, and effects it brings. Nor can we better understand this than from the words of Christ quoted above, “The one who believes and is baptized will be saved.”

This is the simplest way to put it: the power, effect, benefit, fruit, and purpose of baptism is that it saves. For no one is baptized in order to become a prince, but, as the words say, “to be saved.” be saved, as everyone well knows, is nothing else than to be delivered from sin, death, and the devil, to enter into Christ’s kingdom, and to live with him forever. [This is most certainly true.]

CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB 291

Brief time of silence to think on God’s Word and the sin we need to confess

C O almighty God, merciful Father, we poor miserable sinners, confess unto You all our sins and iniquities with which we have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But we are heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and we pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to us, poor, sinful beings.

ABSOLUTION

LSB 291

P In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Easter 6

P O God, the giver of all that is good, by Your holy inspiration grant that we may think those things that are right and by Your merciful guiding accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 66:8-20

Bless our God, O | peoples;*
let the sound of his | praise be heard,
who has kept our soul among the | living*
and has not let our | feet slip.
For you, O God, have | tested us;*
you have tried us as sil- | ver is tried.
You brought us in- | to the net;*
you laid a crushing burden | on our backs;
you let men ride o- | ver our heads;*
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a place of a- | bundance.
I will come into your house with burnt | offerings;*
I will perform my | vows to you,
that which my lips | uttered*
and my mouth promised when I was in | trouble.
I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,
with the smoke of the sacri- | fice of rams;*
I will make an offering of | bulls and goats.
Come and hear, all you who | fear God,*
and I will tell what he has done | for my soul.
I cried to him | with my mouth,*
and high praise was | on my tongue.
If I had cherished iniquity | in my heart,*
the Lord would not have | listened.
But truly God has | listened,*
he has attended to the voice | of my prayer.
Blessèd | be God,*
because he has not rejected my prayer
or removed his steadfast | love from me!

THE FIRST READING

Acts 17:16–31

P A reading from Acts the seventeenth chapter:

While Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So, he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babblers wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took hold of him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

So, Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, for
“‘In him we live and move and have our being’;
as even some of your own poets have said,
“‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

THE SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13–22

P A reading from 1 Peter, the third chapter.

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God’s patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:15–21

P The Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

[Jesus said:] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SERMON

An Inspiring View

APOSTLES' CREED

P I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life  everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

For the faithful proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who do not know Him, that through hearing the Word of the Lord many may be brought to faith and to the knowledge of the truth, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the Church of God here and everywhere, that all who confess Jesus Christ may be united in doctrine and witness, defended against all the assaults of the enemy, and eager to gather together around Your Word and Sacrament in love for one another, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For this parish, for the work of the Kingdom in our community, and for the resources to accomplish all that God desires, that His name may be glorified among us and His purpose fulfilled in our words and works, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the agencies and institutions through which we love our neighbor and provide for those in need, for the destitute and homeless, and for everyone who suffers unemployment and underemployment, that we may aid them in their needs and assist them to find honorable labor to supply all their needs, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the lonely who suffer the burdens of life without friendship or family, for those depressed or weary of pandemic measures, and for the fellowship of the Church, that we may bear one another's burdens and live in community with Christ as our head, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and those who suffer, that God would grant healing to their bodies, peace for their minds, and consolation in their grief and sorrows, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For love of godly things, that we may delight in God's Word and walk in His ways; and for the Spirit, that we may be led into all truth and kept from error and false doctrine, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For the nation, for those who lead our nation, for the end of the pandemic, for peace among nations, and for an end to terror and violence, that we may work for the common good so that justice may prevail, life be protected and truth abound, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord, our God, as we recall the obedient life and life-giving death of Your Son for our salvation, we pray You to strengthen our faith and to make our hearts bold, that we may not

fear but address our prayers to You in all humility. Hear us on behalf of Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, who even now stands before You on our behalf, pleading our cause with His own blood, until that day when we are delivered from the changes and chances of this mortal life and stand before You in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Thus, we pray, giving testimony of our confidence in Your gracious favor in Christ who taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father which 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.**

BENEDICTION (Aaronic)

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Service of Prayer and Preaching from Lutheran Service Book
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Quotes from Large Catechism: Robert Kolb, Timothy J. Wengert, and Charles P. Arand, *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2000), 456–458, 459.

PRAYER LIST

Zach (young friend of several RLC members) recovering from heart surgery and has been struggling with what is thought to be an infection.

Gary Peters (brother-in-law of Pastor Jack Richards) entering hospice care.

Debbie Bradley Wilson (friend of Judy Knox) threatened by septicemia following a urinary tract infection.

Melody Trierwiler learned she is not having kidney issues and will undergo more testing.

Family of Bill Shell (father of Kelli Ruffatto) who passed into eternity May 10.

Elloise Tallman (sister of Janet Winans) running a high fever; her husband is at high risk for severe Covid-19.

Cleo North (nephew of Janet Winans) beginning radiation treatment for metastatic brain cancer.

Sage (infant son of family friends of Kelly Gray's daughter) hospitalized with adenovirus.

Jack (Jo Hartman's friend Kelly Parson's dad Jack) hospitalized for numbness and inability to walk.

Baby Axel Beckman is home! (newborn son of John and Lindsey Beckman) born May 4th at 7:42 p.m.! 7 lbs 10 oz. Is home and doing well.

Ali (friend of Kelly Reimert) is beginning medical treatment for a heart condition.

Jeff and Cara Wade (friends of Tina Clark) Jeff is recovering from his surgery; Cara was called back to her job.

Herb Pauley (father of Tina Clark) dealing with some confusion after his fall.

Erin (coworker of Patty Loos) dealing with leukemia diagnosis.

Liz Albitz, Betty and Bob, Ed & Kim Booten, Billie Brisendine, Catherine, Teresa Cisco, Linda Cooper, James Cosby, Susan and Skip Daly, Harrison and Cindy Gapter, Doris Gerke, Jim and Marlene Hanson, Jo Hartley, Roy "Hutch" Hutchison, Tom Janicki, Roy and Betty Lindmark, Marie Marcum, Jeanneane Maxon, Sandy McKinney, Bob Mitchell, Lori Nettles, Herb & Marian Pauley, Harold Reed, Thresa Robinson, Donna Ruffatto, Stu and Marcia Schwalm, Carmella Shaver, Taegan Witcher

All diagnosed with Covid-19;

All diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, and their caregivers;

All diagnosed with any form of cancer;

All diagnosed with any incurable (even if treatable) disease.

For our congregation - that we would pursue God's will for us as His people gathered here to bring Him glory as we make disciples being help, hope, home in the body of Christ.