

THE PARISH CONNECTION



Tri-County Lutheran Parish
Issued on May 12, 2021
Seventh Sunday of Easter

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From Pastor Sam

Blessings!

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

These are the last words Jesus says before he ascends to Heaven, 40 days after he is resurrected. The narrative of Jesus rising into Heaven on a cloud in front of the disciples is a dramatic beginning to the Acts of the Apostles. I have to hand it to those disciples - beholding such a sight would likely shock me into a state of *inaction*. But the disciples spend only a few moments staring at the departing Jesus, before the “two men in white robes” nudge them out of their paralysis.

The disciples return to Jerusalem, confining themselves to the house for prayer for a brief time whereupon they decide to select Matthias as the replacement Apostle. They are still all together when the Day of Pentecost arrives - when the Holy Spirit blows through the house, enabling the Apostles to speak in different languages and inspiring them to go out and preach and make disciples of all nations.

It seems the Apostles are not meant to sit still, inactive, for very long. They are not meant to stare after their departed leader. They are unable to maintain their “normal lives.” *Everything* changes for them, and it continues to change. If they are to go out and make new disciples, they cannot be focusing on their departed leader, thinking about “what used to be.”

They must instead focus on the movement of the Holy Spirit, keeping vigilant for opportunities to demonstrate Christ’s love and to share the good news of salvation for everyone. Jesus has passed the torch to the Apostles and they must continue running, bringing that flame with them. The work of Jesus is just beginning, and it is up to them to see it through. They cannot look forward if they continue looking up into the sky.

So they *move* when the robed men (angels) stir them to action. They *move* when the Holy Spirit blows through. And they never stop *moving*. While they rest occasionally, they certainly never get comfortably settled again. When

Jesus ascends, the disciples are no longer physically bound to him (though of course they maintain that spiritual connection.) They are free to move when the Spirit says move and they certainly do just that!

We celebrate Ascension Day on May 13th this year and Pentecost Sunday is May 23rd. I invite you to take a close look into yourself what is holding you back, what connections are keeping you from moving forward? How can you free yourself to be open to move where the Spirit moves you?

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Sam

News and Information

Please feel free to reach out to Pastor Sam (whiteginger20@gmail.com) or Pastor Beth (chellman4557@gmail.com) should you have a pastoral care concern. If you would like to reach both pastors at the same time, please email clergy@tclparish.org.

- If you have a congregational concern, please contact your council president.
- If you have a parish concern, please contact TCLP board president Harry Avery (harryavery@yahoo.com).
- If you have a Human Resources concern, contact Phyllis Keeler at poetphyl@gmail.com or Jeannette Wilber at tam20kfw@tclparish.org.

Bible Study & Book Study

Bible Study Schedule

May 17th (7PM) and 18th (10AM) - Pastor Beth
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520>)

May 24th (7PM) and 25th (10AM) - Vicar Care
(Zoom link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82942949555>)

May 31st/June 1st - No Bible Study for Memorial Day observance

Book Study Schedule: Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

***Sunday, May 16, Zoom service will be from Trinity at 9 a.m.
with Vicar Carolyn Lawrence***

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

To Join Zoom Meeting via Telephone for Worship

Use this Meeting ID: 770 099 7419

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,88996300296# US (New York)

Dial by your location:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 770 099 7419

Worship service videos can be found on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8kJUJmPrA-l1qlv8PJ-g>

Social Media Sharing

Hopefully, you now understand the difference between our Facebook group and page. So, let's look more closely at the page. These are the public things that we really want you to share such as our worship services, special events, and other public information.

Why is this an important step? Because that is how we get the word out! When you share a post from our page to your newsfeed, all your friends will be able to see it. And when each Facebook user in the whole parish does it, that's a lot of free advertising. Even if you are going to worship in-person, please still share the

zoom worship information. We have been getting some visitors on zoom because of this. It can be a first step to getting people to join us in person.

If you have questions or need more technical help, please just ask. Let's make the most of this free tool so others will know we are here.

The Parish Prayer Group is meeting the first and third Tuesdays at 4PM via Zoom. If you would like to join, please contact Pastor Sam.

We have reached out to many of the youth and parents in our parish regarding a Parish-wide Sunday School. From the feedback we received, **we will be starting this in the fall**, when we can hopefully have Sunday School in person! Please stay tuned for more information!

If you need food, necessities, masks, or help of any kind, please reach out to one of us. We have plenty of resources available to us in our parish and we are excited to be God's hands and feet for each other!

