

WELCOMING WORD *The gospel for Easter's seventh Sunday is always taken from the long prayer Jesus prays for his followers in John's gospel on the night before his death, and always includes Jesus' desire that his followers will be one as he and the Father are one. This oneness is not mere doctrinal agreement or institutional unity, but mutual abiding, interpenetrating life, mutual love, and joy. This oneness is the work of the Spirit whom we have received but also await. Come, Holy Spirit!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

- L: Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
C: nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- L: Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
C: and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.
- L: They are like trees planted by streams of water,
C: bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;

OPENING HYMN #328 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.

Hail him, you heirs of David's line, whom David Lord did call-
The God Incarnate, man divine- and crown him Lord of all.
The God Incarnate, man divine- and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.
C: Amen.
- L: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.
Silence is kept for reflection.
- L: Gracious God,
C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.
- L: Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you. **Amen.**

INVOCATION

P: 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

P: Gracious and glorious God,

C: 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 LESSON: 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.

SECOND LESSON: 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. ¹Those 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.

GOSPEL: John 17:6-19 [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.”

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

HYMN #439 *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear-
All because we do not carry ev'ry-thing to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged. Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrow share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge-take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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.

BLESSING FOR THE CLASS OF 2021

OFFERTORY PRAYER God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: 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. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: 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. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: 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. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Generous Savior, you befriend those who are sick, suffering, poor, lonely, outcast, rejected, or sick. Grant healing and love to all in need (*especially*). Give them tangible signs of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: 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. Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: 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 (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

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. 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 *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: #535 Holy God, We Praise Your Name (vs. 1, 4)

Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.
All on earth your scepter claim, All in heav'n above adore you.
Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

Holy Father, holy son, Holy spirit, three we name you,
Though in essence only one; undivided God, we claim you
And adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.



Kristin Swedlund-Twiton, Connie Peterson, Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother), Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl), Irene Bruflat, Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower), Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang, Helen Martinson

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

OUR SYMPATHIES AND PRAYERS ARE WITH the family and friends of Chad Helland (nephew of Gordy Kahl, Char Smith, Bonny Kellogg and Beth Sheele). Chad passed away on May. 7.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 16, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 115, The Greatness of God

Tuesday, Titus 1:1-9, Titus in Crete

Wednesday, John 16:16-24, Sorrow Will Turn Into Joy

Thursday, Psalm 33:12-22, God's Goodness

Friday, 1 Corinthians 15:50-57, Christ's Resurrection

Saturday, Romans 8:14-17, 22-27, Future Glory

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "And 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." John 17:11. *In today's reading the church hears Jesus' words on the night before his death—his prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe in him through their words.*

- How often do you pray for others?
- How do you feel when others pray for you?
- What does it mean to you to hear Jesus prayer for his followers' protection?
- What are the characteristics and priorities of Jesus being sent into the world? (John 17:18)

PRAY: 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.

BLESS: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELC 'COFFEE TIME' RESUMES Coffee Time will resume on Wednesdays at 10 am AND we will meet 'in person'. Please meet at ELC for time to gather and catch up with our church family.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH WEEKLY CLASSES:

- SUNDAY SCHOOL meets on Sundays at 9 am on ZOOM. Outdoor Gathering on May 23rd, at 9:30 am.
- CONFIRMATION Outdoor Gathering on May 19th at 7 pm.

FUSE NIGHTS (in person) - 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group at ELC on **Tuesday, May 25th at 7 pm**. Please join us for an Outdoor Gathering with a campfire and smores. Please wear a mask. Looking forward to seeing everyone in person!

2021 ELC SUMMER FUN - (Save the dates)

VBS/DAY CAMP 2021 - JULY 12 - 15th 9:30 - 11:30 am (Youth ages 3 - 5th grade)

ONLINE SIGN UP LINK: <https://forms.gle/3FCz1yfrYqQEcxph6> A time to be together outside in God's creation.

EXPLORER DAY AT SUGAR CREEK - July 26th, 9 am - 3 pm
(Children entering 1st - 5th grade in fall 2021) Email Brenda to sign up.

CONFIRMATION CAMP AT SUGAR CREEK - July 25 - 30th,
(7th & 8th) Register online at www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org

GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Service days) - New for 2021 - Middle - High school youth may join us on **Thursdays**, throughout the summer, to help in various local service opportunities. This provides us with helping our neighbors all summer, and allowing flexibility for our youth with their summer schedules. **REGISTER online:** (Link can be emailed as well) <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daea929a5ffc70-giveloveservice>

SUGAR CREEK "BACK IN THE SADDLE" – Online Registrations are now available for Sugar Creek Bible Camp Summer programs. They have a variety of programs (new & favorites) listed on their website, <http://wp.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org>, for youth and families. Come and see in 2021!

BRATS IN THE LOT (At Miller's) Thank you to everyone who visited Miller's for our "Brats-in-the-Lot" on May 15th. We appreciate your support!



VETERANS' MINISTRY During the month of May, we are providing some note cards in the narthex to be signed and write notes to our deployed ELC members in the military. We will also have sheets of paper with their addresses on. Take a few cards home, or write them in church and drop in the offering plate. The church can mail them. Help us thank the fine people who help keep us safe here at home. Thank you so much! ELC Inreach/Outreach Ministry/Veterans Ministry.

Grant Schult- Currently lives at home with his parents. He goes to Green Bay one week-end a month for his training. In May, he will go to Texas for 2 weeks. I informed his mother Teresa that we will deliver a box to them by May 1st, so he can take it with him.

Lcpl Jacob Slaney-
1st Battalion, 5th Marines / 1st Marine Division
MCB Box 555463
Camp Pendleton, Ca. 92055-5463

Jacob is currently at a six week assignment, and will return to this address mid- May. Jacob is the son of Elizabeth Field and grandson of Don and Cathie Field

Spc.Kaleb Stapleman
7936 Destiny Blvd.
Fort Campbell, Kentucky 52223

Kaleb is a helicopter mechanic. Kaleb's parents are Adam and Brianne Stapleman

Jacob Werner
USS Nimitz Unit 10003 / Box 1063
FPO: AP 96620
He is the grandson of Janice and Delbert Werner.

Jack Lunaas
241 Lee Road
553 Phenix City, Al. 36867
Jack is the grandson of Polly Field.