

HOLY TRINITY

May 30, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” -arr. John Behnken

OPENING HYMN “God Himself Is Present” *LSB* 907

1. God Himself is present:

Let us now adore Him

And with awe appear before Him.

God is in His temple;

All within keep silence;

Humbly kneel in deepest rev’rence.

He alone

On His throne

Is our God and Savior;

Praise His name forever!

2. God Himself is present:

Hear the harps resounding;

See the hosts the throne surrounding.

“Holy, holy, holy!”

Hear the hymn ascending,

Songs of saints and angels blending.

Bow Your ear

To us here:

Hear, O Christ, the praises

That Your Church now raises.

3. Fount of ev’ry blessing,

Purify my spirit,

Trusting only in Your merit.

Like the holy angels,

Worshiping before You,

May I ceaselessly adore You.

Let Your will

Ever still

Rule Your Church terrestrial

As the hosts celestial.

Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves

from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CREED *Athanasian Creed (Part 1)*

Pastor: As an expression of our faith, we confess the words of the Athanasian Creed, the longest and most recent of the three Ecumenical Creeds of the Church. Because of its length, we will be dividing the Creed into two sections and will be assisted by readers in speaking it.

People: Whoever desires to be saved must, above all, hold the catholic faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish eternally.

Pastor: And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another. But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit: the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.

People: And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal, just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite.

Pastor: In the same way, the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, the Holy Spirit almighty; and yet there are not three Almighty's, but one Almighty. So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; and yet there are not three Gods, but one God. So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord; and yet there are not three Lords, but one Lord.

People: Just as we are compelled by the Christian truth to acknowledge each distinct person as God and Lord, so also are we prohibited by the catholic religion to say that there are three Gods or Lords.

Pastor: The Father is not made nor created nor begotten by anyone. The Son is neither made nor created, but begotten of the Father alone. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding. Thus, there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits. And in this Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another; but the whole three persons are coeternal with each other and coequal, so that in all things, as has been stated above, the Trinity in Unity and Unity in Trinity is to be worshiped.

People: Therefore, whoever desires to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, You have given us grace to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity by the confession of a true faith and to worship the Unity in the power of the Divine Majesty. Keep us steadfast in this faith and defend us from all adversities; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 6:1–8*

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of

hosts!” Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Acts 2:14a, 22–41*

Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, . . . “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it. For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’ Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption. This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.’ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 3:1–17*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has

ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON “I Promise....” Acts 2:36-41

- I. “I Promise”
- II. Peter’s Preaching (Acts 2:22-40)
 - Peter points the people to God’s W_____
- III. “In the Name of Jesus”
 - What is significant about being baptized into Jesus’ name?
- IV. “For the forgiveness of your sins”
 - What does *sin* mean?
 - What does *forgiveness* mean?
- V. “And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”
 - In baptism, we receive the One Who...
- VI. “For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.”
 - What would Luther point to for the certainty of salvation?
 - Why do we have certainty from baptism?

The words, “I promise...” can be words of comfort, or words of aggravation. They can be words of hope, certainty, and assurance, or they can be unsettling, uncertain, and dismissible. How can you have two different responses to the same two words, “I promise...”? It all depends on the person saying. If it comes from a person that we cannot trust, or from one who we know breaks their word, the phrase can almost be meaningless. Can you really take the person at their word? Can you really be certain? No. If there is that doubt, there is that doubt. However, if that word of promise comes from someone we trust, from someone we can depend on, from someone we know, that word can be counted on and firmly believed until we are shown otherwise. A promise is only as good as the one who makes it. That is the truth of the day. As we hear Peter conclude his Pentecost sermon, we hear him tell us about the wonderful promises of baptism.

Throughout Acts 2, Peter is preaching to the crowd assembled before him, and in verse 36, we see his punchline: “**Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.**” Peter lets it rip and doesn’t hold back any words, or spare any feelings. He is being completely honest. They crucified the Messiah. How does the crowd take it? Luke tells us “**now when they heard this they were cut to the heart....**” They are struck with terror and remorse; their hearts skip a beat. Shame and guilt overwhelm them like an ocean wave. Hanging on Peter’s words, they ask, “**Brothers, what shall we do?**”

Peter tells them; he points them *to God’s works*. He first says, “**repent,**” that is, be sorry for your sin and turn to God in faith. This isn’t man’s work, but God’s work. It is His work that He carries out through the preaching and teaching of the Word, and by the Holy Spirit. God is working this repentance and faith in the heart of Peter’s hearers by the Word and power of the Holy Spirit. This repentance and faith *are* God’s doing, not theirs.

Peter then points them to another *work of God*: baptism. He says, “**Be baptized, everyone of you....**” In the following verses, Peter explains exactly what that means. He shows them the wonderful promises and work of God in baptism.