Memorial Day! Come to Trinity in Castleton by 10am on May 31st to honor our veterans as they process by motorcade to the cemetery. Bring a sign, a lawn chair, wear your mask, and enjoy the company. Let's get a crowd to make some noise for our veterans. Need help making a sign? Stay after worship on May 16th! There will be supplies available to make a great sign to show your appreciation. Let Pastor Beth or Ann Philipp know if you are interested in making signs.

Opportunity to Help!!! Columbia County Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers. Most volunteers do one or two days a week. Most routes take about an hour to an hour and a half at the most. The volunteers do not enter the individual's home, they place the meal on a table or chair outside the door, knock, back up 6 feet and wait for the individual to answer the door. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should contact Amy Anderson, Nutrition Program Coordinator @ 518-672-5323.

Pr. Sam's MMC (Mutual Ministry Committee)

Do you have any comments, questions, or constructive critiques concerning Pr. Sam? Perhaps you really enjoyed the way she did something, or perhaps you have a suggestion. Your feedback is very much desired and appreciated. You may either contact her directly, or if you wish to remain anonymous you may contact the MMC using this email distribution list: mmcps@tcldparish.org, which will automatically send an email to the entire team (except Pr. Sam.)

OR you may contact individual members:

Anne Philipp annie2919@gmail.com (C) 518-610-1335

Karen Schubert 4schubertkara4@gmail.com (H) 518-731-1190

A Note from your Parish Admin, Sharon Smith

Send me your prayer additions, questions, Parish Connection updates, and anything else you may need to ask me to parishadmin@tcldparish.org. Please submit for the bulletins and the Parish Connection as soon as possible, however by Monday, noon is preferred.

My hours are: 9 am - 3:45 pm. My lunch time is 1pm -2 pm and I will not be available during this time. You can, however, always leave a voicemail at: (518) 758-6526 or send an email to: parishadmin@tcldparish.org

Should I have to leave the office for any reason, I will leave a note as to when I will be back. Peace, Sharon

Bible Study

Have you ever said, "I don't know the Bible stories well enough to talk to people about faith"? Have you forgotten some of those stories you learned back in Sunday School? Or are you new to the faith and finding some of the stories confusing?

In Bible Study, we will be going back to the basics to examine some major Bible stories! We will listen to the stories, hear what God is doing in the story, see how these stories impact our own lives and make God's story our own.

The clergy team will take turns leading and hosting this new study so keep an eye on the Parish Connection for the appropriate link! We will be meeting on Mondays on Zoom at 7pm and Tuesdays on Zoom at 10am. For May 17 & 18, here is the link: [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2529435520)

Book Study

The TCLP book study has started with a new book: Erika Lee's America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States. We are looking into the history of anti-Asian racism.

If you are interested, please join us on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Here is the link: [**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419)

2021 TCLP Board

Harry Avery	Chair	harryavery@tclparish.org
Jackie Menagh	Vice-Chair	jamspirit@tclparish.org
Teresa Avery	Recorder	harryavery@yahoo.com
Chuck Race	Treasurer	ctracejr@tclparish.org

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH MAY

May 16

Stuyvesant Falls & Valatie	Pr. Beth
Castleton & E. Schodack	Vr. Care
Chatham & Hudson	Pr. Sam
Athens & Oak Hill	SAM Charles Senrick

May 23 (Pentecost Sunday)

Stuyvesant Falls & Valatie	Pr. Sam
Castleton & E. Schodack	Pr. Beth
Chatham & Hudson	Vr. Care
Athens & Oak Hill	Pr. John Knarvik

May 30 (Holy Trinity Sunday)

Stuyvesant Falls & Valatie	Vr. Care
Castleton & E. Schodack	Pr. Dan Hahn
Chatham & Hudson	SAM Duane Keeler
Athens & Oak Hill	Pr. Sam

Congregation Announcements

EMANUEL, STUYVESANT FALLS

Contact – Leslie Dumont lesliesd35@gmail.com

In-person worship 8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Leslie Dumont	Term Expires 2023	President
Olivia Dumont	Term Expires 2022	Vice President
Linda Frick	Term Expires 2022	Co-Treasurer
*Dick Frick		Co-Treasurer
*Chuck Albertson		Secretary
Jennifer Dunn	Term Expires 2024	
Shirley McThenia	Term Expires 2024	
Pr. Sam		Ex Officio member
Pr. Beth		Ex Officio member

* Non-elected council member

PARISH BOARD REPRESENTATIVES:

Chair: Harry Avery (Chair)
Primary: Harry Avery
Alternate: Chuck Albertson

Committees

OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke’s)

Teresa Avery, Karen Albertson, Phyllis Keeler

WORSHIP COMMITTEE (Joint committee with St. Luke’s)

Phyllis Keeler

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM (Parish Team)

Karen Albertson

HUMAN RESOURCES (Parish Committee)

Chair: Phyllis Keeler

MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Parish Committee)

Will be from St. Luke’s this year.

