

American Lutheran Church/Filley, NE

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:8-20

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

May 17, 2020

INVOCATION

(based on Acts 17, 22-31 - written by Christine Longhurst)

P: We gather together in the presence of God,
the Lord of heaven and earth:
the Creator of our world and everything in it;
the One who gave us life and breath,
the One who is never far away from any of us,
the One in whom we live and move and have our being.

C: Let's worship God together!

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based on Psalm 66:8-20)

P: Praise the Lord all you people.

C: Let our praise be heard for God.

P: It is God who has kept us alive...

C: It is God who has kept us from falling.

P: You, O God, have watched as many have been put to the test.

C: You, O God, have watched as some are trapped in great difficulties...

P: You, O God, have seen heavy burdens placed on many.

C: You have seen your enemies wage war against us...and yet you have protected us and brought us to this place of safety.

P: I will bring heart-felt offerings to your house.

C: I was in trouble and I bargained with you.

P: You heard my prayer...and now I will do for you what I promised.

C: Come, and listen, all who honor God.

P: I will tell you what he has done for me.

C: I cried to him for help and I praised him with my songs.

P: I did not ignore my sins. I knew I was guilty. I knew I was flawed.

C: It was then that God could help me.

P: I praise God. He did not reject my prayer.

C: God showered me with his constant love...

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: God has heard our prayers.

C: God has come to our rescue.

P: God has seen our troubles, our worries, and our flaws.

C: God has seen our disobedience.

P: God has asked that we recognize our disregard...and corner-cutting...of his commandments.

C: We confess that we desire God's grace, yet too often go our own way.

P: Jesus said to his disciples, "If you love me you will keep my commandments."

C: We ask for God's forgiveness.

P: Jesus also said, "I will not leave you orphaned."

C: We ask for God's forgiveness.

P: Jesus also said that the Father would send an Advocate to live within us.

C: It is this Advocate who encourages us to believe that God loves and cares for us.

P: It is this Advocate who encourages us to live in obedience and trust.

C: It is this Advocate who encourages us to believe that our sins can be forgiven.

P: As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you, the entire forgiveness of all your sins. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray together,

C: Loving Lord God, you know that we live in a world that often makes us feel that we are orphans...we can feel alone and afraid.

We constantly hear talk of terrorism and economic chaos.

We are told of evil countries.

There is hatred. There is war.

Yet you promised that you would never leave us orphaned...

Come to us in these moments of worship.

By the power of your Holy Spirit increase in us a sense of your presence and love. Increase in us both the desire and the will to keep the faith...to follow your commandments... to trust your love. Amen.

1 Peter 3:13-22 (NLT)

Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong! Christ suffered[b] for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit. So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.

John 14:15-21 (NLT)

"If you love me, obey[a] my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate,[b] who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them."

MESSAGE - Pastor LuRae

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Center us now, O God,
on your presence in this place among your people,
as we lift up our hearts desires,
our soul's deep needs,
our hungers, fears and failures.

Lord in your mercy,

C: HEAR OUR PRAYERS

P: As we have often failed to be obedient to your will in our lives
as individual disciples and as church,

we pray that you will forgive us and enliven us
to be and to do the gospel of Christ.
Open us to your Spirit's urgings,
and awaken us to live faithfully as your people
in a changing, often hurting world.
Lord in your mercy,

C: HEAR OUR PRAYERS

P: We pray for those around us who need your care,
and ask that you would make of us your instruments
of healing, peace and redemption.
We pray especially for those we name to you this day,
and others we lift to you in the silence of our hearts. (silence)
Lord in your mercy,

C: HEAR OUR PRAYERS

P: Reveal your presence with them and with us, God of life,
that as people of renewed faith and vitality,
we may be empowered to serve your world,
and so give glory to you;
for we offer our prayers and our lives
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
now and forever and taught 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.

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!