He says, “**Be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ....**” What is significant about being baptized into Jesus’ name? In baptism, God places His name on you, signifying that you belong to Him.

And what does God do for those who belong to Him? He fights for them. He cares for them. He loves them fiercely and eternally. He dies for them. He never gives up on them. He *always* does what is for their eternal good. This is the God I want to belong to. This is the God that belong to because He has claimed me as His own in baptism, and by Jesus' death and resurrection.

For baptism in Jesus' name places us into union with Him by means of His name. For it is in the waters of baptism that we are united with Jesus in His death and in His resurrection, giving us new and eternal life in Him. It is in the waters of baptism that we have received His saving presence, and receive all of God's grace, all of God's love, and all of His Fatherly care. What promises! What a reality! But there is more.

“Be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins....” In baptism, we receive the forgiveness of sins, and I want to focus on two words, here, to bring out the depth of God's promise. The first is *sin*. The word “sin” means to miss the mark. Imagine an archer shooting at a bullseye, or person shooting at a gun range. In either case, they are trying to hit the target, and in either case, they will inevitable miss! They will not hit the bullseye everytime, they will miss. Sometimes the shot will hit just outside that mark, and other times it will hit the outer ring. Sometimes, it will completely miss the target (better watch out!). This picture of sin, missing the mark, is a perfect depiction of our Christian life. What does your bullseye look like? Mine? They aren't pretty, and are full more of misses than hits!

When we sin, we miss the mark of God's Law and what He has called us to through our various vocations. We miss the mark in our friendships and relationships when we share a word of gossip, don't speak well of someone, or distort the truth to benefit ourselves. We miss the mark in our family lives when we explode in anger at our children, or put ourselves before a spouse or parent. We miss the mark in our faith lives when we trust in other things or people more than God, whether that is in a big savings account, in our health, in our abilities to figure things out, or in a politician. We do it when we neglect to read and study God's Word. A recent survey said that we spend over four hours a day on our phones and electronic devices (not including weekends!), and pick them up on average 58 times a day! How does that compare with our use of God's Word? There are some days where we might not even pick it up! We really do miss the mark, don't we? Our bullseye is not full of perfect shots, but misses. That is where the next word comes in: forgiveness.

The word “forgiveness” means “to let go, to send away.” It is a different way to see forgiveness, isn't it? We often think of it as a pardon, or cancellation of debt, which it is, but let's focus on this other facet for forgiveness, that of send away. When we are forgiven, God sends our sins away. They don't cling or stick to me any longer. God doesn't bring them up again, or hold them against me. He doesn't throw them in my face, and He doesn't let them define me. They are sent away, and Psalm 103:12 tells us how far they are sent: “as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.” The Psalm proclaims that God removes our sin from us so as never to be found again. They have been placed on Jesus, and because of Him, we are forgiven. They are gone from us. He has taken it! In baptism, we receive the benefits of Jesus' saving work. You receive forgiveness for *every single sin*. You receive forgiveness for *your* sin. Again, what a promise! But again, there are more.

Peter proclaims, **“...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”** In baptism, we receive a gift: the Holy Spirit. And remember, gifts aren't earned, they are given. The Holy Spirit is inseparable from baptism. At baptism, we truly receive the Holy Spirit. We receive the One Who creates and sustains faith in us. In baptism, the seed of faith is planted. Sometimes, we might see it blossom and bloom right away. Other times, we might see it slowly pop up 20 years later, or maybe 40 years later; that doesn't mean that the baptism didn't work. In baptism, we are given the One Who produces fruit in us: the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. He produces and grows these fruits in us to serve and bless the lives of others. At baptism, we are given the One Who transforms our hearts, lives, and minds to make us more like Jesus in what we say, do, live, love, and think. And, as we heard last week, we are gifted the One Who helps us live the Christ life and follow Jesus in a world that has lost its way. The Spirit is the One Who gives us the gifts of Jesus: forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. He gives us the gifts, blessings, and work of Jesus. In baptism, we receive the name of Jesus, forgiveness of sins, and the Holy Spirit. What promises and gifts! Peter next tells us who they are for.

“For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.” Here, Peter tells us the wonderful scope of God's promises. It is individual and personal-they are for you. They are cosmic and universal-it is for those far off. They are timeless-it is for

everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself. They truly are for all-your children are included! Baptism is where people, children especially, meet the Lord and experience adoption as His sons and daughters, even while they remain our children. His promises of love and forgiveness are truly extended to all, especially our precious little ones. Baptism, which might seem like a simplistic, symbolic act to many who question spiritual things, is in fact one of the greatest things for us and for our children. It is there that we receive God's name, His Spirit, and His forgiveness. He truly gives it to all. And knowing these wonderful promises that God gives in baptism changes things.