ST. LUKE’S, VALATIE

Contact -- Karen McIntyre klym61@hotmail.com

In-person worship 10:30 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2021

Tim McGlaulin Mike Schunk Janis McGlaulin Dana Berntson
Sharon Smith Karen McIntyre Gail Paone Ted Fiebke

Council Officers

Karen McIntyre -- President
Ken Schomaker -- Treasurer (not on council)
Sharon Smith – Secretary

Sharon Campbell is the new financial secretary (not on council)

TCLP Board Reps – Tim McGlaulin, Jon Strodl

Readers during Worship

5/16 Beegee Roppolo

5/23 Kara Udway

5/30 Sharon Smith

EMANUEL/ST. JOHN'S

Contact -- Richard Fitzgerald rfatbellspond@yahoo.com

In-person worship 11 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Pat Brundage	President
Dick Fitzgerald	<u>Treasurer</u> (not a Council Member)
Debra Garrison	Secretary
Linda Baker	
Kirk Dixon	Sexton

ZION, ATHENS

Contact -- Gethen Proper gethen7@gmail.com

In-person worship 9 AM

COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Darling	President	518-943-4293
Tim Mercer	Vice President	518-859-1356
Bob O'Leary,	Treasurer	845-797-6084
<u>Gethen Proper</u>	Church & Financial Secretary	518-755-8395
<u>Carol Serazio</u>		518-731-9050
Karen Schubert		518-731-1190
<u>John Wais</u>		518-719-5754
John Van Valkenburg		518-945-1184

Financial Secretary needed! Please see Bill, Gethen or anyone on the Council.

TCLP Board Reps: Tim Mercer, Bob O'Leary

The many outreach projects of Zion are made possible in large part by grants from Thrivent Financial. Every Thrivent member is eligible to apply for 2 action team grants per year. These are easy to apply for, and if you need help please ask Carrol Mercer Or Christine Wanek. If you are not a Thrivent member, but would still like to help apply for a grant, you can become a Thrivent Associate Member.

Associate Membership is \$19.95 and with that membership you are able to apply for a one-time Thrivent grant for \$250.00 for our congregation's outreach projects.

Contact Thrivent either by Phone at 845-849-1267, or at Thrivent.com.

Five Loaves Project -- MEALS FOR THE HUNGRY AND THOSE IN NEED Thursday's @ 4:30 pm

ST. PAUL'S, OAK HILL

Contact – Jackie Menagh jamspirit@hardsdisk.net 518-256 2496 (cell)

In-person worship 11 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jackie [Menagh](#) President 518-634-2026 home -- leave a message

(TBA) Treasurer

Sally Lord Secretary

TCLP Board Rep – Jackie Menagh

Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

A Big Thank You to all those who have been sending their Offerings in by mail or dropping them off at the church. We really appreciate your faithfulness. The work of the Church and God continues and in this time of crisis, is more important than ever. As discussed at our Annual Meeting in March, we are very short on our budget each month and will need to start dipping into our savings to

pay the bills unless giving increases. Hopefully, once we return to full attendance at in-person worship things will improve. Until then, please continue to mail in your offering. Thank you!

CHRIST OUR EMMANUEL, CHATHAM

Contact – Jeanette Wilber tam20kfw@aol.com

In-person worship 9:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jeanette Wilber President

Kurt Hoelter Vice President

Heidi Brennan Recording and Corresponding Secretary

Cate MacPherson

Richard Mac Donald (Mac)

Henry Bartel

Patty Bervy

TCLP Board Reps – Jeanette Wilber, Patty Bervy

Did you know there is a new way to send your offering? We have an online donation portal!

Please visit our website at www.chathamLutheran.org to get started!

ST. STEPHENS, E. SCHODACK

**Contact – Charles Mayrer 518-479-3640 or
cjmay33@gmail.com**

In-person worship 11 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Charles Mayrer President
Brian Schell Vice President
Charles Senrick Treasurer
Cathy Teeter Secretary
Deborah Holtz, Diane Middleton.

OUTREACH : Alice Senrick Asenrick29@gmail.com

518-479-0819 or 518-852-1504 (not on council)

TCLP Board Reps – Brian Schell, Charles Senrick

St. Stephen's has a collection basket for non-perishable foods, that are given to the Anchor in Castleton, and Doors of Hope in Sand Lake, to help people in need.

TRINITY, CASTLETON

Contact – Anne Philipp annie2919@gmail.com (C) 518-610-1335

Nicole Gardner scullynik@yahoo.com (H) 518-336-4077 (C) 518-312-8603

In-person worship 9 a.m.

Council Members

Anne Philipp President
Eric Knodler Vice President
Elaine Dickson Treasurer (not on Council)
Rik Cosgrave Financial Secretary (not on Council)

TCLP Board Reps -- Anne Philipp, Nichole Gardner

The Castleton Girl Scouts are still collecting bottles and cans and will continue to collect them until July of 2022. They can reach out to Nicole Gardner with questions

or to make arrangements for pick up. She can be reached at 518-336-4077 (home) 518-312-8603 (text) or via email scullynik@yahoo.com.

Financial Secretary Needed Wondering how you can help your church. A Financial Secretary is needed. Training is available. if interested please see Rik Cosgrave or anyone on the council.

What would you like to see in “The Parish Connection?” Drop a line to the TCLP office at parishadmin@tclparish.org

Parish Administrator OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. Lunch is from 1-2 pm. Call any time!

If you have questions regarding the Tri County Lutheran Parish or for any other church issues or pastoral concerns, please call Sharon at 518-758-6526 or email her at: parishadmin@tclparish.org and she can help direct you to the right person!

CONTACT US:

Tri-County Lutheran Parish, PO Box 158, Valatie, NY 12184

Phone: (518) 758-6526

Pastor Samantha Perret (*Parish*) Phone – 518-229-4128

E-mail: whiteginger20@gmail.com

Pastor Beth George (*Parish*) Phone – 717-364-4557

Email: chellman4557@gmail.com

Pastor Dan Hahn, (*Intern Supervisor*) Phone – 518-281-8127

E-mail --pastordanhahn@gmail.com

Vicar Carolyn Lawrence

E-Mail: Carolyn.Lawrence@LSTC.edu

TCLP Website: <https://www.tclparish.org>

CHATHAM WEBSITE: <https://www.chathamlutheran.org>

VALATIE/STUYVESANT FALLS PARISH WEBSITE: <https://www.slelc.com>

Devotions and Prayers for the Seventh Sunday in Easter- curated by Vicar Carolyn

"Because Pelagius saw God as present within all that has life, he understood Jesus' command to love our neighbour as ourself to mean loving not only our human neighbour but all the life forms that surround us. 'So when our love is directed towards an animal or even a tree,' he wrote, 'we are participating in the fullness of God's love.'"

**-- Listening for the Heartbeat of God:
A Celtic Spirituality by J. Philip Newell**

The Ascension of Jesus, NRSV

Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Beginning on Jerusalem, A Poem on Ascension by Andrew King

Begin in the brightly painted kitchens.
At the table set for supper
and on the wide couches where we watch TV.
Begin while we are sorting the laundry, writing out the shopping list.
And in front of our bathroom mirrors.

Begin in the barns among the warmth of animals and the smells of
grain and manure.
Begin in the growing fields, and in the flooded pastures, and where
the rains have not come and the soil is cracked and hard.

Begin in the gleaming office towers, the shiny shopping malls, the
sweaty factory floors.
Begin on crumbling sidewalks and amid the rumble of subways.
At machines, at our desks, by the coffee makers and computers.

Begin with the rich, the comfortable.
Begin with the poor, the desperate.
Among the successful, the self-assured.
Among the failed and the floundering.
In the glitter of the halls of power, and in the cold and shadowed
corners of tragedy and defeat.

Begin on a day when the sun is brilliant;
on a day when the sky is gray.
In a time when economies are favorable;
in a time when all is rust;
at the moment when leaders are caring;
or amid indifference, hostility, despair.

Let us begin beginning again. And whether we have begun and triumphed, or begun and struggled and faltered, we will continue our beginning, as we have from our beginning, at Jerusalem, which is wherever and whoever we are.