We are reminded that this all God's work. We simply receive. We are passive. These gifts in baptism are given to us. Since this is God's work, we know it is certain, and dependable, because He is the One doing it. We can rest securely, for we have a wonderful certainty. When Luther would be asked, "How do you know you are saved?" He would respond, "Because I am baptized." He knew the promises and gifts given there. He knew for certain that God had given him the Spirit, His name, and forgiveness at that moment because God keeps His promises.

In my life, I have seen a wonderful example of this. Many of you know that my sister Kaitlin had passed away when she was a toddler, and for the last six months of her life, she was often sedated, unconscious, and on a ventilator. She passed away a few days short of her third birthday. Where is she? With Jesus. Why? How can we know for certain? The promises given to her at baptism. There she was given the Spirit Who created and worked faith in her. There she was given the family name, and the forgiveness her Savior won for her. At that moment, we knew she was saved. At the moment, we know we were saved. God keeps the promises He makes at baptism. The promise is for you, and for your children, and for all whom the Lord our God will call. A promise is only as good as the one who makes it, and the One Who makes it is God. IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.

CREED *Athanasian Creed (Part 2)*

Pastor: We continue and conclude the confession of our faith today with the second part of the Athanasian Creed.

People: But it is also necessary for everlasting salvation that one faithfully believe the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is the right faith that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at the same time both God and man.

Pastor: He is God, begotten from the substance of the Father before all ages; and He is man, born from the substance of His mother in this age: perfect God and perfect man, composed of a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father with respect to His divinity, less than the Father with respect to His humanity.

People: Although He is God and man, He is not two, but one Christ:

Pastor: one, however, not by the conversion of the divinity into flesh, but by the assumption of the humanity into God; one altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person. For as the rational soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ, who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

People: At His coming all people will rise again with their bodies and give an account concerning their own deeds.

Pastor: And those who have done good will enter into eternal life, and those who have done evil into eternal fire.

People: This is the catholic faith; whoever does not believe it faithfully and firmly cannot be saved.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy" *LSB 507*

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessèd Trinity! Text: Public domain

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

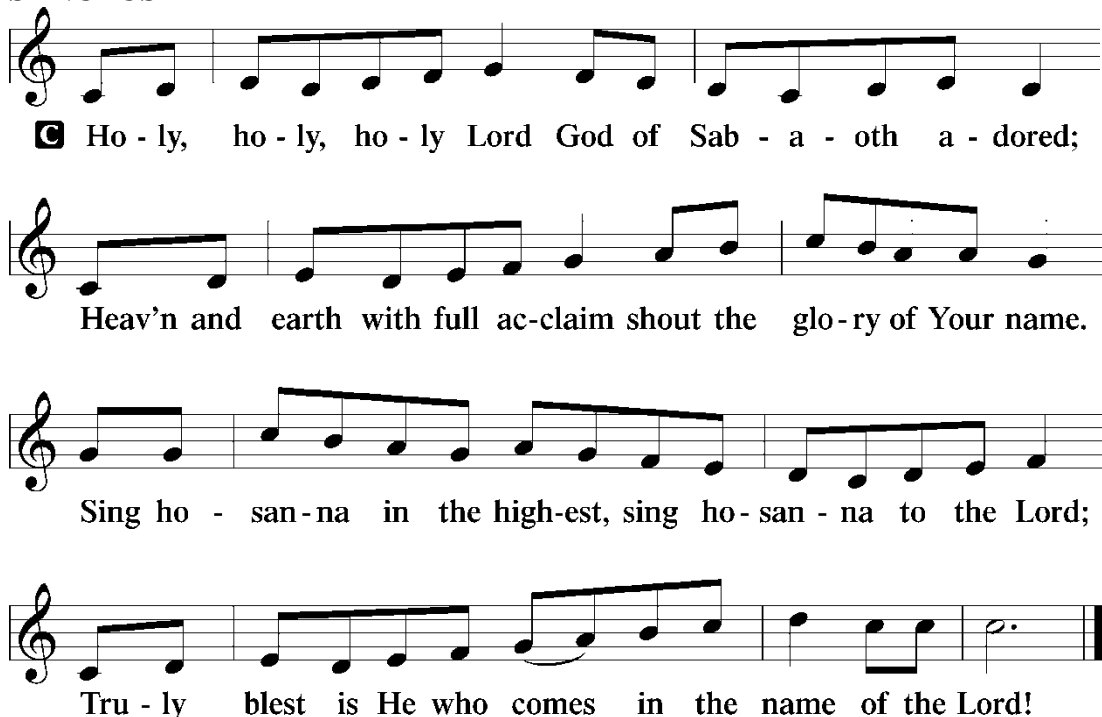
People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who with Your only-begotten Son and the Holy Spirit called all things into being and now sustain all creation. Your triune majesty and the grandeur of creation humble us, Your fallen but forgiven creatures. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. You once revealed Your name to Moses in the burning bush; and through Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, You unveiled the mystery of Your holy name in the Trinity of persons and the Unity of being. Grant that we, who have been baptized and instructed in the triune name, may faithfully eat and drink of Your Son's body and blood and worship You in spirit and truth, O Father, through Your Son in the Holy Spirit.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION "Father Most Holy" -arr. by David Lasky