Sermon by Pastor Beth 5/9/21

We live in a world of boundaries and they can be helpful. I'm thinking of boundaries between countries, states, etc. But some boundaries are more subtle. They become a part of our identity and help us know who we are in relation to other people, such as, if I see someone wearing a NY Giants jersey, then I can assume they do not like the Dallas Cowboys. Some boundaries are natural such as mountains, rivers, deserts, and oceans. Some are just lines in the sand, literally.

Our reading from Acts highlights many boundaries for first century Christians. To really understand what is going on, I'll give you a short retelling of Peter and Cornelius' story. Cornelius was a gentile, Roman centurion who believed in God and that was a rarity. Peter was one of the apostles who still followed all the Jewish dietary laws and that was pretty common. Cornelius has a vision where he was to send for Peter to come to Cornelius' home. That would be very unusual for a Jew to enter the home of a Gentile, but he sends for Peter. Peter has a vision where he is told to kill and eat animals that Jewish dietary laws prohibit. While he is trying to puzzle out the meaning of this vision, men arrive to take him to see Cornelius and he goes. Peter begins to understand that since God shows no partiality, then Peter should also accept Gentiles. He teaches Cornelius and his household about Jesus which brings us to where we began the reading. The Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles.

For Peter and Cornelius, boundaries helped them navigate their world. Each of them came from cultures with clearly defined boundaries and expectations. Peter was a Jewish follower of Jesus, who still followed the Jewish law set out in the Torah. Cornelius was a Roman who believed in God, followed the precepts of Judaism, but stopped short of circumcision and full conversion. The practice of those early believers was to keep the boundaries and distinctions in place. If you were a Jew who followed Christ, you hung out with other Jews who followed Christ. If you were a gentile, you hung out with other gentile converts.

Are we that different today? We tend to gather with people with whom we can identify. It's probably one of the reasons why we have so many different Christian denominations! So, when we think of Peter and Cornelius, don't think of this as just history. Think of this as here and now.

Peter is preaching and the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. Then, catch the prejudice embedded in the text, "the circumcised believers (translation: Jewish Jesus followers) who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles."

How often do we do that? Invite people to join us, but then assume that we are still the only ones with the gifts? We don't accept what gifts new people bring because we want things to stay the same.

Those early disciples believed in what Jesus commanded them when he said to take his gospel to the whole world so they had been preaching to the Gentiles as well. But they seemed to operate as if those new converts had to act exactly like them to receive the gifts of the Spirit. Back at the turn of the 20th century there was a church in Tucson, Arizona that sent money to the many Native American reservations in Arizona. The gospel told them to take care of the

poor, so they did. They sent money, clothing, and food support. But then people started leaving the Reservations and came to the cities, including Tucson. Where did they go? They went to the church that had so faithfully supported them.

But the white congregation in Tucson wasn't quite ready for integration. Sending money and support to the Reservation was one thing. Having those people show up to worship was something else entirely. So, the Tucson congregation started a new congregation so the Native Americans would have their own place to worship. While that story makes me sad on many levels, it is not all bad news. The Holy Spirit was not to be deterred. This new congregation became Southside Presbyterian Church. It is a beacon for social justice, a place where all are welcomed, an active leader in their community, and a reminder that God's ways are not in our control. Nor will God's ways be held back by our boundaries and walls.

We can see the breaking down of Peter's boundaries in this reading. At the beginning, he has a clear understanding of what is clean and unclean. But Peter moves to see that if the Holy Spirit has visited the Gentiles, there is nothing to separate them anymore. Cornelius's assumptions are changed too. There was no reason that a Roman Centurion, no matter how faithful a man, would feel a need to invite Peter into his home. Yet the angel told him to do it, so he does.

The Spirit challenges our assumptions, keeps putting us in situations where we are not comfortable. Imagine having someone come to your house who is from a foreign country. You don't know their food preferences. You don't know their cultural traditions or expectations. You want to be a good host but are aware that you will likely get something wrong. There was a young man from Colombia who was in our high school as an exchange student. The adjustments were many for both, this young man from Colombia and our community. It was

both a great experience and an exhausting one, for all of us. Our food preferences were different. Our life experiences were different. For example, he didn't understand, no matter how much we tried to explain it to him, why we would get in the car and drive to a restaurant when there was plenty of food at home.