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Glory Be to God the Father” *LSB* 506

1. Glory be to God the Father,
 Glory be to God the Son,
Glory be to God the Spirit:
 Great Jehovah, Three in One!
 Glory, glory
 While eternal ages run!
 2. Glory be to Him who loved us,
 Washed us from each spot and stain;
Glory be to Him who bought us,
 Made us kings with Him to reign!
 Glory, glory
 To the Lamb that once was slain!
 3. Glory to the King of angels,
 Glory to the Church’s King,
Glory to the King of nations;
 Heav’n and earth, your praises bring!
 Glory, glory
 To the King of glory sing!
 4. Glory, blessing, praise eternal!
 Thus the choir of angels sings;
Honor, riches, pow’r, dominion!
 Thus its praise creation brings.
 Glory, glory,
 Glory to the King of kings!
- Text: Public domain

POSTLUDE “Holy, Holy, Holy” -arr. by Robert Benson

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *John 3:6* – “*That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*” In Holy Baptism, we receive a new birth: spirit from Spirit. With that rebirth we receive new desires, new lives, and new purposes. To the (fleshly) world, Christian generosity makes no sense. The total minus a percentage is less than the original total. But Spirit-reborn Christians know that God’s math works differently – as we might expect from the Trinity! A blessing received from God becomes more of a blessing when it is used in generosity to bless others.

PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays we will have a prayer and Bible Study group. Please check with Pastor Kooi for the current start time. Each week, we will gather together to pray and study a text. We will be meeting in-person and virtually. For those that attend virtually, we will have you join us via Zoom (contact Pastor Kooi for the link). Please contact Pastor Kooi for more details.

WEDDING: All members of Emmaus are invited to help celebrate the wedding ceremony of Eric and Tracey on July 17, 2021 at 11:00 AM here at Emmaus Lutheran Church. A reception will follow at Bunker Hills Regional Park in Coon Rapids. If interested in attending, please RSVP by June 1st to either Eric or Tracey in person or via email. The couple do not have any household needs and so are requesting no gifts. For details, feel free to reach out or see a copy of the invitation on the church bulletin board.

JUNE 13TH is the date of our next congregational meeting. This meeting will take place immediately after our service. There will be a presentation updating the status of the rain garden, voting on our boards and officers for the next year, as well as other items of interest. We hope to see you there.

HELP US SPREAD THE NEWS so we can collect 250 pairs of shoes at our drive thru drop off event June 3rd from 5:30pm to 7pm. Text your friends, coworkers and contacts to ask for their help. Another option to help collect shoes is to stop by your local garage sale. See if there are any shoes for sale and if the seller would be willing to donate them when the sale is over. Need pick up options? Contact Pam U. for assistance.

JOHN1516TEENS IS BACK! After a one-year hiatus, John1516teens is back! We will meet on June 15, 22, and 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to do a service project and fun event. Pick-up will be at Bethel Lutheran Church on Wheelock Parkway. The cost is \$50 for all three weeks, and includes a t-shirt, lunch, transportation, and admission to the all the events. Registration forms are available in the Narthex and Church Office, and from Pastor Kooi. Please get your completed registration form to Pastor Kooi ASAP to reserve your spot since registration is limited this year. This is for all youth from 7th grade to senior year of high school. The schedule for the summer is below.

June 15: Trinity First and Zero Gravity

June 22: Global Health Ministry and Movie

June 29: Feed My Starving Children and Bunker Beach Waterpark

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Out of the Depths” Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge. When our words fail us, we find God's word of promise in the words of Psalm 130. (Psalm 130)

RICK KUHLMAN RETIREMENT Open House at CA on June 9! You’re invited to celebrate with Rick Kuhlman in honor of his retirement after 49 years as a math teacher at Concordia Academy. Join Rick on the front plaza at CA on Wednesday, June 9, from 5:00-8:00 pm for desserts, beverages, and sharing of memories. To get more information or share a video or written message for Mr. Kuhlman, go to www.concordiaacademy.com/kuhlman .

REGISTER FOR CONCORDIA ACADEMY CAMPS: This summer, Concordia Academy offers over 30 sports, arts, and STEM summer camps for elementary, middle, and high school students. New offerings such as Coding, Cardboard Creations, and Stop Motion Animation join old favorites such as Basketball, Youth Worship Team, and CSI! Go to www.concordiaacademy.com/camps to get details and register.