He also didn't understand why someone would keep goats as pets. He offered to show the owners how to butcher and cook the goat, who politely declined the offer of turning Billy the goat into stew.

Peter and Cornelius, at the urging of the Holy Spirit, come together, tearing down boundaries and trusting God who brought them together. They were each given visions that allowed them to see the world differently, to see their relationship with each other differently, and to see their boundaries differently. But it wasn't easy for them. Peter winds up in all sorts of trouble in the next chapter. Not for baptizing Cornelius and his friends, but for eating dinner with them.

Listening to the voice of the Spirit is not without risks. It will certainly put you in uncomfortable situations. It will cause you to reconsider. It might even get you in trouble. But it will also help you break down the boundaries that either you have built for yourself or your society has built for you.

The question for you is this: where is the Holy Spirit calling you to break down your boundaries? Who is out there in the community, or in this parish, that might be waiting for an invitation from you before they can cross their own borders and live into what God is dreaming for them?

The question for us, as a congregation, is how do we listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit and live into the future God is dreaming for us? Because if we listen to the voice of the Spirit, we need to be ready to be disrupted. We need to be ready to not control the

outcome. We need to be ready for things to happen in ways we do not expect or even want.

When boundaries seem too hard to overcome, when the walls that divide seem to be too great for us to break down, take heart that God's Spirit will not be limited by them as we are. God's Spirit will help us overcome. Some things, like the Holy Spirit, flaunt borders. Lizards can scale a wall without a thought. Butterflies float right over the top, riding on the wind. These walls that seem so insurmountable to us are not insurmountable to the Holy Spirit.

In the final verses, the narrator makes an interesting comment. "Then they invited Peter to stay for several more days." The Spirit brings people together for relationship. The choice is ours. Accept them and the gifts and the problems they bring into our midst or force the Holy Spirit to leave you behind and find another way. The choice is ours.

Tri-County Lutheran Parish
May 16, 2021, Seventh Sunday of Easter
Based on the ELW, Setting 1, with Communion
Worship Leader: Vicar Carolyn Lawrence
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7700997419>

Announcements *(*) notes where you may rise in body or spirit.*

Gathering Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

*** Call to Worship**

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

*** Confession and Forgiveness**

L: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God, and of one another.

C: Merciful God, you made us in your image, with a mind to know you, a heart to love you, and a will to serve you. But our knowledge is imperfect, our love inconsistent, our obedience incomplete. Day by day, we fail to grow into your likeness. In your tender love, forgive us through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

L: In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive, no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal. God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free. Receive the forgiving love of God.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness **ELW 843**



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

*** Greeting**

L: 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.

*** Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray.

C: Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.

²⁴Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”

²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

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

Psalm 1

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

²**Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Second Reading: 1 John 5:9-13

⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

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

*** Gospel Acclamation**

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*** Gospel: John 17:6-19**

L: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 17th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus prayed:] ⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may

have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn Christ is Alive, Let Christians Sing! ELW 389



1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to



emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and



prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

L: Let us proclaim our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

*** Nicene Creed**

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*** Prayers of Intercession**

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Holy God, in Christ Jesus the joy of the church is made complete. Root the church in your Word and unify us as Christ's body. Send us into the world as your loving people, ready to testify to your Spirit at work. Bless our Bishops, Synod Staff, Conference Deans, Pastors, Vicars, Seminarians,

Church Musicians, Lay Leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Mighty God, the world is your handiwork, displaying your creative impulse. Seas teem with life, forests reach up to praise you, and the mystery of life lies deep in the soil. Guard and keep this world for the well-being of all your creatures. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious Sovereign, those who follow your ways are like trees planted near streams of water. Establish the leaders of nations and all in authority in your grace and truth. Strengthen them, so that the people they serve will have abundant life. We pray for military personnel John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need, especially Madison McDonald, Fred Dedrick, Myka Dassano, Riccarda Forster, Phyllis Keeler, Carol Rowehl, Sandy, the Slater/Dickson/Bachman family, Kim Roppolo, Katharine Kolb, William Pennant, Louis Martino, Jo Ann Lowe, Douglas LeBrecht, Barbara Slater, Bob S., Thomas Horan, Danny, Rob Gransfors, Dan Main, Mary and Frank, Frank Strantz, Sr., Maggie, Monique F, Vickie Achenbach, Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Bethany and family, Mary Ann, Paul & family; Sue Haverly, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefine Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hublely, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickle, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier

Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul Rees-Rohrbacher, for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides. Grant respite and renewal. Help us love one another in truth and action. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, here in this community we share the gift of praying, learning, and supporting one another. Give us thankful hearts as we claim the gifts that are unique to us and keep us from being envious of others with different gifts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19. We pray for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hear our prayers, O Lord, whether we speak them aloud on our lips, or in the silence of our hearts. [Pause for prayers.] Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Saving God, your wonderful promise is the gift of eternal life in Jesus. Through the witness of those who have died in you, strengthen us now in this gift of life. We cherish the memory of your saints. We pray for the family and friends of Lorene Bowes. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*** Peace**

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Prayer / Silent Meditation / Musical Reflection

Offering

L: We offer prayers of thanksgiving and ask blessings on the offerings given for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

*** Offertory**

L: Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

C: and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.

L: Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

C: that we may be fed with the bread of life.

L: Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;

C: unite them with the prayers we offer.

L: Grace our table with your presence,

C: and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

*** Dialogue**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*** Preface**

L: 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**

C: 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**

L: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

L: Again, after supper, 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.

*** Lord's Prayer**

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

C: 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.

*** Distribution of Communion**

*** Post Communion Blessing**

L: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

* Prayer After Communion

L: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

* Blessing

L: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn

Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 655



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

*** Dismissal**

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor
all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit

L: And all God's people say:

C: Thanks be to God. Amen and ALLELUIA !!

PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

For the Bishops, Synod Staff, our Conference Dean Jo Page, Pastor Dan, Pastor Samantha, Pastor Beth, Vicar Carolyn Lawrence, Seminarians, and Lay Leaders.

For the families and friends of Lorene Bowes and Gloria LaCrosse.

We pray for all those who are affected by COVID-19 and especially for those serving in the COVID-19 front lines...Allison White, Ted Fiebke, Amy Fiebke, Justine Shultis LaValley, Jason Vernon, and Jared Frick.

For those serving in the military: John Schatzle, Matt White, Aldan Race, Daniel Main, and Angela Silliman.

For those in need of physical, mental, or spiritual healing: Madison McDonald, Fred Dedrick, Myka Dassano, Riccarda Forster, Carol Rowehl, Sandy, the Slater/Dickson/Bachman family, Kim Roppolo, Katharine Kolb, William Pennant, Louis Martino, Jo Ann Lowe, Douglas LeBrecht, Barbara Slater, Bob S., Thomas Horan, Danny, Rob Gransfors, Phyllis Keeler, Dan Main, Mary and Frank, Frank Strantz, Sr., Maggie, Monique F, Vickie Achenbach, Grace, Etta, Son and family of Sue H., Bill McCumber, Carl Albertson, Michelle and Wally, Vincent Masa, Tari, Johnna, Tonya, Alicia, David and Family, Justin and Kim, Bridie G, Michelle, Lew Hotaling, Logan, Maria, Jodi, Emily, Sheila, Paula, Bethany and family, Mary Ann, Paul & family; Sue Haverly, Sue Erickson, Michael Bump, Leslie, Holly, Kayla, Katie M., Josefine Payne, Joy, Nadine Davis, Emma Burnett, Michelle Majercsik, Barbara Ritrovato, Carmel Micalizzi, Mary Keefes, Season Hubley, Judy Paine, Bunny Otterbeck, Catherine, Cindy D., Jackie Bachman, Pat Brundage, Claus Marzahl, Arlene Zahn, Al Zahn, Margot Petersen, Sheri Patterson, Kyle Stickles, Bonnie Walsh, Ivan Morales, Jacob Race, Linda Taliaferro, Grace Balint, Karen Mc Neff, Sara Scott-Fluentes, Debbie Hammond, Frank Ball, Doris Hatfield, Angela & Jake; Doris Smith, Lynn LaFave, Joy H., Ed Schomaker, Pat Kingsbury, Kayte Ware, Karen Schubert, Jim Trimmer, Bill Duke, Matt White, Dorothy Teeter, Richard Springstead, Tom Sanford, Adeline Carr, Mary Ann Hipwell, Xavier Schmidt, Nancy Lansing, Bob Bedell, Kirt, Tonya, the Pfrommer family, Jack Lyons, Millie Sparks, Lisa Freeman, Billy Freeman, Patty Westover, Pastor Paul

Rees-Rohrbacher, Richard Fitzgerald, their caregivers, and our parish members who due to COVID19 are unable to attend In-Person worship.